

### Dates for your Diary

**Thursday 6th  
February**

Y9 Parents' Evening  
including Options  
5pm– 7.30pm  
in The Hall

**Thursday 13th  
February**

Parent Forum Meeting  
7pm in the  
Stour Room

**Monday 17th  
February**

**Friday  
21st February**

Half Term

**Thursday 6th March**

Y8 Parents' Evening  
5pm - 7.30pm  
in The Hall

With Christmas behind us, we are all looking forward to the year ahead and we can't wait to see what the staff and students all get up to 2014. In the meantime here is some of the latest news and stories.

### Celebrating Success

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2013 The Blandford School held their annual Key stage 4 and 5 Presentation Evening. Among all the special guests who attended, the school was delighted to welcome Bob Brannigan the Mayor of Blandford and Antony Woodhouse, Managing Director of Blandford based brewery Hall and Woodhouse, who was the guest speaker for the evening. The night began with Headteacher Sally Wilson sharing a few of the amazing success stories that the students at The Blandford School had achieved last year. This included news of A-level science students blossoming, with two notable success stories being Pippa Stringer now studying Physiotherapy at Brunel and Emily Sym studying Oceanography at Southampton, both highly competitive courses. In A-Level Design student Scott Armstrong has gone on to study Jewellery design at Central St Martin's, arguably one of the best Art and Design schools in the world, and the phenomenal dance talent placed A-level students at The Blandford School in the top 10% of schools nationally with their A\*'s. The successes continued into sport with the Year 11 Rugby squad being the top placed state secondary school in the county cup, only narrowly losing in the semi-finals, and the Year 10 Netball team was also the top placed state school at the County Finals. As well as watching the awards being presented the audience was treated to performances by some of TBS's home grown talent. This included band's "Last Resort" and "Anatomy", Singers Amy Lillywhite and Gavin Marish, along with the TBS Dancers, to mention a few. Alongside the numerous subject awards that were presented to students who have excelled in specific subject areas, there were various Community Awards, and below is a small selection of Community Awards and winners.



Anatomy



The hosts for the evening Sophie Cox & Robert McLachlan

- Elliot Edwards Award for Contribution to School Life - James Willis-Fisher**
- The Danny Coker Economics Award for Outstanding Contributions in Class - Ben Gritton**
- The Blandfordians Award for Service to the School Community - Elias Mead**
- Sally Wilson Award for Outstanding Representation of the Student Voice - Robert McLachlan**
- Catherine Thomas Award for Contribution to the Performing Arts - Georgia Newton**
- Blandford Town Council Award for Services to the Wider Community - Greg Hart**

Everyone involved seemed to agree it was an amazing evening, which really did showcase some of the many achievements by students over the past year. Special mentions must go to Robert McLachlan and Sophie Cox, two sixth form students who were the hosts for the evening and did a fantastic job in making sure everything went to plan, and Guest Speaker Anthony Woodhouse who gave a wonderfully inspiring speech.



The Mayor of Blandford presenting the Blandford Town Council Award to Greg Hart



Catherine Thomas presenting The Catherine Thomas Award to Georgia Newton

This year's Musical is 'Les Miserables: School Edition' and will be performed at The Tivoli Theatre, Wimborne 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> July. Preparations are well under way with first auditions on 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January and 3<sup>rd</sup> February, with call back on 7<sup>th</sup> February. We will call all students interested in helping out backstage in production, advertising and marketing or front of house in February. We would welcome any offers of help from parents, grandparents and carers in the following areas; promotion, bus transport, costume, hair, make-up, fundraising, set-building, design and painting. Please contact [bmutimer@blandfordschool.org.uk](mailto:bmutimer@blandfordschool.org.uk). See the next issue of the Newsletter for details on the Cast!



## County Leadership Day

On 7th Jan 16 students were selected to attend a County Leadership Day at Bryanston School. Four year 8 students did a Young Leaders' Course and two students were involved in planning an impressive piece of dance to be used at the opening ceremony. Others were involved in the media team which will be photographing and interviewing participants at the Dorset School Games. Seven of our sixth form students attended the Young Ambassador Training which relates directly to the London 2012 legacy



Y8 Students  
Michael Johnson and  
James Guyler

Miss Buchanan's Year 9 group have been studying the structure of the Earth and plate margins, which cause earthquakes and volcanoes.



Here you can see some of the clever and imaginative 3D models that they have produced.



## Former student's sporting success

We are delighted to learn that former student Jake McCarthy has recently signed a deal with AFC Bournemouth that will secure his place there until at least June 2015. Jake, who left The Blandford School in 2012 after securing a youth team scholarship with the club, has already played in the U21 Premier League Cup tie against Plymouth and done a spell on loan to AFC Totton. The news that he has got his first professional contract, and is now part of the Development Squad even though he is only a second year scholar is fantastic, and a fitting reward for all the hard work Jake has put in, and continues to put into achieving his goals. Jake is currently on a 1 month loan to Dorchester Town and all the staff and students here at The Blandford School look forward to following his career in the future.



**Thank You!**

from everyone at Blandford Food Bank.  
We would like to say a  
**BIG 'thank you'**  
to everyone who has contributed so  
wonderfully to the Foodbank. Your  
donations have enabled us to  
help **573 families**.  
So on behalf of all those who have  
received of your goodwill, thank you!



## Sporting News & Results

### Young Netball Organisers Course.

This was delivered by the County Netball Development Officer Karen Peaty. Nine of our Year 11 and 10 girls came along on Saturday 4th January to do the six hour course. It was funded by Active Dorset and the Dorset School Games. For the past few years The Blandford school has supported the School Games by providing leaders and umpires for the county events, so it was nice to be rewarded for our efforts. Karen Peaty did comment upon the standard of the girls work and planning, saying that "it was even better than the plans she sees for the Level 1 course". The girls will now be required to help at the Dorset School Games on 2nd April down at Canford School.



### First Swimming Gala is a Hit with Local Year Four, Five and Six Students

Last week The Blandford School held its first swimming gala for the local primary schools, organised by Higher Sports Leaders in Year 13. Five primary schools from Blandford and the surrounding villages made their way to the Bryanston School's sports centre for what proved to be a fun and relaxed gala for all, whilst the club swimmers really showed their swimming prowess. This was the first swimming gala organised by The Blandford School's Higher Sports Leaders. The results were very pleasing; we may be seeing more swimming on the sports festival programme in the future!

By Luke Tobin  
Y13



### Netball

- U18 V Shaftesbury  
Won 10-5  
POM: Phoebe Carter  
Player's Player: Vicky Starr
- U16 V Shaftesbury  
Won 11-5  
Player's Player: Emma Sully &  
Ashlea Gale
- U15 V Shaftesbury  
Won 6-1  
Player's Player: Holly Oliver &  
Olivia Millband
- U15 V Sherborne Girls School  
Won 26-17  
POM Ashlea Gale
- U15 V QE School  
Won 34-17  
POM: Alice Youngson &  
Ashlea Gale

## Information

- Please would parents' park in the vacant parking spaces adjacent to Block 1 and the Leisure Centre at school pick-up time in the afternoon, as this would be very helpful to the flow of traffic and the safety of our young people leaving the school.
- If you are visiting the school and wish to come to reception please use the internal roadway as there is parking directly outside our front entrance.
- The internal roadway should **only** be accessed by staff, students, visitors and those delivering goods. Please note that for safeguarding reasons we would ask this roadway and pathway not to be used as a cut through between the Leisure Centre and Milldown Primary School and vice versa.
- Due to the recent disruption to some of the school bus routes as a result of the flooding, it has come to our attention that we do not have all the details of those students who travel to and from school via bus who are **not in receipt of a bus pass**. So if those concerned could contact the school with the details, we will be able to make sure we share any bus related information with them that we receive in the future.





www.stopthinkdorset.co.uk  
 @stopthinkdorset on twitter  
 Parents Newsletter January 2014



Welcome to the New Year's edition of the Safe Schools and Communities Team E-Safety Newsletter.

It is safe to say that last year we were very busy indeed and have delivered education to a lot of young people and professionals across Dorset. Unfortunately we have also been busy dealing with a high number of incidents, particularly relating to Sexting.

We want to remind all parents about the importance of discussing E-Safety with your children, regardless of their age, to talk to them about what websites and apps they're using and who they are talking to.

If Santa bought any new technology this Christmas, why not use this as an opportunity to start the discussions and consider applying appropriate parental controls as well.

### Vodafone Guardian

The Vodafone Guardian is a parental control app available for android phones and tablets.

Some of the features allow you to:

- Add a parental phone number so that you receive updates
- Allow or block apps, including those preinstalled on the device
- Create time limits for the device

Please note you will also need to install the Add-on for Vodafone Guardian to notify you if it is removed or altered.

[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.vodafone.safetynet.core&hl=en\\_GB](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.vodafone.safetynet.core&hl=en_GB)

### Sexting

We have seen a concerning increase in the number and nature of Sexting incidents in recent months, with several explicit images being sent via technology by young people.

Whilst advances in technology make this all too easy, it is the behaviour of young people that is concerning. Recent research has suggested that there is a culture amongst young people where Sexting has become an accepted 'norm' which young people do not see as a concern.

We would strongly encourage parents to have open discussions with children about what pictures they would consider appropriate to send and which ones they wouldn't. Whilst it is difficult to give an age at which to do this, we have seen an increase amongst those students transitioning to secondary or upper schools.

### Safer Internet Day 2014

Of course you all know that it is the 11th February, but did you know that the theme is *'Let's create a better internet together!'* The Safe Schools and Communities Team will be encouraging schools to become involved, but you can also click on the link below to find out how you too could become involved!

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2014/info-for-parents-and-carers>

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 http://www.stopthinkdorset.co.uk



The 1<sup>st</sup> QR code will take you to our website. The 2<sup>nd</sup> will take you to @stopthinkdorset on twitter.

SSCT, Dorset Police, Verwood Police Station, Station Road, Verwood. BH31 7PU. Tel 01202 222844.  
 Email [ssct@dorset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ssct@dorset.pnn.police.uk)

