

Dates for your
Diary

**Thursday 5th
December**

Parent Forum
Meeting 7pm - 8pm in
The Stour Room.

**Friday 6th
December**

Y7 Christmas Disco
6pm - 8pm in The Hall

**Wednesday 18th
December**

Presentation Evening
7pm - 8.30pm
in The Hall

**Thursday 19th
December**

Carol Service at 6pm
St Peter & St Paul
Parish Church

**Friday 20th
December**

Last day of term
Early closure at 1.20pm

**Monday 6th
January**

Start of new term



It is very important to us to find out what parents and carers think of the school,

and although we have been handing out our own parent survey forms at some events, we would like to encourage you to give your views via the Parent view area of the Ofsted Website, and fill out the short questionnaire, which can be found at the link below.

<http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>

THE BLANDFORD SCHOOL

Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2013

With the Autumn Term nearly over and Christmas fast approaching, we thought you might like to read about a few things the staff and students here at The Blandford School have been getting up to.



Remembrance Assembly

On Monday 11th November the whole school took part in a Remembrance Assembly to remember those who have lost their lives in the line of duty. The assembly involved a well researched and poignant presentation by students, that was very personal to the town of Blandford Forum. There were also beautiful performances from some of our talented musicians, singers and dancers, who all contributed to making a truly memorable and thought-provoking presentation. Later in the day students from the School Parliament, some school

Governors and Headteacher Sally Wilson laid a wreath by the Blandford School War Memorial plaques, that were originally situated on the gates to the Old Blandford Grammar School, and after being relocated, now reside here on Block 3.



Spetisbury Primary School Science Visit

On Tuesday 5th November, The Blandford School was delighted to welcome a group of children from Spetisbury Primary School, who came to visit our Science department. The students were looking at the subject of "burning", an appropriate topic for Bonfire Night. Under the careful guidance of our very own Mr Killer, the students helped to demonstrate the burning of different materials including wood shavings, magnesium ribbon and petrol. They then went on to burn some of the materials again, but this time in pure oxygen, the result was very bright and lively! It was then time



for the year 6 students to have a go at collecting, setting up and using their own apparatus, which included being introduced to the Bunsen burner, which was new to most of them. The youngsters worked in pairs to measure how long it took to boil 25ml of water with a yellow flame, and then with a blue flame, the students then successfully recorded all of their results. At the end of their visit there was just time for Mr Killer's finale, which involved finding out if a foam made of natural gas and detergent solution would burn, the answer was a definite yes, with the resulting flame reaching from bench to ceiling



as the gas exploded! The School visit was a great success, and we look forward to welcoming many of the students back when they join for year 7 next year.

Raising money for a good cause.

On Wednesday 20th November The Blandford School held a non-uniform day to raise money for the Philippines tragedy. We were delighted to raise a fantastic £906.39, that has been donated to the Philippines Disaster Emergency Committee. One of our sixth form students, Krizandra Paz also held a cake sale, with the help of some of her friends, to raise money for the appeal. The cause



is very close to her heart, as she has many family members that live in the Philippines, and really wanted to do her part in raising the much needed funds to help those affected by the recent disaster.



The Blandford School is supporting the UK-wide **HeadSmart: be brain tumour aware** campaign, which is a national campaign to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of brain tumours in children and young people amongst the public and health professionals. By doing this, the campaign aims to bring down the time it takes to diagnose these tumours, which will save lives and reduce long-term disability.

Symptoms cards are available in school; alternatively, you can download a **FREE mobile symptoms guide**

Term Dates 2014 - 2015

Autumn Term 2014

Monday 1st September	Staff Training Day
Tuesday 2nd September	Year 7 & 12 Staggered Start
Wednesday 3rd September	All students in
Friday 19th September	Staff Training Day

Half Term Holiday Monday 27th - Friday 31st October

Friday 19th December	Last Day of Term
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Christmas Holiday Monday 22nd December – Friday 2nd January

Spring Term 2015

Monday 5th January	First day of Term
Half Term Holiday Monday 16th – Friday 20th February	
Thursday 26th March	Last day of term
Friday 27th March	Staff Training Day

Easter Holiday Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April

Summer Term 2015

Monday 13th April	First Day of Term
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday
Half Term Holiday Monday 25th May– Friday 29th May	
Friday 3rd July	Staff Training Day
Friday 17th July	Last Day of Term
Monday 20th July	Staff Training Day

House Competition

The Inter House competition is well under way this year, with the first four events already completed and the points awarded. The competition will run throughout the whole academic year, with the final house event being sports day, where the sports day trophy and the house cup will be awarded to the overall house winners. So we thought you might like to know a little bit more about the house names and the history of where the names come from.



Beaumont. Robert de Beaumont, who had fought with William of Hastings in 1066, and whose wife was Isabel, a niece of King Phillip I of France, and was given most of Blandford. It is widely thought that the Beaumont's built the first church in Blandford. His eldest son also called Robert died in 1204, and having had no children, this was sadly the end of the Beaumont Line.



Montfort. His estate was divided between his two sisters, the eldest of whom had married the French Baron Simon de Montfort, and their son, also named Simon de Montfort inherited half the estate as well as the title of Earl of Leicester.



Lacy. Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln succeeded to the Blandford estates as Lord of the Manor in 1272. By 1305 Blandford was considered sufficiently important to send two members to parliament, as its market was a major one in Dorset. In 1307 King Edward I granted Henry de Lacy permission to hold a fair, twice a year at his ville in Blandford.



Lancaster. The Manor was later passed to Henry, Duke of Lancaster, and became part of the Duchy of Lancaster in 1399 on his becoming King Henry IV. The present Duke is Prince Charles and it is the ceremonial badge of the Duchy which has been adopted by the town as its own.

Sporting News

Tag Rugby Triumph

On Wednesday 23rd October 6 teams from 6 primary schools participated in an annual tag rugby tournament held at The Blandford School. All children from years 5 and 6 played extremely well in the surprisingly sunny conditions, with all improving by the end and Blandford St



Mary School retaining the trophy. The tournament was organised and run by The Blandford Schools own year 13 Young Ambassadors and Higher Sports Leaders with some of the year 12 level 2 Sports Leaders helping out. Teachers and parents from all the schools were incredibly supportive on the side lines cheering on their students. The top two scoring primary schools were Blandford St Mary and Milldown, who will now go on to play in the North Dorset finals.



Year 7 Rugby.

The newly formed Year 7 rugby team, that is made up from over 30 boys who have regularly been involved in the school rugby club this term, had their second set of fixtures on Monday 21st October away at Shaftesbury School. The Maroon team won their first game 40-0 and drew the other 20-20, choosing Josh Pitman as their player of the day. The Stripes lost their first game 35-5 and won their second game 20-10, and they chose Harry Pounds as their Player of the day. Mr Young Said "the boys showed a fantastic spirit and attitude throughout the trip". The team has also played matches at Gillingham and Allenbourne, and we hope that all the boys will continue and also join a rugby club outside of school.

Results

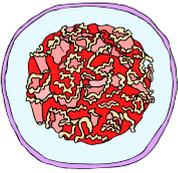
Y10 Rugby V QE Won 19-15

Y8 Rugby V St Michael's Drew 12-12

Y7 Rugby V St Michael's Lost 15-10

Y11 Rugby V Poole High won 34-0





Free School Meals

Is your child entitled? Have you checked?

January 2014 is the deadline for our school to receive extra funding for any student in receipt of **Free School Meals**. Applying for the extra meals and additional educational support for your child is quick and simple.

Your child could receive their own Squid card, loaded for almost £400 of free meals in the Hub, and also be eligible for access to extra support according to individual needs.

Simply telephone Dorset County Council on **01305 221014** giving your National Insurance number and your child's date of birth. You will be told immediately if you qualify and what to do next. A year's worth of school meals alongside a range of educational benefits means that a simple phone call could be very worthwhile!

Who?

If you get any of the following support payments your child may be entitled to receive Free School Meals:



- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit
- Children who receive a qualifying benefit in their own right are also allowed to receive free school meals.

Children of Service Personnel

As you may be aware, the Government recently announced further school funding for students who are the children of Service Personnel. This funding recognises the educational difficulties which students sometimes face resulting from the demands of their family living a 'military life'. Such difficulties are reflected in national performance data.

This extra funding can help to enhance and extend our current provision to make sure that all students have every possible advantage. Knowing that your child is eligible will also help us to ensure that we have considered his/her every potential requirement and that we provide additional support where a need is identified.

If you have not already informed us that you are among our Service Personnel, or you know someone else who hasn't, please let us know at school in order that we can amend our records.

A range of interventions is on offer to ease transition into a new school; close gaps in learning due to enforced postings and address the sometimes complex issues associated with a parent serving overseas and/or on active service.

Please do not hesitate to let us know if there is anything extra that you feel that we can do to support your child to progress to achieve to their greatest potential.