

BLOXHAMIST

THE



BLOXHAMIST

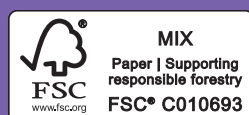
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The front cover depicts Fourth Form's Bridget H. competing in the NSEA EC Championships at Hickstead, May 2024. Bridget was part of the NSEA EC 90 Team Champions for 2024 where Bloxham beat 35 other schools from around the UK. See page 52 for a full equestrian report. Photo courtesy of Mark Hawksworth.

Edited by the Communications and Development Team, with special thanks to Simon Batten for his contributions to the Old Bloxhamist content.



Designed and printed by The Lavenham Press, www.lavenhampress.com

Headmaster's Review of the Year

The following is taken from the Headmaster's address at the 2024 Founderstide ceremony:



Left to Right: Marcela Espinosa, Sheraz Daya (Founderstide guest speaker OB Cr 75-77), Helen Sanderson and Paul Sanderson

“
Education is
what remains
after one has
forgotten what
one has learned
in school.”

Albert Einstein

With a changing political landscape and potentially a government that taxes education, why do we choose to prioritise our children's education and make sacrifices to send them to Bloxham?

First and foremost, may I suggest that it is because we believe that it will provide the best opportunities, ambition and environment to nurture our sons and daughters as they grow into adults, to give them the skills and tools to thrive in the world beyond school.

Bloxham is a great place to grow up, as we believe it places a strong emphasis on pastoral care through the House system, ensuring that each student is supported emotionally and socially as well as academically. Bloxham's size fosters a close-knit, supportive environment where students can form lasting friendships and feel a sense of being part of something special. We have staff who take time to notice your son or daughter, encourage them and our size, to my mind perfect, allows everyone to be individuals who are recognised within the wider community.

The school has an active alumni network with former students offering opportunities for networking and career support. There is a bond between years and generations, there is belonging and there is community ... how often have I heard it said, "Of course I can help"; from Old Bloxhamists. Equally, we have terms in School to illustrate belonging such as 'the green army' or the 'pink lectures', or indeed you will all have heard the unmistakable chant on the touchline in inter-house sport, of "Wilbo, Wilbo, Wilbo, Force, Force, Force!" ... normally coming from a purple inflatable dinosaur suit!

By way of example as to how students play together and 'suffer' together, the Crake House Sixth Form are cycling from Lincoln to Bloxham to raise money for charity. Or perhaps more poignantly, this year I attended a concert in memory of Paddy K., a former student of Wilson House who died all too soon in 2013. At Paddy's funeral, the Wilson boys acted as coffin bearers with Paddy buried in his Wilson House tie and socks. Belonging to something bigger than yourself means something.

As our recent ISI report stated: 'Houses provide a supportive environment' and 'Boarding (in its widest sense) plays a central role in fostering mutual respect and a sense of belonging within the school community'.

Secondly, access to a dynamic and vibrant curriculum: academic and broader curriculum alike. There is an increasing strong academic performance. Bloxham School consistently achieves good academic results, with a strong focus on individual student progress and personalised learning. Smaller class sizes, and expert, dedicated teachers who genuinely care for your child provide a recipe for success. We see this reflected inside and outside of the classroom. We, through stretching, have not only helped students to gain entry to the very best universities but have won national



awards in academic competitions such as maths challenges, chemistry olympiads, a computing challenge, and artwork displayed in the Tate to name but a few.

Our broader curriculum is second to none. With 130 activities to choose from each week, we have created rock stars and cricketers, as well as debaters and chefs. The extensive curriculum allows students to explore their interests, face new challenges and hone new skills. Students are encouraged to take on leadership roles within the School, whether in academic settings, extracurricular activities or community service projects. The School promotes resilience, independence, and confidence through various programmes and activities designed to challenge and inspire students. There is a school I know in Oxford that is trying to cut its costs by reducing its broader curriculum to save money. To me any good school should stretch your child academically, but it's the broader curriculum that gives them the edge to succeed beyond the school gates. Our suite of Lower Sixth courses such as the mini MBA, positive psychology course, public speaking and sustainable development course will be a differentiator, build confidence and help make our young people work-ready. This is why we have achieved a 'significant strength' in our

ISI report, translated as we are sector leading and one of only nine schools to date with 'a significant strength'.

Lastly, we are a values-driven school. You often don't quite know what you believe until you are placed in a position of leadership or indeed when you are faced with a moral dilemma. At Bloxham, the Chapel and the Christian ethos, continue to be our guiding light. Our community starts and ends with values, being a vehicle for social justice and for students to have the ethos of being of 'service'. As we have coined the phrase many times, the mark of a Bloxhamist is 'doing the right thing when no one is watching'.

“
Once Bloxham,
always Bloxham!”

One political party has suggested that a tax on school fees is going to create more money to level up. Whilst perhaps laudable, I would suggest this is a drop in the ocean. However, I would argue that Bloxham students more often than not move into positions of leadership and influence in all spheres of life and perhaps more good is done

by the way they lead others and display compassion. It will be our children, who, when governments have been and gone that will use their moral compass to champion social justice and it is their duty to facilitate social change. It will be then, just at that moment, when Einstein's phrase rings true "education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school," and they will instinctively remember how they were educated in the service of others, it will be this action that will change society for the better through a Bloxham influence.

Of course, none of what we do would be possible without a dedicated staff and their contribution to the School and every student. It is not just the teachers but those that provide support and care as well, from much loved matrons to those that feed our children, we owe our thanks to them. Today it is a public chance to say goodbye to some staff, who move on to pastures new. I would like to thank: Nadia and Richard Lovering, Nic Hollinsworth and Alice Hickling, James Richardson, Nichole Guzenda, Lucy Hynes, Claire Limpkin, George Setterfield, Howard Mulvey and of course the enigmatic Jocelyn Merris. There are many in this room that owe you a great debt and gratitude.

Today is about celebrating this wonderful place, being part of the community and taking time to enjoy it. Thank you for believing in us and your children. I believe passionately in a Bloxham education, and I have seen this first-hand with my own children who have benefitted enormously from it. We have been delivering outstanding education for 164 years and I am certain that we will do so for the next 164 years and beyond.

To the leaving Upper Sixth, who now move from students to Old Bloxhamists, congratulations on all you have achieved and given to this place, remember that you will always have a home within our community. Take time to thank the people who have helped you along the way, including your parents. However, now the time has come to take your place in society, remembering all that you have learned and to go forth and be incredible, because you have the skills to be incredible, and because you as people are incredible.

I finish with "Once Bloxham, always Bloxham!" PWS

Academic Prize Winners

Junior English Prize	Jack B.	Senior Psychology Prize	Alfred D.
Senior English Prize	Kristina S.	Junior Art/Fine Art Prize	Amber D.
Junior Creative Writing Prize	Layla W.	Senior Art/Fine Art Prize	Phoebe J.
Junior Music Prize	Layla W.	Senior Photography Prize	Pablo M C.
Senior Music (John Honey) Prize	Shamilla M.	Junior Design & Technology Prize	Rory F.
Junior Public Speaking Cup Prize	Joe L.	Senior Design & Technology Prize	James P.
Marsden Public Speaking Prize	Ben L.	Senior Textiles Prize	Jaz M-G.
Junior Reading Prize	Cassia J.	Junior Food Prize	Jack B.
Lougher Senior Reading Prize	Jess H.	Senior Hospitality Prize	Ella C.
Senior Theology Prize	Jess H.	Junior Drama Prize	Cassia J.
Junior Debating Prize	Alfie G.	Jeremy Durrant Senior Drama Prize	Arabella C.
Senior Debating Prize	Ben R.	Theatre Studies Prize	Holly D.
Junior Astronomy Prize	Alfie G.	Pittaway Cup	Olly S.
Junior Mathematics Prize	Henrik L.	Junior Physical Education Prize	Harry S.
Bolton Senior Mathematics Prize	Jenna L.	Senior Physical Education Prize	Marcus D.
Junior Biology Prize	Henrik L.	First Form Academic Prize	Cillian M.
Aubrey Deeley Senior Biology Prize	Jasper W.	First Form Academic Prize	Freddie S.
Junior Chemistry Prize	Alexey D.	First Form Academic Prize	Addison C.
Senior Chemistry Prize	Jasper W.	Second Form Academic Prize	Thomas T.
Junior Physics Prize	Ben K.	Second Form Academic Prize	Fran B.
Matthew Smith Senior Physics Prize	Alex J.	Second Form Academic Prize	Rosie B.
Junior French Prize	Benji T.	Third Form Academic Prize	Beatrice L.
Brock Senior French Prize	Rachel D.	Third Form Academic Prize	Aisling M.
Junior Spanish Prize	Tabby H.	Third Form Academic Prize	Samuel B.
Senior Spanish Prize	Pablo M C.	Fourth Form Academic Prize	Elodie P.
Askwith Junior Geography Prize	Alfie D.	Fourth Form Academic Prize	Millie C.
Shaw Senior Geography Prize	Charlie McR.	Fourth Form Academic Prize	Marcie S.
Nigel Weekes Junior History Prize	Rory M.	Exham House Prize	Henry G.
Bletchly Senior History Prize	Blake L.	Third Form Head of Year Prize – Boy	Joe W.
Senior Politics Prize	Blake L.	Third Form Head of Year Prize – Girl	Emma L.
Junior Business Studies Prize	George L.	Fourth Form Head of Year Prize – Boy	James D.
Senior Business Studies Prize	Arabella C.	Fourth Form Head of Year Prize – Girl	Bridget H.
Senior Economics Prize	Hector T.		
Junior Computing Prize	Tabby H.		
Senior Computing Prize	Hector T.		

Old Bloxhamist Prize – Crake	Dillon Q.	Woodard Board Ethos Prize	James P.
Old Bloxhamist Prize – Egerton	Corban S.	Woodard Board Ethos Prize	Flora Macl.
Old Bloxhamist Prize – Exham	Mollie H-B.	Dewey CCF Prize	Ed H.
Old Bloxhamist Prize – Merton	Heidi R.	Outstanding Contribution to Sport – Boys	George D.
Old Bloxhamist Prize – Raymond	Lucy B.	Outstanding Contribution to Sport – Girls	Jenna L.
Old Bloxhamist Prize – Seymour	Harry B.	Leaf Personal Development Prize	Ben L.
Old Bloxhamist Prize – Stonehill	Georgia S.	Outstanding Contribution to the Bloxham Community	Shamilla M.
Old Bloxhamist Prize – Wilberforce	Shamilla M.	Wilson Prize	Daisy P.
Old Bloxhamist Prize – Wilson	Max O'D.	Wilson Prize	Myles L.

Academic Achievements

Science

Biology Olympiad

Jasper W., Upper Sixth, Silver

Finn C., Upper Sixth, Silver

Zoe B., Upper Sixth, Silver

Nick P., Lower Sixth, Silver

Jenna L., Upper Sixth, Bronze

Marcus D., Upper Sixth, Bronze

Olly S., Upper Sixth, Bronze

Alex J., Upper Sixth, Bronze

Jamie K., Lower Sixth, Bronze

Chemistry Olympiad

Alex J., Upper Sixth, Gold

Jasper W., Upper Sixth, Gold

Computer Science

Bebras Challenge – Elite Class

Angus C., Lower Sixth, Best in School

Freddie H., Lower Sixth, Merit

Myles L., Upper Sixth, Merit

Hector T., Upper Sixth, Distinction

William W., Lower Sixth, Participation

Bebras Challenge – Senior Class

Isaak L., Fourth Form, Best in School

Alexey D., Fifth Form, Distinction

Ben K., Fifth Form, Distinction

George L., Fifth Form, Distinction

Charlie O'C., Fifth Form, Distinction

Gabe P., Fifth Form, Distinction

Davey L., Fourth Form, Distinction

Rowan T., Fourth Form, Distinction

James B., Fifth Form, Merit

Stepan D., Fifth Form, Merit

Alfie G., Fifth Form, Merit

Ramsay S-C., Fifth Form, Merit

Denis A., Fourth Form, Merit

Isabella L., Fourth Form, Merit

Maths

Maths Olympiad for Girls

Lele L., Upper Sixth, Distinction

Senior Maths Challenge

Lele L., Upper Sixth, Silver

Angus C., Lower Sixth, Bronze

Joseph E., Lower Sixth, Bronze

Freddie H., Lower Sixth, Bronze

Henrik L., Fifth Form, Bronze

William L., Fifth Form, Bronze

Edward M., Fifth Form, Bronze

Hayden W., Fifth Form, Bronze

Junior Maths Challenge

Michael D S., Second Form, Gold

Torin H., Second Form, Gold

Tom S., Second Form, Gold

Freddie B., First Form, Silver

Fran B., Second Form, Silver

Rohan D., Second Form, Silver

Alexander L., Second Form, Silver

Cillian M., First Form, Silver

Katar M., First Form, Silver

Lily P., First Form, Silver

Hector W-N., First Form, Silver

Rosie B., Second Form, Bronze

Mollie H-B., Second Form, Bronze

Caelan L., Second Form, Bronze

Dylan M., Second Form, Bronze

Freya M., Second Form, Bronze

Thomas T., Second Form, Bronze

Henry W-E., Second Form, Bronze

Seren W-N., Second Form, Bronze

Harry B., First Form, Bronze

Harry H., First Form, Bronze

Emily L., First Form, Bronze

Tom S., First Form, Bronze

Oliver S., First Form, Bronze

Art

ARTiculation Competition

Regional Finalist

Flora Macl., Upper Sixth

Ironstone Art Prize

Becca J., Lower Sixth

Bodleian Library/Blackwells Illuminated Letters Competition/Exhibition (Shortlisted)

Isaac F., Third Form

Finn T., Third Form

Joe W., Third Form

Isaac E., Second Form

Sebastian H., First Form

Neve S., First Form

Young Art Oxford Competition

Hunter A-B., Third Form

Freddie C., Third Form

Joshua H., Third Form

Anna H., Third Form

Joseph W., Third Form

Joe W., Third Form

Fran B., Second Form

Evan C., Second Form

Isaac E., Second Form

Matilda H., Second Form

Miller J., Second Form

Food

Rotary Club National Young Chef of the Year 2024

Local Round 2

Bridget H., Fourth Form, Winner

Harry P., Fourth Form, Runner-up

Area Final, Round 3 (National Quarter-finals)

Harry P., Fourth Form, Winner

English

This year has been notable for the number of opportunities students have had to engage with English beyond the classroom. We have attended numerous theatre productions starting in October with the RSC production of *The Merchant of Venice 1936* for all Third Form. Other plays have included *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Second Form, two very different productions of *King Lear* for our Sixth Form students and a performance of *Macbeth* which took place in school for all Third and Fourth Form students. Seeing the plays we study on the page come alive on stage is a fabulous experience for the students.

In addition, we have continued with our introduction to Shakespeare in First Form with an RSC Shakespeare workshop at Broughton Castle and our annual English/History visit to Shakespeare's Birthplace in Stratford-upon-Avon and Kenilworth Castle. This is an invaluable way to introduce students to the context in which the plays they study were written.

In January, Oliver Lewis, author of *The Orwell Tour* visited the school to talk to Third Form students about the life of George Orwell to enrich their study of *Animal Farm*. He also gave a workshop for scholars on 'The Art of the Essay' using Orwell's essays as a starting point. Sixth Form students had the opportunity to hear some of the poets from their set text speak at a poetry conference, adding depth to their understanding of the ideas and themes.

Throughout the year we encourage students to produce creative work and, where possible, submit it for competitions. This year 25 students have had poems accepted for the Young Writers poetry anthology, with the theme 'Through their Eyes'. Not only have they successfully employed many poetic techniques they have learned from studying poets such as Wordsworth and Heaney, it is lovely to see the enthusiasm they bring to such creative tasks being recognised. CMS



Third Form visit to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon



Oliver Lewis, author of *The Orwell Tour*

Trees

We glide through the mist,
We dance on the hills,
We hum to our song
on the hills.
Through the gaps in the mist,
The trees stand tall,
Their branches swaying,
Answering our calls.

As spring unfolds,
They burst with life,
Each leaf a dash of paint.
Free from the ground,
Their leaves reach out
Like arms to the sky,
As our whispers in the wind gently pass by.

Blossoms bloom, a symphony of colours,
The air alive with their sweet scent.

The earth beneath us chills for sleep,
And in the orange sunlight, we bees retreat.

Ralph L., Second Form



First Form's RSC workshop at Broughton Castle



First Form's RSC workshop at Broughton Castle

Storm upon a Raven

My eyes reflect the sky's inkiness, black like oil soaking cotton.
The dark moor quivers as the thunder growls at me.
Now it is clear: Bloom time is over, now comes the rotten.
Like the skin of my spiny tree.

A hollow roar strikes spitefully on the moor.
The spit of light hits my tree.
Like orange breath from the swirling sky's maw.
I pray the orange puff doesn't burn me.

Harry B J., Second Form

Public Speaking and Debating

Now in its eighth year, the House Debating competition has grown in popularity and quality of debate. This year's final saw two outstanding debates, including a senior debate on the complex question of the Gaza conflict, which was handled with rather more sensitivity than the debate in the House of Commons a week later. Stonehill won by a narrow margin, with Seymour students taking the Junior Shield.

Exham students, Addison C., Alexander L. and Evan C., had success in Youth Speaks this year, holding on to the Intermediate Cup for the Local Area competition, with an impressive debate on the use of Chat GPT in schools. This makes three successive wins in this competition. We also fielded a Senior Team for the first time this year, who performed well, debating (with good humour) 'A world without men'.

Sixth Form students also took part in the Cherwell Democracy Challenge (a local schools debating competition hosted by Victoria Prentis, MP to promote debate,



discussion and democracy), and the regional forum of the European Youth Parliament competing against schools in the Thames Valley.

Finally, Scarlett S. gave a powerful persuasive speech against school uniform to win the Third Form Public Speaking competition. This annual competition tests all students in Third Form on their ability to write and present speeches on a range of topics. The standard this year was exceptional. [CMS](#)



Maths

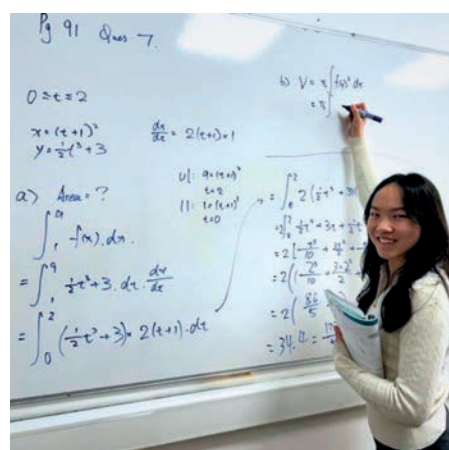
This year, students have had the opportunity to participate in national Maths Challenges organised by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust. Sixth Form students were able to take part in the Senior Maths Challenge,



whilst some of our Exham students took part in the Junior Challenge. We had a number of gold awards with Torin H. and Tom S. in Second Form qualifying for an additional round, which is a rare and highly impressive achievement. Tom received a merit on this additional round, an exceptional performance – congratulations Tom!

Additionally, some of our Sixth Form girls also had the opportunity to participate in the Mathematical Olympiad for Girls, with a Distinction for Lele L. in Upper Sixth.

We have also incorporated a lot more 'hands-on' learning in lessons so that students see the relevance of what they are being taught and to increase engagement. Students have been completing puzzles, relay races, measuring the circumference of different objects in their study of circles, and Mrs Bowden's A Level Mechanics group



applied their theoretical knowledge of moments to a practical experiment in the Physics department.

We plan to extend our extra-curricular and cross-curricular offering next year to provide an even greater number of enrichment opportunities for our students. [SM](#)

History

As ever, it has been a busy year in the History department, with educational visits, academic enrichment opportunities, a changing curriculum and exciting staffing changes. History remains a popular subject at both GCSE and A Level and beyond, and it was fantastic to see one third of our Upper Sixth history cohort apply to read history at Oxbridge.

It has been wonderful to welcome Miss Emily Carr to the department, who has made a huge impact in her first year with us. A particular highlight has been the work that she has done with our Second Form historians on 'Confronting Uncomfortable Histories', which has encouraged students to address and explore controversial aspects of history in a critical but objective manner. As part of this, students examined the link between prominent British estates and the Transatlantic trade in enslaved people, allowing them to investigate the impact of this upon wealth creation in Britain. This culminated in students producing their own 'alternative' guidebooks and histories of prominent stately homes addressing their links with the trade in enslaved people as a part of their wider histories. Several students' work is currently on display at Harewood House near Leeds (home of the Lascelles family, second cousins to King Charles III), and we have been invited to work with them to help further develop their teaching and learning resources.

The department has continued to be active in external competitions, with Joel W. performing strongly in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire heat of the Historical Association's Great Debate, hosted by Bloxham. Tasked with answering the question 'Which historical place or person from your local area deserves greater recognition?' Joel explored the impact of the Battle of Edgehill, the opening battle of the English Civil War which took place just five miles from Bloxham. Joel argued that much of the significance of the battle lay in the fact that it was inconclusive, and that by making a swift victory impossible, it created the English Civil War as we know it – a protracted and bloody conflict which impacted all parts of the kingdom. Joel then extended to look at the longer-term effects of the Civil War in terms of the



Second Form History trip to Edgehill, site of first major battle of English Civil War



Lower Sixth visit Pontefract Castle

development of constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy. Joel was commended by the judging panel for the originality of his argument, and his ability to sustain this. Although he finished in the top three of the heat, unfortunately, this wasn't quite enough to advance to the national finals.

In addition to the usual First and Second Form History trips to Kenilworth Castle, Broughton Castle and Edgehill Battlefield, we have also taken students to London to visit the Cabinet War Rooms and the Imperial War Museum in order to enhance their understanding of the Modern Britain course. Upper Sixth historians visited the University of Buckingham to hear prominent historians Simon Heffer and Dominic Sandbrook debate Neville Chamberlain and the legacy of appeasement, and Lower Sixth students visited the fine Medieval cathedral city of York to help develop their understanding of the Disorder and Revolt in Tudor England course. Lower Sixth student Alice B. reflects on the trip:

"In March, the Lower Sixth History students braved the long journey up to York to support our studies of the Tudor period. Our first stop was at Kenilworth

Castle where Henry VII co-ordinated his response to Simnel's revolt in 1486. We explored the grounds whilst taking in the gorgeous views and countryside, and of course the obligatory trip to the gift shop and café! We were then back on the road and it was another couple of hours before we arrived at Pontefract Castle, where the rebels' main base was during the Pilgrimage of Grace in 1536. Although not much of the castle is left today, it was incredible to link the grounds to our studies to understand where the rebels arrived during the pilgrimage.

Our first stop in York was the Borthwick Institute at the University of York, the largest archival repository in the north. Laid out for us to see in the central room were documents handwritten by Thomas Cromwell (Henry VIII's Chief Minister), as well as a contemporary copy of the divorce settlement between Henry VIII and Anne of Cleves. Handling these 450 year old documents was incredible, and after spending around 90 minutes at the library, we were given free rein of York before we headed to our accommodation and out for an evening meal.

On the Saturday, we began with a tour of the city walls, before spending an hour exploring the inside of York Minster, including the Rose Window in the South Transept, which was commissioned by Henry VII shortly after coming to power. After a brief visit to the Merchant Adventurers' Hall (a key trading guild and religious fraternity within Early Modern England), we finished with a trip to Clifford's Tower where Robert Aske was brought to be executed in the aftermath of the Pilgrimage of Grace in 1536." RH

Geography

Bloxham Sustainability Challenge

This year has seen the launch of an exciting new initiative by Bloxham School's geography department in partnership with the award-winning environmentally responsible national business enterprise, Dalcour Maclaren. The Bloxham Sustainability Challenge (BSC) has provided an opportunity for our students to develop work-ready competencies by finding solutions to a real-life challenge. Students were tasked by Dalcour Maclaren with critically evaluating whether a solar park should be built in Buckland Marsh (Oxfordshire), with the additional challenge to plan an appropriate route for an underground cable, connecting the solar park to the National Grid substation in Botley West.

Over a period of 20 weeks of collaboration and research, the team of four worked together, putting themselves in the shoes of the planning inspectorate, to decide on a suitable route and whether or not to approve the project.

The BSC provided the opportunity for the students to develop excellent critical thinking skills and improve their teamwork, communication and leadership competencies.

Dr Claire Evans, Head of Geography comments: "Our partnership with Dalcour Maclaren has provided a platform for a

thoroughly enjoyable learning experience and we are all very grateful to them for their valuable time and expertise. We are very much looking forward to continuing this partnership next year and we are also delighted to have ESRI's support and guidance as we open our Bloxham Sustainability Challenge next year to other schools within the region."

Lower Sixth trip to Dorset

Lower Sixth's Ollie A., Sienna H. and Arthur D. report on the trip:

Day One

On the first day of our geography field trip, we ventured to Studland Bay to explore its fragile psamosere environment. We conducted a detailed dune transect, collecting primary data on pH levels, plant species, gradient, wind changes, and infiltration rates. Later, we arrived at Springhead Trust (near Fontmell Magna) – our home for the next two nights. The evening was dedicated to data analysis where we examined our findings through the creation of kite diagrams. This highlighted the important issues related coastal management and the future impacts that climate change will have on this area.

Day Two

On the second day of our trip, we travelled to Highcliffe in Christchurch Bay, where we were captivated by

stunning vistas and an enlightening lesson on sediment cells and longshore drift. These natural processes have significantly shaped the region. Situated on the border between Dorset and Hampshire, we observed contrasting coastal management strategies.

Our day continued with a boat trip from Lymington, offering views of Hurst Spit and Keyhaven salt marsh. This excursion also provided a glimpse of Hurst Castle and we spotted The Needles on the Isle of Wight just before returning to shore.

Day Three

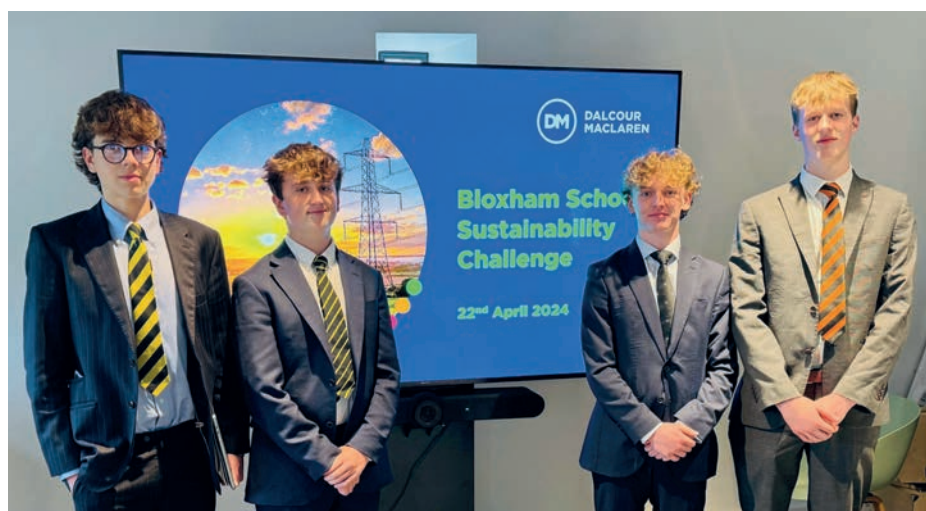
On the last day we visited Canford Cliffs followed by Boscombe beach.

At Canford Cliffs, we had a talk with a biodiversity expert from the local council. He gave us an insight into how the council manage mass movements, including netting the cliffs to stop debris falling or pinning them down to increase the strength of them.

After this, we drove along the coast to the seaside town of Boscombe. We were met with sunny skies and sandy beaches. Here we were focused on the tourist element of Boscombe. We partook in fieldwork such as questionnaires of the locals as well as several primary research methods like field sketches, which were done to varying degrees of artistic abilities.

Cambridge Re:Think Essay Competition

Congratulations to Emma B. on her entry into the Cambridge Re:Think Essay Competition. Her essay entitled 'Do the benefits of implementing new genome editing technologies for agriculture outweigh the societal backlash of advancing technologies and bioengineered crops?' was one of 4,200 submissions across 50 countries blind reviewed by scholars from Cambridge, Oxford, Stanford, MIT and several Ivy League universities. Emma received an honourable mention, awarded to only 350 students. Those awarding Emma commented: "Your outstanding essay and intellectual contribution have truly set you apart, and we are delighted to acknowledge your remarkable achievement."



Science

Bloxham's scientists were challenged this year with a wide range of academic competitions with some fantastic achievements made across the School.

Sixth Form Biologists competed in the Royal Society of Biology Annual Olympiad consisting of two papers which tested not only their biological knowledge but their ability to problem solve. Four Bloxham students were awarded Silver medals – Zoe B., Finn C., Nick P and Jasper W. – placing them in the top 15% in the country and five Bronze medals awarded to Marcus D., Alex J., Jamie K., Jenna L. and Oliver S. (top 25%). A further seven students were either highly commended or commended for their achievements.

A number of our Third and Fourth Form students competed in Royal Society of Biology Annual 'Biology Challenge' competition, which tests not only students' school-based learning but their wider interest in, and understanding of, the natural world. Four students were awarded Silver awards, Rose P., Greg P., Kit P-J. and Charlie W. (top 15% of participants); seven students were awarded Bronze awards and 23 were either highly commended or commended.

Following their strong performance in last year's Lower Sixth Cambridge Chemistry Challenge, two Bloxham students were selected to be entered into the UK Chemistry Olympiad (UKChO). This competition is a unique opportunity for students to push themselves further and excel in the chemistry field. The competition has a number of phases including a two-hour paper in school, a training camp at the UK university for the top 30 students



Nick P.'s investigation of epigenetics featured in the A Level Biology Symposium

and the chance to represent the UK at the prestigious International Chemistry Olympiad. Huge congratulations to both students who performed amazingly well in a very demanding test and achieved gold medals. They are the first at Bloxham to achieve this.

A number of Bloxham students also competed in the British Physics Olympiad competition. With two Golds in the Senior category, one Gold in Junior and nine Golds in Exham, this completes a stellar list of scientific achievements for our students.

Latin

Ben Kane: Life in Ancient Rome and Pompeii

It was a great privilege to once again welcome bestselling author Ben Kane to Bloxham during Lent term. Ben spoke to the First and Second Form students about life in Ancient Rome and Pompeii and the students were able to ask him many insightful questions after his talk. Ben then went on to speak to the Sixth Form students about his journey from being a vet to a bestselling author.

First Form's Emily L. said "I think that Ben Kane coming to Bloxham was a great opportunity to learn about Ancient Rome and Pompeii. I think that we could all agree it beats textbooks."

Freddie B-J., Second Form, thoroughly enjoyed the visit: "Life in ancient Rome – from the Republic to the empire – fascinates me and it is exciting and fortunate to run through the interesting

topic with an expert. Facts that I found the most interesting and surprising were certainly the culture of Chariot racing, with Gaius Apuleius Diocles being worth over \$15 billion by winning 1,462 races."

First Form trip to the Corinium Museum, Cirencester

"The First Form trip to the Corinium Museum was an exciting way to understand about archaeology, connect with the past's social and rural history and to learn about the journey of discovery. The first thing we did was go to an educational room and look at replicas of objects belonging to a specific person who lived back in Roman Britain. Not only did we get to understand about the person's life and how they adapted, but we also got to translate their tombstone from Latin to English, which was quite fun as there was a lot of trial and error. The next thing we did was explore some tombstones, study different pieces of cool pottery and examine detailed



sculptures and statues. We were all given a booklet, which was full of translations from Latin, questions on our opinions, and facts about what it was like living in a different age. Overall, I really enjoyed this trip as I personally am fond of Latin and am fascinated by our history and exploring all the different things this museum had to offer." Addison C.

Modern Foreign Languages

Lower Sixth Language Leaders Award

Our Lower Sixth Linguists have been working hard in our Fourth Form French and Spanish lessons throughout the year. The students have been supporting and encouraging the Fourth Form with their French and Spanish studies each week. As a result of their hard work, they have been awarded the externally accredited Language Leaders Award.

Here are some reflections from Martha S. in Lower Sixth: "I've enjoyed being with the Fourth Form as they are all so enthusiastic about French and they are always asking questions. It is a good feeling to be able to help them. I've learnt that everyone finds different things more challenging. It has been useful and it has been a great experience to see what it is like to assist in these lessons."

Collège Ste Marie, Chartres visit Bloxham

We were delighted to welcome our partner French school to Bloxham in May. 43 students and four staff from Collège Ste Marie in Chartres enjoyed lunch and an action-packed afternoon of activities at Bloxham. Here are some thoughts from our Third Form students of French, Isabel, Emily and Fatima:

"Our journey began in the classroom, where we engaged in translation games, switching between French and English. One of the highlights was the tower-building activity. We divided into groups, we collaborated to construct the tallest and most stable structures. Our group, with its remarkable teamwork and creativity, emerged victorious. As ambassadors, we also had the privilege of showing our visitors around the School. We guided them to various significant locations, including the Wesley, where we continued to bond through more games, which brought laughter and joy to everyone.



Throughout this experience, we learned the value of cross-cultural communication and the joy of forming connections beyond language barriers. It was a pleasure to see our guests enjoying their time and feeling at ease in a new environment."

The Power of Exchange by Kit P.-J. and Quentin B.

"Last year, I travelled to Chartres in France to improve my French and learn about their culture. I went for three weeks and stayed with my exchange Quentin Barré. One thing that was very different was the school system. Every morning at eight o'clock, we arrived at school for period 1. The days were long and hot. There was no free time, just lessons and lunch. By the end of the day I was exhausted and wanted sleep – the food at school was awful too! I met lots of new people and got to practice my language skills. One thing that I found extremely difficult outside the classroom was not being able to speak any English at all. My parents had asked Quentin and his parents to only speak French to me, forcing me to learn at a faster rate.

During my stay I wasn't the only foreigner in the Barré household. There was a small Spaniard named Fernando, who was Quentin's younger brother's exchange. He wasn't very good at French and whenever he was asked a question in French he'd look at me and

expect me to tell him what it meant in English! Overall, I really enjoyed myself and I'm really thankful for the opportunity." *Kit, Fourth Form*

"For the second part of this exchange, I travelled to England for two weeks and stayed in Kit's house during weekend and boarded in Bloxham from Wednesday to Friday. I learned a lot about English private schools and discovered cricket. It was also my first time wearing a uniform, so I had to learn how to tie a tie.

I really like playing tennis and basketball during free time because we don't get to do so much sport in my school. However, my favourite part was boarding in Wilson. Mr Bowden, Mr Setterfield and Matron were welcoming and nice. I am grateful to them for allowing me this experience and for taking care of me during my stay." *Quentin B., Collège Ste Marie, Chartres*

"Let's Talk" Danish Film Project

Mollie H-B. and Caelen L. have recently taken part in a Danish school filming project where they shared their experiences of their life at home and school in England. Their film will be shared with a school in Denmark to further encourage international cultural awareness as part of the "Let's Talk" project. Well done to Mollie and Caelen for presenting their life in England and at Bloxham so eloquently. *JR*

Business Studies and Economics

Apprentice Challenge



Chesham Prep, winners of 2024's Apprentice Challenge

The Business CTEC group organised a very successful Apprentice Challenge event for eight prep schools in March. The group worked closely with the School's Marketing department in designing the day. The challenge was for the prep school students to design and market their own healthy smoothie.

The group of ten students ran the day, looking after their pupils, their teachers and our guest judge David Broughton. The CTEC students collected feedback on the event and produced a portfolio for the exam board.

Marketing The White Lion

The Upper Sixth CTEC group has worked closely with the White Lion coffee shop this year in designing a marketing plan to improve, among other things, their social media presence. The students individually presented the results of the findings and recommendations, with recordings of their presentations submitted to the examiner.

Guest Speakers

Deborah Dolce spoke to an audience of over 80 Business and Economics students about her role at TJX Europe and the importance of corporate responsibility, sustainability and how TJX Europe communicate with the consumers through branding and marketing.

Oliver Lewis, PHD student at the University of Oxford, came to lecture the A Level Economics group on his research area – Public Policy failure focussing on the Privatisation of British Rail. This links to their studies of natural monopoly and the debate about privatisation and nationalisation.

London Institute of Banking and Finance

We are delighted that two students, Henrick L. and Freddie T., completed their Level 2 certificate in Financial Education through the London Institute of Banking and Finance.

Morgan Motor Company Limited

Fifty A Level Business Students visited the Morgan Motor company in Malvern to learn more about operations management and quality assurance. Following the visit, they were then set an exam question on distinctive capabilities. It takes 206 hours to handcraft every unique Morgan car. [SC](#)



Computer Science

As the academic year draws to a close, it's time to reflect on the journey of discovery and innovation within our Computer Science department. Throughout the year, our students have embraced challenges, explored new technologies, and demonstrated exceptional creativity and skill.

One of the standout initiatives this year was the Fourth Form Challenge, where students embarked on an ambitious project: creating a virtual reality school tour using our Meta Quest VR Headset. This immersive experience aimed to provide an innovative way for prospective students, parents, and even alumni to explore our wonderful campus from the comfort of their homes. Guided by their curiosity and fuelled by a passion for

technology, these students delved into the realms of virtual reality development using Unity to develop interactive artifacts as well as learning valuable lessons in project management and teamwork along the way.

Meanwhile, our Sixth Form students have continued to push the boundaries of innovation through their work with Raspberry Pi Pico controllers. Armed with these powerful yet compact microcontrollers, they embarked on a journey to program and deploy robots for real-world applications. From navigating obstacle courses to performing complex tasks, these student-engineered robots are a testament to the practical application of programming skills. Through this

hands-on experience, our students not only honed their coding abilities but also gained a deeper understanding of robotics, electronics, and problem-solving in the digital age.

Next year we will be launching a new robotics activity using both the BBC Micro:Bit and Lego Spark kits to sit alongside our already well established Coding Club. September will see the return of the Bebras Challenge, (a competition for students to explore their computational thinking skills through interactive tasks) which will now be offered to students at all key stages. Additionally, we enter into the CyberFirst Girls Competition which aims to inspire girls interested in technology to pursue a career in cyber security. [LH](#)

Careers

Our 2024 Careers Fair was a fabulous evening during which students from First Form right the way through to Upper Sixth had the opportunity to meet with exhibitors from a wide range of industries, drawing inspiration from the life lessons they shared and beginning to hone their plans for the future.

We invited guests to attend as careers representatives to talk to students about their career experiences, industry knowledge and answer questions about how to forge a career in various sectors and businesses. The event featured a wide variety of businesses and vocational occupations covering many careers interests, alongside information about work experience opportunities and an array of exhibiting universities and institutions.

At Bloxham, we think that you're never too young to start finding out about the wide array of job options available, so the evening began with a session specifically for our youngest students. They chatted with our exhibitors about the kinds of careers which they might like to pursue in the future and asked

lots of interesting questions, such as what a typical day in that industry looks like. Jobs in writing and engineering proved particularly popular with the Exham students.

The exhibitors' next session was with students from Third to Fifth Form. It was particularly useful for students thinking about what A Levels they would like to choose to have the chance to chat with both representatives from various universities and those involved in industries in which they are interested.

Finally, it was time for our Sixth Form to enter the fair, and they did so with

great enthusiasm and energy. The university tables proved particularly popular with the Lower Sixth, while the Upper Sixth were more focused on exploring what they could do to make themselves stand out to potential employers. Our CV Clinic with recruitment expert Emma Goodman was also popular with our Sixth Formers as they learned about how to write a CV that will make an employer sit up and take stock.

It was wonderful to hear lots of positive feedback from all our exhibitors about how engaged and insightful our students had proven themselves to be. [NG](#)



Enrichment

Euonia

It has been another great year for Eunoia, with a fantastic series of talks running throughout the year. A few highlights include:

In January, Mrs Summers arranged a series of workshops culminating in a Eunoia lecture with author Oliver Lewis who has written *The Orwell Tour: Travel through the Life and Work of George Orwell*. His research for the book took him all round the world to each location and he fascinated the students with his account. Oliver also spoke of his research into the Privatisation of British Rail for his DPhil at the University of Oxford. He challenged the students encouraging them to think about the consequences and implications for the rail user. A great motivational speaker.

In February, newly appointed Academic Lead, Dr Laurie Earl talked about her long and interesting career to date which included Health and Aviation and spanned the world with 20 years spent in New Zealand where she learned to fly; four years in Australia where her research involved working with the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) and three years in Abu Dhabi where she was the Director of Aviation for Abu Dhabi University in collaboration with Etihad and Emirates Airlines.

Returning to the UK she worked for the three years as a Senior Research Fellow with the University of Oxford. Her mantra has always been perseverance declaring that she is not clever, just persistent.

In March, Bloxham were privileged to have a presentation by Associate Professor Carl Cater of Swansea University introduced by Dr Evans, who gave a fascinating and interactive lecture about sustainable tourism concentrating on the coral reefs. The students were challenged throughout the lecture to think about the causes and effects of what they saw and how to solve the specific issues being discussed.

In April, the students enjoyed another excellent lecture by World Gliding Champion and STEM Ambassador,

Liz Sparrow. Liz is not only an engineer with a degree from Queens' College Cambridge, but also the top ranked female glider pilot in the world. During her lecture about flight Liz told the students why she loves gliding so much: "the decision-making involved and opportunities help to build confidence". Liz ended with a quiz about gliding, awarding a very excited Harry H. a fantastic prize of a flight in a glider courtesy of the British Gliding Association at a local airfield. Liz has gone on to advise Bloxham students on University entry in the STEM subjects. [LE](#)

EPO

The Extended Project Qualification offers students a fantastic opportunity to research topics that fall outside the curriculum, developing academic curiosity and university-level research skills. The topics areas covered were diverse, ranging from the future of the aviation industry to adolescent mental health. The students had to complete a rigorous research process utilising academic platforms such as Jstor and Google Scholar in order to gain the A Level qualification.



Five of the EPO students presented to their peers, current Lower Sixth and parents on their chosen subjects. Ben L. spoke eloquently on the Qing Dynasty, a Chinese imperial dynasty, led by the Manchu people, which ruled China from 1644 to 1911. Daniel A. also turned his attention to China, investigating rural revitalisation and the questions 'What policies have been put in place to counter-act rural-urban imbalance, and what techniques have been displayed in attempts to achieve this sustainably?'

Arabella C. presented on her topic of 'How does social and academic pressure affect a student's mental health?', also touching on how these pressures affect students' attitude towards learning. Caitlin D. covered 'the influence of social media on the popularity of brachycephalic dog breeds', dogs known as 'flat-faced' breeds such as Pugs and French Bulldogs. Olly S. focused on his love of music and how to create a successful pop song.

Some of the other topics covered this year included:

- Is bamboo a suitable alternative to willow in the creation of cricket bats?
- What are the long-term impacts of head injuries on rugby?
- How does agricultural technology improve efficiency on a farm?
- To what extent is the Argentinian claim to the Falkland Islands justified? [JR](#)



Mini MAPP

The Mini Master's in Applied Positive Psychology, or MiniMAPP, has now completed its third year at Bloxham, and within that time has gone from strength to strength. The course is run by Cheryl Linton, Physics teacher and Merton Housemistress, who has a Master's degree in Positive Psychology. She designed this course as part of her dissertation, and then put it into action as soon as she was able.

The course includes various elements, such as a happiness research project in which each student investigates the things which make them happy and then measures their happiness level following a series of interventions on themselves. Popular choices include increased exercise or spending more time practicing musical instruments, but Cheryl shares that the intervention she found most memorable was from a girl who chose to do a daily act of kindness. This "really boosted her and her happiness went off the charts."

The students also write an essay on positive psychology, which means learning how to reference, investigate their strengths and design an academic poster discussing them, and present to the group on a book they have read about positive psychology. Cheryl was keen to interweave important skills for university with learning tailored to each student and led by them.

We spoke to four of last year's cohort, Tom, Jenna, Caitlin and Rachel, to find out what they liked about the course and how understanding more about positive psychology has impacted their daily lives.

What made you choose this course over any of the other options available in Sixth Form?

Tom: I'm quite interested in psychology, and I didn't take it as a choice at A Level, so I thought this would be a great way to explore this interest through an extracurricular opportunity.

Caitlin: I found the introduction to it fascinating and thought it would be something I'd like to do. I'm also doing an EPQ at the same time and this combination has worked very well for me.

Rachel: I take psychology A Level and I was expecting this to be quite similar, but it turns out it really isn't! It's interesting to see another side of psychology. The A Level is more focused on things like memory, social influence and attachment, but this course is about applying lessons from psychology to your personal life which is really nice.

Jenna: I want to do psychology at university and because I don't do it as an A Level I wanted to have something like this on my personal statement as it will make me stand out from other candidates. I'd heard from students in the year above that it was really good and they were right – I really enjoyed it! We honed a lot of skills, like referencing and creating academic posters, which will really benefit us when applying to university.

What is the most interesting thing you have learned?

Caitlin: Probably about using your strengths to your advantage, and about setting out plans for yourself and utilising your strengths to reach your goals. I definitely found out about strengths I hadn't known I had. We had to do a test to see what our strengths

were and one of mine was hope. I didn't really think I was an optimistic person but that was on there. In the plan which I have set out for myself, I've tried to use hope in my life more.

Jenna: I think the most interesting thing for me was the three good things task that we did where in the evening you had to write down three good things that had happened in the day. Sometimes you feel drowned out by all the bad things that have happened, but this reminds you that there's good in every day and makes you feel more hopeful.

Has what you have learned in the course influenced the way you do things today?

Tom: It helped me to get the role of a peer listener because thanks to the positive psychology course, I picked up a lot of skills which have helped me in this post. It's good to be able to talk to people and to manage things maturely when you need to.

Jenna: I think what I've learned from it is that writing goals is really important. I've kept going with that since finishing the course. When a goal is on paper and you can see it, it's more inspiring and that gives me more drive to want to achieve things and to work harder.

Would you recommend this course to other students?

Tom: Yes, definitely. One part of the course involved writing essays about how we could improve our day to day lives. Mine was based on my ADHD diagnosis and the essay helped me navigate through things I could do to help my concentration. It was very beneficial both academically and socially.

Caitlin: Yes, because you learn very useful transferable skills which can help you in all aspects of your life.

Rachel: I think definitely because it has such a positive impact on the rest of your life. I'll always remember the benefits that I've learned here about writing goals and being grateful. We've learned some things which will be really important from here on in.

Jenna: I definitely would because I think it looks really great on a uni application. I think we're the only school which does this course at the moment and the work that we do in it varies a lot. We're not just writing essays, we're reading books, we're doing charts to rank how we're feeling and so on. It's definitely very interesting.



Art

Congratulations to a number of students who showcased their talent at the prestigious Ashmolean Museum in Oxford as part of the Young Art Oxford competition, an annual fundraising art exhibition open to all pupils of Oxfordshire schools from Reception to Year 9. It is a wonderful opportunity for young aspiring artists to have their work judged by well-known professionals and artists and to be exhibited.

Among the group of exhibiting artists was Miller J., whose exceptional work received a Highly Commended award. Matilda Head, alongside nine other remarkable artists including Evan C., Fran B., Joshua H., Freddie C., Joe W., Hunter A-B., Anna H., Joseph W., and Isaac E., were also commended for their talents.

Adding to the artistic celebrations, Freddie B-J. won the national 'Show Racism the Red Card' competition, showcasing his poignant artwork that confronts issues of racism head-on. The competition, organised by the UK's leading anti-racism educational charity, recognised Freddie's impactful contribution in the years 7-9 category, earning him an invitation to the prestigious awards ceremony at Molineux Stadium.

Creative Arts

Putting the Ox in Oxford



Second Form student Miruna D.'s exceptional artwork won the public vote, securing its place as the Bloxham School representative painted ox for OxTrail 2024. More than 180 entries were submitted by Exham and Third Form students, with 25 shortlisted for exhibition in the Small Dining Room.

The ox joined an impressive herd of 80 others on exhibition in Oxford and around the county raising money for Sobell House Hospice. The School has raised over £1,000 in support of this fantastic cause.

Curious about the inspiration behind her winning design, and keen to find out how she felt when she learned the exciting news of her success, we spoke with Miruna to learn about her artistic skills.

Can you tell me a little bit about the design of your ox? Where did your inspiration come from and how did you think of what to paint on it?

The colours of the ox are blue and yellow and represent the Ukraine flag. The ox also has a floral pattern on it, with two different shades of blue and yellow accents. I love flowers, so the floral design came from that.

How long did it take you to do?

The actual drawing/sketching on the bull took a few one-hour sessions over a couple weeks. I also took the bull home with me for a while and I painted on it every day, so probably in total it took a few weeks.

What did you find to be the most enjoyable part of the process?

I really liked watching it all come together because at the beginning when I looked at it, I remember thinking how hard it was to see what the end

picture is going to look like. Once I started adding different colours of paint, it started looking like the design I had in mind and came to life. It was really exciting to see the progress.

Did you face any difficulties while working on your ox?

One of the main difficulties I found was copying my design onto the ox, as obviously it is a completely different scale and is 3D, so it was difficult to estimate where things would be. I think that I overcame this by taking my time on it and not rushing.

Do you think that there is something new that you've learned from this competition?

I wasn't very good at painting before now, but the precision and the little lines I had to paint on the ox has helped me with my confidence in painting. I had to make sure that it didn't look too textured or have several layers, so the first time painting it had to be good. I also learned how to scale my work and get the proportions correct.

What happened if you made a mistake?

Overall, I didn't really make any as I made sure to take my time. But, when sketching the design on the ox in pencil, if I did make one, I could just rub it out. I did make a small mistake when I was painting, but I used a white emulsion which could sort of erase it slightly.



How did you feel when you found out you won the competition?

I was very, very excited and really proud. I've never won any art competitions before, so it was really exciting to know that people will know that it was me and my name will be next to the design. I was a bit worried whether I would be good enough to make the ox look good, but I tried my best and I am happy with how it turned out.

We also received valuable insights and background information about the OxTrail Learning Programme from Ariya Nair, Relationships Fundraiser at Sobell House Hospice, who kindly answered some of our questions.

What do you believe the students who take part gain from participating in the OxTrail?

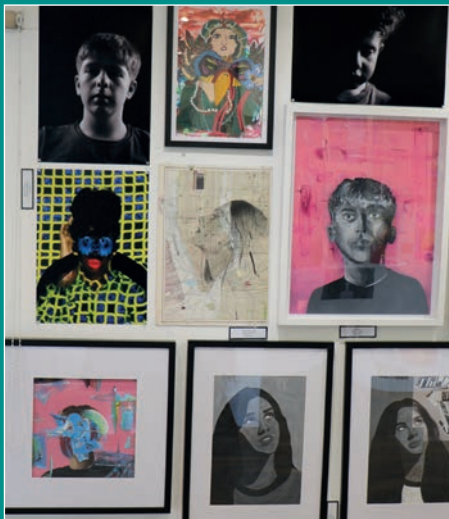
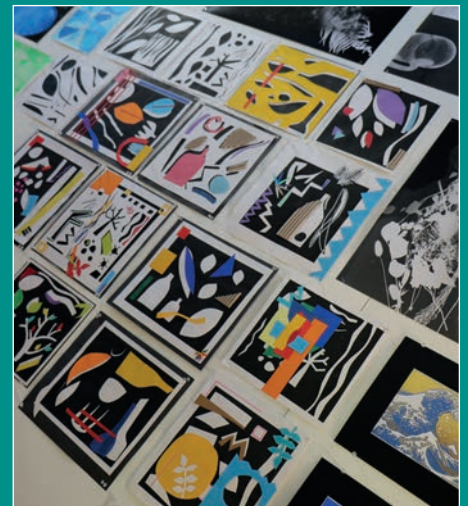
Students gain the understanding that giving some of their own time can make a world of a difference to local people with life-limiting illnesses. Not only is OxTrail an art and fundraising project for students, it is also an enormous community engagement project that dedicated students can use later on in life with university and job applications.

Is there anything you would like to share about the programme?

Through OxTrail Learning Programme alone, Sobell House has reached over 37,500 young people throughout Oxfordshire. We are so grateful to each and every, teacher, parent, caregiver and student at all of our OxTrail schools and youth groups that have helped Sobell House increase our profile in such an extraordinary way. Most of these relationships are completely new to Sobell House so we are really looking forward to growing them and encouraging students to continue to support local charities like ours.

Summer Exhibition 2024

Each year the Art department celebrates the talent throughout the School with the Summer Art Exhibition. The walls were adorned with artwork; the photos below cannot do justice to the vibrancy and detail captured by Bloxham's budding artists.



Music



House Music

The biggest musical event of the year just got bigger! The Dewey was transformed into Wembley Arena for the annual House Music Competition. Love was the theme this year, so the whole school community was treated to an evening of Taylor Swift, Eric Clapton, One Direction, Wham! and more, singing about lost love, unrequited love, the one that got away and marriage. Even with a vast amount of experience in the music industry, judges Martin Toher and Leah Stockford still had a challenge to pick the winning entries, but, on a night like House Music, everyone is a winner!

Overall Winner: **Wilberforce**

Ensemble Winner: **Wilberforce**

Unison Winner: **Exham**

“
The biggest
musical event
of the year just
got bigger!”

Gala Concert

With St Mary’s Church now fully refurbished, it was wonderful to be back and celebrate the music at Bloxham in such style. All performers, dressed in black, performed a varied and challenging programme of music which included the Chapel Choir’s powerful rendition of Mozart’s *Requiem*, the orchestra taking us *Back to the Future* and the Show Choir making their concert debut. Thomas T. gave a virtuosic performance of Beethoven’s *Piano Sonata No.1 in F minor* followed by a little light-hearted Gershwin number. With over 100 musicians involved, it was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate a great year in music and say goodbye to some very loyal musicians and their parents.



Shrek: The Musical

Our musicians were challenged with the band playing music straight from the West End. Really difficult melody lines but incredible fun with extra energy every night; *I'm A Believer* provided a brilliant end to a terrific show. Read more about *Shrek* in the Drama report on page 24.

Young Musician of the Year

The most musically competitive evening was astonishingly good with an incredibly high standard in each category. Internationally renowned recorder player and adjudicator for the evening, Heidi Fardell had her work cut out to decide and overall winner but with his natural musicality and thoroughly engaging performance of *Alright* by Lemar, a packed Great Hall all agreed Henry P. was the worthy winner.

Young Musician of the Year:

Henry P., Drums, Fourth Form

Grade 7+ category winners:

Zoe B., Drums, Upper Sixth and

Dan S., Saxophone, Lower Sixth

Grade 4-6 category:

Clemmie LeCl., Piano, Third Form

Beginner – Grade 3 category:

Jack W., Saxophone, First Form

Outreach

Always keen to spread the musical joy, we welcomed 43 string players of all ages and abilities from Swanbourne School, The Croft, Beachborough School, Ashfold School and Winchester House School for a day of brilliant music making and workshops. Keenly assisted by Bloxham's own string players, the musicians all worked on challenging pieces before everyone joined forces for a grand finale performance of *Viva la Vida*, accompanied by the house band.

A number of Bloxham musicians also visited Bloxham Primary School for workshops with their instrumentalists and choir, accompanying and supporting a home-time performance for the whole school community.



Jazz Night

Now an annual fixture in the musical calendar, the Bloxham Jazz Night just gets bigger and better every year. It was great to welcome back internationally celebrated jazz composer Charlie Bates and hear him enthuse the wind and brass players at Bloxham in workshops throughout the day. The evening was a triumph with students experiencing the best musicians first-hand and the hospitality students devising a tasty menu and atmospheric setting for the visiting parents.

Brass Workshops

In the Summer term, Royal Academy of Music brass students worked with Bloxham brass players in a series of workshops before performing an inspiring concert of brilliant music. There is nothing better than experiencing top quality musicianship, especially when they are sitting next to you!

Trips & Screening

A regular programme of trips and screenings continued this year with two visits to see the amazing City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra perform at Symphony Hall. The first trip for all GCSE and A Level students included the brilliant saxophonist Jess Gillam perform a selection of music from John Willams score to the *Catch Me If You Can*, full of the energy and joy of a jazz score to a film set in the 1950s. This was followed by the magical *Firebird Suite* by Stravinsky – one of the best endings to any piece of music ever written.

The second trip was to see a UK premiere of a *Piano Concerto* by British composer Anna Clyne followed by the evocative *Pictures at an Exhibition*, complete with off-stage brass, percussion it also utilised the full power of a symphony orchestra. A screening of the National Theatre's award-winning production of the play *Amadeus* gave students studying Mozart's work, an insight into his tragic life and the possible fierce rivalry with Salieri. Will incredible performances and brilliant, familiar music it really made Mozart a human, more than just an amazing composer. [AJR](#)



Drama



We sat down for a chat with Holly, Ramsay and Arabella, who played the parts of Donkey, Shrek and Fiona in our production of *Shrek the Musical*. They gave us a behind-the-scenes insight into the show, sharing stories from rehearsals and telling us all about why they decided to get involved.

Holly: I've been in every production since Second Form and it's my last one this year, so I definitely wanted to be involved. It's also the first time in forever we've done a musical so that was another reason – I've always wanted to do a musical! I was one of the leads in last year's production of *Cyrano de Bergerac*, but *Shrek* is a very different kind of performance so it has been great to cover such a range of styles during my time at Bloxham.

Arabella: I missed out on the opportunity to do the play last year because I didn't get involved in time. Throughout last year, I knew that I wanted to be part of whatever they decided to do this year. A musical is something I've never done before so that was really exciting. I liked the *Shrek* films growing up too and it's really helpful knowing the story. I acted at my old school, but I've never had a big part before Fiona!

Ramsay: Seeing as this is my final year at Bloxham, I wanted to have a



grand finale, so I thought I'd be part of *Shrek*. That being said, I didn't expect to get such a big part! I've been in school productions before, like *The Mabinogion* – I played smaller parts in that, like a fish and a giant. I was in last year's production of *Cyrano de Bergerac* where I was the French chef, and I really enjoyed that.

How have you found it taking on this role?

Holly: It's very different from last year's production! It's definitely more fun playing Donkey because he's a very energetic character, although that has also been quite difficult because I've ended every rehearsal absolutely exhausted from jumping around all over the place! I prefer playing Donkey to playing Christian because I can make the role my own, whereas last year I had to play it how it was in the script. This year is more about expressing myself.

Arabella: I have loved being Fiona – it's been really fun! Working with Mr Hornsby and developing the character and becoming crazier and crazier in each rehearsal has been great. There haven't been any rehearsals where we haven't laughed through it because what we've been doing is so funny and enjoyable.

Ramsay: It has been an amazing experience! I never thought I'd get to play a character as iconic as Shrek. I'm flabbergasted to be able to play a role like that. I loved the films growing up, they were some of my favourites.

Do you find it easier to act a funny part or is it more of a challenge than taking on a serious role?

Arabella: I think it depends on who you're with. We're all really good friends and really comfortable with each other, so that makes it easy to let loose and get into the comedy.

Holly: The scenes where it's the core characters together are really easy and fun to play with because we're all so close so we really bounce off each other's energy and it works well.

Ramsay: I like to do a bit of both, but I enjoy the comedy the most.

How do you manage your nerves?

Holly: I don't know, I just do! Before I go on stage, I'll always recite my lines in my head or sing the song in my head and make sure I know what I'm doing, and do some quiet breathing. The most stressful show is normally opening night where things don't tend to go as well, so you just need to relax and think that you can do it and that it will be okay.

Arabella: I do the same in terms of reciting it beforehand, and I also find it really helpful to have one of my friends nearby to chat with. When I'm on stage, I sometimes make eye contact with someone I'm comfortable with or stare up into the lights so I can't see anyone and it's like I'm just singing by myself.

Ramsay: I don't really get too nervous anymore. When you're actually on the stage, the nerves flow away as soon as you start and get used to it. It's best to just imagine the audience aren't there and pretend you're rehearsing as usual.

How do you find it singing and acting at the same time?

Holly: I don't have singing lessons but I'm in the choir and have been since Exham, and I'm also in Harmonix. I've got a bit of background in singing. It's difficult singing and acting at the same time. I was very out of breath the first time I sang a song and moved around at the same time. It's definitely something you have to remember and think about – you have to be so solid on the words. But it's also really fun because I've seen other actors doing it before as an inspiration, and it's cool to now be doing it myself.

Arabella: I don't have a singing background at all – I haven't sung since Year Six! It's tough, but we went to see a production of *Shrek the Musical* and that really helped inspire some of the things I do on stage.

Ramsay: I've always been a keen singer but singing while acting is an entirely different thing! I found it awkward to begin with but I'm easing into it now.

Do you have any highlights from rehearsals?

Arabella: Yesterday, we were rehearsing *Morning Person* and in my song I have to sing to a deer, and they've bought this huge inflatable deer which is taller than me! I have to swing it round stage and it was really fun working with Mr Hornsby to work out how I'm going to move this massive deer around stage and make it look good.

Holly: The audition day when we had our call backs was really funny. We had to play different characters and some of the things people were doing was just hilarious! That was the first time we did any accents, and it was so awful but so entertaining. I'm so excited to see it all come together!

Ramsay: I think the first time we did the whole of Act I through – we nailed it and that was phenomenal! It made us all realise that we can do it and that was great.



Third Form's *The Best of All Possible Worlds*



Sixth Form devised pieces

Design Technology



Rory F. manufactured this teaching aid in oak, to help Fourth Form students to understand how levers worked, and to help get to grips with calculating mechanical advantage. The product was very successful and much enjoyed by the younger students. Rory received this year's junior D&T prize.

Lienki L. produced her steerable toy horse truck for the charity, RedWings, as a prototype for a toy that they could sell online or in their shop. RedWings, a horse sanctuary and welfare charity, really appreciated the idea.

Makayla E-O. produced a mechanical, random number selector for Wilberforce House charity events. The product successfully selects single numbered balls from the top see through chamber. Those in the House thought it was great.

Poppy D. designed and made her clothes rail for second-hand garments. It was for Wilberforce House for when they have charity second-hand clothes sales. It was very purple and worked well.

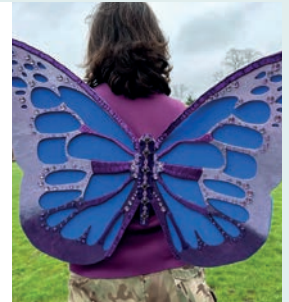
Will L. designed and made his interactive charity collection box for Wilson House to encourage the boys to pay their contributions on Compassion days and at other charity events. The level of fascination as the coins drop encourages further donations.



Will B. designed and manufactured his product in oak for Bloxham's Chapel. It has a cut plaque and a changeable colour coded indicator which reveals to the congregation what the liturgic colour will be and what it will signify.

Harry D. created his wheelchair handle from oak. It locks two chairs together, allowing his client, who places the wheelchairs in schools and other establishments, to be able to easily manoeuvre two chairs simultaneously. His charity, Stoke Mandeville Spinal Research, aim to give able children the chance to experience what it is like to be wheelchair bound, in order to try to increase their empathy for the disabled.

Tabby H. made her butterfly wing charity running costume for Dravet Syndrome UK. It replicates the charity logo and is made from plastazote foam and neoprene. The charity organize a campaign to 'run 5k a day in May'. Runners now can make a donation for the chance to wear this costume.



For his A Level project, **Maxwell T.**, identified a need on his parents' farm for a way to scoop up seed to load into the seed drill. Previously, bags were precariously held above the shoot on the tines of a forklift, and one of the farm hands would have to risk life and limb to open the bag once in the lofty position. Maxwell's solution has a remotely operated door at the back of the scoop that he made, which can be opened once in position.



James P. was approached by the Bloxham School's geography department and asked to produce a weather monitoring system for the new weather club. This spectacular solution fully meets the brief and includes a wide variety of sophisticated manufacturing skills. The geography department were delighted with James' product and the weather club is now thriving. James was the winner of this year's Senior D&T prize.

Heydon W. designed and manufactured his drone making kit and parts, for a technology club, to encourage involvement in STEM subjects. As part of the challenge, he produced the drone from scratch.



Harry B. produced a bespoke indoor herb growing centre, in mahogany, aluminium and ply, for his Mum, so she could have the key ingredients she wanted all year round. Different light settings can be adjusted as can the watering system.

Sam C. designed and made a light box for the D&T department. It locks neatly between the desks, and it can be configured to be both portrait and landscape. It has been extremely useful to all our young designers.



Nicolasus R. has been very grateful to his parents for allowing him to come to Bloxham this year. In his spare time, he has produced this beautifully crafted walnut jewellery box. The laser cut message inside the lid is a message of thanks to his Mum and Dad.



Tom R. designed and made this wall light for Egerton's new kitchen area as part of is Lower Sixth's upcycled light challenge. It fits in really well and those in the House are delighted with the outcome. [TMS](#)

Theo M. was asked by his Dad to design a bespoke tool crate for his motor racing team, 'MallMan'. The carbon fibre skinned panels and wheels, ensured a tough, easily moved system, that fitted snugly under the ramps of the transport van.

Fuelling Change: Green Power Race Car

Exham House students enjoyed the thrill of the race track as they entered their first Green Power Racing competition at Mallory Park in Leicester.

The event was organised by the Green Power Charitable Trust to help inspire young people to excel in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. The students were set the challenge of designing and building an electric car and they worked throughout the year in activity time to prepare their vehicle for race day. The team received crucial support from experienced parents, including Anthony Davidson, NicWhale, and



JonnyWish. Their guidance on battery management, aerodynamics, and driving tips proved invaluable. The Green Power marketing team (Jess J., Charlie L. and Tom S.) report:

"Prior to race day, we checked the race regulations to ensure that the car would pass the MOT on the day. Rohan D. was appointed technical director and he did a sterling job organising us and checking the details. He also kept an eye on the races available that we could enter. Mallory Park was chosen as the race track and he managed to get his dad to transport the car to the event.

“**Are those wires supposed to be smoking?”**

We reduced the weight of the car by removing excess materials and removed some panels to cool down the motor which we discovered could get very hot in use. Wing mirrors were also added in preparation for overtaking manoeuvres. Panels were polished, stickers added and tyres and brakes checked.

The most enjoyable part of the day was the sense of working together for

a common cause, the excitement of the car making the grid and getting the car race-ready between races. In our haste, the wires to the battery got mixed up. Someone noticed and said "Are those wires supposed to be smoking?" causing considerable panic. Fortunately, we were supported by other teams for spare parts enabling us to take part in the second race of the day. It was also amazing to see the engineering of the cars behind the scenes giving food for thought and inspiration for next season's races.

We learned how to take on leadership roles and communicate collectively in stressful situations. It was also cool to have a day off school to take part in such an exciting opportunity. Our teams consisted of the above drivers, Emily L. who was our medic, Jess J., Charlie L. and Tom S. who were the marketing and the mechanics Freddie C., Freddie H. and Oliver S."

As Bloxham School's Green Power Racing Team reflect on their debut, they express gratitude for the support received from parents, staff, and the Green Power Charitable Trust. With determination, dedication, and a commitment to excellence, the team eagerly anticipates the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead on their path to success in the exhilarating realm of electric car racing.

Food and Hospitality

The Fifth Form practical exams took place in March with six separate sessions over six days meaning I had to eat 90 different meals! The standard of cooking was excellent and the children were a credit to the department and the School.

In Lower Sixth, all 13 of the group studying the unit of contemporary world cuisine produced menus that would not have been out of place in high end restaurants. Students were asked to invite customers and the staff were fighting to get a place at the dining table! Lobster, cured salmon, loins of lamb, lamb rump, fillet of beef, handmade tortellini are just some of the delicious ingredients they served up.

The Lower Sixth also had trips out to understand and witness first-hand what first-class service looks like ahead of working on their own events in school. Internal events that the students created from initial enquiry to washing the last glass at midnight included the annual jazz night music department showcase. They prepared the hall to resemble a

jazz hall and served food and drinks to over 100 guests. They also worked on delivering a formal military style dinner for the CCF and their VIP guest Old Bloxhamist General Sir Adrian Bradshaw (Wn 71-76) and have finished the year by putting on canapés and drinks for a charity fundraiser at the School. They really have stepped up and would not look out of place in industry.

The Upper Sixth highlights have been their creativity and energy in creating their business enterprises, with a huge incentive of making money and turning over a profit. Lunchtime saw them selling pizzas from industrial pizza ovens, having made and stretched the doughs and producing pizzas that would rival anything made in Naples! Hundreds were sold to students, even after having lunch in the dining room! Then there was the 'Chicken McBallers', a business based on the concept of one type of protein, two choices of rice and three choices of sauce. Sold out on two occasions, the students who created this business even went as far



as producing their own merchandise. T-shirts, and aprons were worn, stickers and compostable containers were used and they even tidied up after themselves, which is something not all Bloxham students are the best at on most occasions! [PGH](#)

Textiles

Jaz M-G. was this year's Senior Textiles Prize Winner. For her personal investigation she designed and made a dress inspired by the theme of 'At the Beach', looking especially at the colours of coral. By way of a contrast, her exam piece was created after looking at the patterns of Amelia Graham and Japanese avant-garde artist Atsuko Tanaka.



There was a great variety of pieces produced by the Upper Sixth, from Ellie D.'s piece based on 'Closely Observed'. While it was the same theme, Annette K. interpreted it in a very different way, looking at the cell structure of organisms. Emily A. looked at the patterns of the water as inspiration for her hoodie, skirt and leggings made from PVC. Luli A. examined the many textures that can be found at the shoreline and used a variety of different materials.

For her exam piece Daisy P. chose the theme of 'Distortion'. She was aiming to create a distorted effect as if the dress had caught fire. She used both fabric and newspaper to create it. Lily T.'s interpretation of 'Decay' for her exam included skeletons combined with flower petals.

During the year both the Upper Sixth and Lower Sixth took part in a workshop with the textile artist Nikki Parmenter. She is a Cheshire based artist who specialises in mixed media, textile-based pieces. Nikki takes her inspiration from a variety of sources and is particularly interested in the way in which ancient societies created a series of visual symbols to represent the things which were important to them. [AH](#)




 A group of students in winter gear, including jackets and hats, are gathered around a map in a dark setting, possibly at night. They are looking intently at the map, which is held by one of the students. The scene is illuminated by a light source, possibly a headlamp or a flashlight, creating a focused and serious atmosphere.

Outdoor Education

Outdoor Education has continued to grow this year at Bloxham: the Expedition society ran a self-supported trek across the interior of Iceland; we have grown the Duke of Edinburgh's Award massively, the climbing club has achieved greater and more impressive heights; and the outdoor programme for the Third Form has become more successful as the years go by.

The Iceland trek was a fantastic opportunity for students to be in charge of their own destiny, organising transport and logistics for one of the top ten treks in the world across the volcanic regions of Iceland. Ten students and two staff carried all their own kit and food, while trekking up to 20 kilometres each day and across some very varied and difficult terrain. The Laugavega and Fimvordehalls treks are considered some of the most spectacular in the world and students took seven days

to complete the challenge, finishing at 1.00am on the last day in the gloaming of the Icelandic summer.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award has been successful, with overnights throughout the year in small groups, building up to their whole group trip to the Long Mynd for the assessment. The outdoor programme has taught a range of outdoor skills to prepare them for the challenge.

Last year we had 15 silver participants, and this year it has grown to 38! Students braved the rain and foul weather in Yorkshire in order to prepare themselves for the assessed expedition on Dartmoor which included wild camps which were about five miles from the nearest road. Luckily the weather was a bit better, even though it did rain at times.

The Gold participants had the worst of the weather, with torrential rain

in Snowdonia for the training, and persistent damp in the Lake District for the assessment. Despite the weather, all participants kept on smiling and did a fantastic job in completing the challenge.

The climbing club has trained some fantastic climbers who are now taking their skills to new heights. We have a number of students who lead climbing activities indoors and many are taking these skills outdoors when they can. A summer trip to Norway provided a breathtaking backdrop to challenge their climbing skills, for example reaching the summit of Romsdalshorn. The School has also run a Climbing Wall Leaders course, so we have a number of senior student climbers who now hold a nationally recognised climbing leaders award. They have been able to use this in helping teach younger students and they can use this as a job opportunity when they leave Bloxham. AS

Duke of Edinburgh



Gold Expedition



Silver Expedition



Bronze Expedition

CCF

Cadet Sergeant Ed H. speaks on what the CCF (Combined Cadet Force) means to him and why it's so popular at Bloxham.

What is your favourite activity that you have done whilst taking part and why?

That's a tricky question because we do such a wide range of activities! We often do overnight stays on Hobb Hill, with night exercises like night stalking, and we can do up to a week in the



summer camp doing longer exercises like battle drills and sentry duties. My favourite of all the camps I've done involved Six Section Battle Drills (military action procedures). I was on course for my first promotion and I was away on a camp at an army base. I did Six Section Battle Drills with three former NCOs (non-commissioned officers) who have now left. It was a really good opportunity to progress my leadership and teamwork skills, and that's why I loved that camp.

What does it mean to hold the rank of Cadet Sergeant? What extra responsibilities does it bring?

Being Cadet Sergeant is the most senior NCO, so I have three main duties: on Thursdays, we have parade where all of the cadets line up in ranks and perform drills. My job is to lead that and make sure all the cadets are properly turned out and that their uniform is all straight and up to standard. The second thing I do is training, so I train the cadets to improve their skills, for example I trained the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Form on how to set up a triangular harbour (fortified encampment for resting soldiers). I also organise formal events like the school remembrance service together with

Mr Smithson, and I led the CCF at the village remembrance service. I was really proud to be promoted in my final year. CCF is something I really love and it's a great honour to do this.

Why do you think that the CCF is so popular at Bloxham?

I think that it provides something different from what you get in other activities and in the classroom. It teaches you lots of key skills like leadership and discipline. Many people, myself included, learn a lot better outdoors doing practical things, and I think that's what people love about CCF. One of my former sergeant majors said that CCF uses military exercises as a platform to teach students life skills they can take into the workplace, which is so useful. Discipline, leadership and teamwork are essential for all walks of life.

What does the CCF mean to you?

CCF means a lot to me. It was set up in 1911 to train students to become British Army Officers, and what I want to do in life is to become an officer in the British army. Even if going to Sandhurst doesn't work out though, CCF will have given me so many useful life skills to apply in other spheres.



SPORTS



Bloxham House Sport 2023-24

Boys

	Winner
Senior House Rugby	Seymour A
	Egerton A
Junior House Rugby	Seymour A
	Crake B
Senior House Badminton	Wilson
Junior House Badminton	Wilson
Senior House Hockey	Seymour
Junior House Hockey	Wilson
Senior Cross Country	Seymour
Junior Cross Country	Seymour
Senior House Cricket	Egerton
Junior House Cricket	Egerton
House Sailing	Seymour
Sports Day	Seymour



Girls

	Winner
Senior House Hockey	Raymond A
	Merton B
Junior House Hockey	Stonehill A and B
Senior House Badminton	Raymond A and B
Junior House Badminton	Merton A and B
Senior House Netball	Stonehill A
	Wilberforce B
Junior House Netball	Wilberforce A and B
Senior Cross Country	Stonehill
Junior Cross Country	Wilberforce
Senior House Cricket	Raymond
Junior House Cricket	Stonehill
Sports Day	Stonehill



Rugby

The 1st XV on paper have had one of the most difficult seasons for a Bloxham side in a number of years, with what is arguably the most difficult fixture list in Bloxham rugby history, with the majority of games also being away. The season began with a pre-season event at King's Macclesfield, which underlined both the potential and the amount of work we had to do before the season started, with an inexperienced side including a record number of U16 stepping up. This was swiftly followed by a trip to Marlborough which was a closer game than the scoreline suggested. A narrow win was then secured away at King's Worcester with a very gritty performance, which led to an impressive performance against a strong Mount St Mary's side which finished in a 21-21 draw with Bloxham conceding on the final play. Unfortunately, this was a trend that continued in a narrow defeat to MCS, which was the most frustrating performance of the season by some distance. Fixtures against Radley, Haileybury and Sir Thomas Rich all produced impressive performances; the win over Sir Thomas Rich was the best of the season. The second half of term was weather impacted. However, close losses to Old Swinford Hospital and Christ College, and a 21-0 loss to an outstanding Bromsgrove side really underlined the progress of the team. I have deliberately not mentioned

individuals, however, it is important to highlight John B. as Captain, who led from the front with 17 tries and is in many respects one of the most outstanding captains I have seen. I must also mention Mr Trenhaile who has joined us this year, adding real quality to our coaching staff.

The 2nd XV, for the first time under Mr Webber's tutelage, has had a very strong season, losing only to the powerful Sir Thomas Rich and Bromsgrove sides. The win away at Old Swinford Hospital will be remembered as the team's most impressive victory. There has been a

good deal of movement between the 2nd and 1st XV, with a number of boys gradually transitioning as the season progressed. This is always the sign of a healthy 2nd XV and it bodes well for next season. Meanwhile the 3rd XV, under Mr Hudson, had a small but very determined set of players. Cancellations in the late season impacted the team but the boys always gave 100% and the win over Wellingborough stands out as their most impressive performance.

As a year group, the Colts have been one of the strongest as they have moved through the School, with a

<p>1st XV Finn A. John B. Matthew D. Alfred D. Junior D. George D. Alexander D. Marcus D. George F. Sonny G. Ben K. Hardy L. Ed L. Theo M. Josh McG. Charlie McR. Jonathan M. Theo P-B. Felix R. Toby R. Lewis R. Jack S. Corban S. Riven S.</p>	<p>Harry S. Callum T. Will W.</p> <p>2nd XV Ollie A. Harry B. George B. Oscar C-G. Alfred D. Arthur D. Will D. David E. Thomas F. George F. Thomas G. Oscar C-G. Jamie K. Seb K. Ben K. Theo M. Ben M. Theo P-B. Felix R. Lewis R.</p>	<p>Woody R. Jack S. Dan S. Corban S. Charles S. Kit T. Callum T. Will W.</p> <p>3rd XV Daniel A. Ollie A. Harry B. Ronn B-A. George B. Jakub C. Oscar C-G. Felix C. Arthur D. Alexey D. Stepan D. Will D. Joseph E. Thomas F. Finn G.</p>	<p>Thomas G. Alfie G. Jake H. Oscar H. Jamie K. Tom K. Seb K. Ben M. Samuel O. William O. James P. Nick P. Tom R. Felix R. Ben R. George R. Lewis R. Jack S. Dan S. Ben S. Mateo S. Charles S. Kit T. Luis W.</p>
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Colts A

Harry A.
George A.
James B.
Jack B.
Ruben C.
Harry D.
Albie D.
Alfie D.
Noah G-S.
Oscar G.
Sonny G.
Ben K.
Joseph L.
Hardy L.
Sam Macl.
Henry M.
Luke M.
Edward M.
Harry P.
Will R.
Harry S.
Jamie S.
William T.
Hayden W.
Will W.
Luke W.

Colts B

George A.
Ronn B-A.
Jack B.
Ruben C.
Albie D.

Alfie D.
Rory F.
Noah G-S.
Alexander G L.
Harley G.
Oscar G.
Alfie G.
James G.
Tom K.
Lucas L.
George L.
William L.
Sam Macl.
Luke M.
Edward M.
Zac O'D.
Rory O.
Tobias P.
Will R.
Edward S.
Mason S.
Jamie S.
Freddie T.
Micah T.
William T.
Hayden W.
Luke W.

Junior Colts A

Harry A.
Denis A.
Harry A.
William B.
Alex B.

Jack C-C.
Cameron C.
Callum C-F.
Dominic C.
James D.
Harrison D.
Oliver D.
Sammy D.
Fred G.
Bailey H-B.
Tommy H.
Kaspar H.
Charlie H.
Noah L.
Miles M.
William M-G.
Oliver M-J.
Will M.
Stanley P.
Harry P.
Henry P.
Kit P-J.
Freddie S.
Henry S.
RJ T.
Charlie W.
Sam Y.

Junior Colts B

Denis A.
Harry A.
Alex B.
Gabriel B-R.
Lino C D.

Jack C-C.
Felix C.
Clark C.
Callum C-F.
Dominic C.
James D.
George D.
Harrison D.
Sammy D.
Fred G.
Bailey H-B.
Kaspar H.
Harry H.
Charlie H.
Freddie H.
Sam K.
Miles M.
William M-G.
Oliver M-J.
Will M.
Zeph N.
Stanley P.
Gregory P.
Henry P.
Kit P-J.
Juan S F.
Freddie S.
Harry S.
Henry S.
RJ T.
Inigo T B.
Charlie W.
Charlie W.

number of very talented players. At the start of the season, it became clear that this necessitated the movement of some players into senior rugby. The positive of this is that a number of boys within the Colts year group gained far more fixture exposure and on the whole, the A team maintained some very positive results, although it was disappointing to see injury and illness impact the result against Warwick. A draw with Bromsgrove and a win over Sir Thomas Rich's are impressive for any schoolboy side and I am confident that this team will make a very strong 1st XV in the coming seasons. I am grateful to Mr Richardson and Mr Goode for providing strong coaching to this team. They were ably supported by Mr Ramm with the Colts B team, who were severely impacted by fixture cancellations from opposing schools. However, the group has great promise, as highlighted by a fantastic win over Bristol Grammar School.

The Junior Colts had a number of unexpected personnel changes over the

summer, leaving both A and B teams with the challenge of re-grouping at the start of the season. The A team were well led by Mr Lear, with Mr Trenhaile supporting the coaching of the team. I was fortunate to see them train regularly and the improvement through the season was both significant and obvious. Competitive performances against Warwick and Bromsgrove underline the progress that the team has made. Mr Selby-Lowndes also did a terrific job with the Junior Colts B who secured wins over Solihull and a very competitive performance against Bromsgrove. It was clear to me that, without injuries, the team is capable of competing with strong opponents. Mr Bowden's Junior Colts C were hit with cancellations; however, they competed well against Harrow and Sir Thomas Rich, staying close as a team through the season.

The Yearling's A to C teams competed well through the season, making clear progress under the tutelage of Mr Lovering, Mr Goode, Mr Setterfield

and Father Ladds. The Yearling's A secured impressive wins over King's Worcester, Mount St Mary's and Akeley Wood, with the Bs also winning over Cokethorpe. The Yearlings C discovered the benefit of touch games, with the draw at Magdalen being the most pleasing performance.

Rugby Results

	1st XV
	Won 3 Drew 1 Lost 7
Marlborough College	12-39
The King's School, Worcester	17-15
Mount St Mary's	21-21
Radley	19-35
Magdalen College	28-31
Sir Thomas Rich's	20-17
Haileybury	31-33
Wellingborough	50-8
Old Swinford Hospital	31-49
Bromsgrove School	0-21
Christ College	15-18

2nd XV	3rd XV	Colts A	Colts B	Junior Colts A	Junior Colts B	Junior Colts C	Yearlings A	Yearlings B	Yearlings C	Boys U13A	Boys U13B	Boys U12A	Boys U12B
Played 7 Won 5 Lost 2	Played 5 Won 1 Lost 4	Played 7 Won 3 Drew 1 Lost 3	Played 5 Won 1 Lost 4	Played 9 Won 3 Drew 1 Lost 5	Played 9 Won 2 Lost 7	Played 2 Won 0 Lost 2	Played 9 Won 3 Lost 6	Played 9 Won 1 Lost 8	Played 4 Drew 1 Lost 3	Played 11 Won 1 Lost 10	Played 8 Drew 1 Lost 7	Played 10 Won 6 Lost 4	Played 8 Drew 1 Lost 7

Exham rugby experienced significant development this season with a massive increase in the number of fixtures. The U13A and B both suffered a number of defeats; however, I was really glad to see the progress through the season with Mr Sissons, Mr Setterfield and Mr Goode all impressed with the team's work throughout the season. I was personally delighted by the U12A and B teams who made substantial progress through the season. The First Form have secured the most impressive results

of any First Form side in my time at Bloxham, with wins over Beachborough, Bilton Grange, Spratton Hall and The Oratory highlighting the progress of Exham sport.

It would be wrong to finish this report without making reference to the state of the game nationally, which is unfortunately not positive. However, the numbers playing at Bloxham are higher than they have ever been, as demonstrated by putting almost

two hundred boys on coaches to Marlborough at the start of the season. As a School, we take player welfare seriously and I am grateful to the team at Palmer Health Centre and Dr Haynes for managing this so sensibly. We have also embraced adapted laws to widen the appeal of the game. The success of Bloxham rugby is down to the culture of the sport in the School which relies entirely on students, parents and staff. I am grateful for all your support, thank you. **JDW**

Junior Colts C

Harry A.
William B.
Lino C D.
Felix C.
Harry H.
Charlie H.
Sam K.
Hugo L.
Isaak L.
Oliver M-J.
Arthur M.
Aryan N.
Gregory P.
Juan S F.
Freddie S.
Harry S.
Henry S.
Phillip T.
Charlie W.
Shawn Z.

Yearlings A

Hunter A-B.
Samuel B.
Toby B.
Samuel B.
Zac B.
Aiden C.
Freddie C.
Luca C.
Toby D.
Ed D.
Isaac F.
Flynn F.
Ethan G.
Noah H.
Woody H.
Ronnie H.
Tom L.
Fred M.
Charley M.
Dan McA.
William N.
Edward O'H.
Aulay O.
Seth R.
Joe R.
James R.
Joe S.
Harvey S.
Finn T.
Oliver T.
Ollie W.
Freddie W.
Joe W.

Yearlings B

Siegfried B.
Rory B.
Zac B.

Aiden C.
Freddie C.
Luca C.
Ed D.
Flynn F.
Noah H.
Woody H.
Joseph H.
Sammy H.
Ronnie H.
Charlie K.
Will K.
Bertie K.
Fred M.
Charley M.
Dan McA.
Mateo N C.
William N.
Edward O'H.
Seth R.
Joe R.
George R.
Joe S.
Harvey S.
Ollie S.
Finn T.
Oliver T.
Finnian V.
Ollie W.
Freddie W.

Yearlings C

Siegfried B.
Toby B.
Rory B.
Zac B.
Josh B.
Aiden C.
Ed D.
Jake E.
Woody H.
Joseph H.
Sammy H.
Will K.
Bertie K.
Rafael L G.
Cyrus N-J.
Benny N.
Mateo N C.
Edward O'H.
Joseph P.
Otto R.
George R.
Joe S.
Ollie S.
Finn T.
Finnian V.
Joseph W.
Ollie W.
Freddie W.

U13A

Fred A.
Sebastian B.
Henry B.
Freddie B.
Freddie B J.
Harry B J.
Archie B.
Marcus B.
Aiden C.
William C.
Rufus C.
Michael D S.
Ernie E.
Joshua E.
Isaac E.
Joseph F.
Henry G.
Torin H.
Max H.
Sebastian H.
Barney H.
Miller J.
Benny K.
Thomas L.
Caelan L.
Ralph L.
Alexander L.
Oliver L.
Dylan M.
Bertie M.
Cillian M.
Kartar M.
Bertie M.
Charlie N.
Dylan R.
Oliver S.
Thomas T.
Toby T.
Dylan W.
Josh W.
Henry W-E.
William W.
Hector W-N.
Jack W.

U13B

Fred A.
Henry B.
Freddie B.
Freddie B J.
Harry B J.
Archie B.
Aiden C.
Evan C.
Rufus C.
Rohan D.
Michael D S.
Jude E.
Isaac E.

Torin H.
Miller J.
Cy L.
Charlie L.
Alexander L.
Rhys M.
Dylan M.
Kartar M.
Dylan R.
Oliver S.
Tom S.
Thomas T.
Dylan W.
Henry W-E.
William W.
Hector W-N.

U12A

Otto B.
Harry B.
Percy B.
Joshua E.
Archie G.
Harry H.
Sebastian H.
Hudson H.
Freddie H.
Benny K.
Freddie L.
Harry L.
Bertie M.
Cillian M.
Finn M-J.
Charlie N.
Ben N.
David P-J.
Tom S.
Freddie S.
Josh W.
Jack W.

U12B

Henry B.
Aiden C.
Rufus C.
Joshua E.
Jude E.
Sebastian H.
Freddie H.
Barney H.
Benny K.
Cy L.
Charlie L.
Cillian M.
Kartar M.
Charlie N.
Oliver S.
Josh W.
Hector W-N.
Jack W.



Sevens

2024 brought the largest Sevens programme in recent Bloxham history, with the U18 in two tournaments and the U16 in four. The growth was also matched by success; in particular, the U16 reached the highest level in the U16 Rosslyn Park tournament and also won two tournaments.

The U18 team began their season with a triangular against Bromsgrove and Cheltenham, which showed promise in the squad. They then took part in the Oakham tournament, which was in itself an impressive piece of commitment as the tournament took place over the Exeat weekend. The boys secured a positive win over Leicester Grammar School, having started with a difficult game against a strong Bedford side. Unfortunately,

as the tournament progressed the boys tired and having been in a good position against Eton at half time, the team fell off tackles to allow Eton to finish as clear winners. This left the boys in the Bowl, where they lost to Christ Hospital in an eventful game.

The U18 team then moved to Rosslyn Park where the team were vastly improved. They started with an impressive win over Callywith College, which was followed up with a 19-19 draw with Coventry College, where Bloxham lead until the final play of the game. The final game was against Hayes School; the Bloxham team took the lead just after half-time but fell off a few tackles to allow Hayes to win. This put Bloxham out of the competition and brought to a close the school rugby careers of some fantastic players.

Meanwhile, the U16 team started the Sevens season before half-term winning every game at Pangbourne. This included wins over MCS, Pangbourne, Teddies and a resounding win over Stowe. The boys then moved into the Reeds tournament, where they won games against Reeds and Worth School, before winning a close encounter with a strong Oratory side to run out as event winners. Oakham Sevens was next up, a first visit for a Bloxham U16 side to one of the highest quality Sevens tournaments outside of Rosslyn Park. The boys cruised through their group with wins over Leicester GS, Norwich, Finborough and Felstead. This led to a semi-final against Bedford, with Bloxham winning 40-10. The final provided a huge test against the home side of Oakham. Bloxham fell just short losing 31-17 in an exceptionally close game which was only made certain as Oakham scored in the final plays.

The U16 team then moved to Rosslyn Park with an incredibly tough group. The boys moved through the group beating Millfield, Collegiate and Bishop Wordsworth. They then beat King's Worcester to go through into day two, a significant achievement in itself. The day two group contained Cheltenham, King's Macclesfield and Clifton. The boys won the first two games but as injuries began to take their toll, they lost out to a strong Clifton side. This left the boys in the plate semi-final group, where a win over QEGS Wakefield was achieved with a much-changed side. This led to a final game with Oakham, which was a loss of 33-12. This left the Bloxham side in the top eight to ten U16 Sevens teams in the country. National success is always something to celebrate – congratulations to all those involved.

It is pleasing to see the development of the rugby Sevens programme this year, which is a testament to the efforts of the boys and parents who gave a number of Sundays to make this possible. **JDW**

Rugby Sevens Results

		1st VII
		Won 2 Drew 2 Lost 5
Bedford		7-43
Leicester Grammar		40-12
Eton		14-41
Norwich		10-52
Royal Hospital		12-26
Oakham		0-0
Callywith College		40-17
Coventry College		19-19
Hayes		21-40

U16A			
Played 19	Won 16	Drew 0	Lost 3

1st VII

David A.
Ollie A.
Finn A.
John B.
Alfred D.
Arthur D.
Junior D.
George D.
Alexander D.
Marcus D.
George F.
Jamie K.
Hardy L.
Ed L.
Theo M.
John McG.
Charlie McR.
Jonathan M.
Felix R.
Jack S.

Corban S.
Riven S.

U16A

Harry A.
James B.
Harry D.
Albie D.
Junior D.
Sonny G.
Kaspar H.
Ben K.
Hardy L.
Noah L.
Sam MacL.
Luke M.
Edward M.
Harry P.
Harry P.
Harry S.
Jamie S.
Will W.

Girls' Hockey



2024/25 saw a step forward for girls' hockey at Bloxham with improvements at many levels. The girls' 1st XI had a positive season, improving their results as well as the culture within the group towards training both on pitch and in the gym. The girls had many highlights throughout the season, and it didn't take long for their first when in pre-season they came third in tier 2 of the biggest pre-season tournament in the country.

This has seen us promoted to the cup for the coming year. Following that, they qualified indoor regional finals after winning the county round. Our outdoor cup run came to end against Uppingham in a close defeat in a very competitive game. The team was competitive in every game they played and although there were some close games that didn't go their way, they should feel proud of an impressive season.



The 2nd XI had a mixed season in which they struggled to put together a full game of their best performance. They showed throughout the fixtures that they could play some great hockey together as a team; however, frequently their best performances tended to be in the second half. They did have some notable victories over Princethorpe and Cokethorpe, winning both 3-0.

The 3rd XI had a tough year, but I was consistently impressed by their attitude and effort towards their matches and in their games lessons. They secured a 2-0 win over Wellingborough which was a fair reward for their efforts. Likewise, the 4th XI competed well with impressive wins over Rugby School and Malvern College.

1st XI

Emma B.
Alice B.
Evie B.
Milly B.
Nina B.
Lucy B.
Eva D.
Charlotte F-S.
Raphaella H.
Sienna H.
Maya H.
Alice L.
Jenna L.
Ciara L.
Holly M.
Daisy P.
Esme R.
Heidi R.
Molly S.
Georgia S.
Martha S.
Phoebe S.
Amelie T.
Olivia T.
Betsy W.

Miriam B.
Alice B.
Zoe B.
Evie B.
Lucy B.
Arabella C.
Eva D.
Poppy D.
Amber D.
Makayla E-O.
Raphaella H.
Sienna H.
Maya H.
Cassia J.
Isla McC.
Daisy P.
Heidi R.
Molly S.
Martha S.
Lara S.
Amelie T.
Olivia T.
Poppy T.
Florence T.
Betsy W.
Layla W.

Iso C-C.
Ella C.
Raffaella C.
Arabella C.
Eva D.
Poppy D.
Holly D.
Makayla E-O.
Florence G.
Zara H.
Tabby H.
Sienna H.
Melissa L.
Millie M.
Flora Macl.
Isla McC.
Teagan P.
Poppy T.
Florence T.
Lily T.

U18D

Hermione A.
Sophia A.
Lily B.
Ella C.
Ellie C.
Azura H.
Liberty H.
Iona K.
Lienki L.

Melissa L.
Millie M.
Flora Macl.
Jaz M-G.
Ari P.
Teagan P.
Tally R.
Charlotte S.
Montoya S W.
Immy W.
Emma W.

U15A

Jemima B.
Josie B.
Hattie B.
Nina B.
Emily D.
Mable E.
Lottie G.
Bridget H.
Kitty K.
Beatrice L.
Bella L.
Emma L.
Milly L.
Holly M.
Kitty M.
Anna McR.
Claudia M.
Olivia N.

Jessica P.
Scarlett S.
Phoebe S.
Hannah S.

U15B

Tia B.
Josie B.
Hattie B.
Darcey B.
Poppy B.
Amelie C.
Millie C.
Lucy D.
Eden G.
Andie J.
Hana K.
Kitty M.
Emma McC.
Anna McR.
Claudia M.
Olivia N.
Olivia P.
Elodie P.
Emily R.
Evy S.
Hannah S.
Marcie S.

U15C

Tia B.
Chloe C.

Eliska C.
Lexi G.
Maxi H.
Sophie J.
Hana K.
Sally M.
Olivia P.
Liv S.
Emily S.
Mackenzie V.
Nini W.

U14A

Grace B.
Bella H.
Abigail J.
Beatrice L.
Katie L.
Clemmie L C.
Jemima L.
Emma L.
Milly L.
Aisling M.
Taryn M.
Mattie N.
Jessica P.
Rose P.
Lily R.
Poppy R.
Scarlett S.

Fourth Form have been a group keen to keep on improving their hockey skills. The A team were particularly impressive; they were very competitive in every game they played and didn't lose a game after September. They were the best training year group in the School which paid off as the year went on. It will be exciting to add this group to our already strong 1st and 2nd teams next year. The B and C team had a tougher time in terms of results, but it was pleasing to see so many of them playing regularly.

Girls' Hockey Results

	1st XI
	Played 14 Won 6 Drew 3 Lost 5
Malvern College	2-1
Marlborough College	1-2
The King's School, Gloucester	2-3
Oxford High	3-0
Bablake and King Henry VIII	3-0
St Edward's	1-2
Cokethorpe	0-0
Wellingborough	0-0
Magdalen College	2-0
Tudor Hall School	1-0
Uppingham	0-2
Pangbourne	0-4
Bablake	4-0

The Third Form are a talented year group who had some up and down days, with a mix of big wins and tough losses. They will benefit from these experiences going forward. They have worked hard throughout the year and will be a team to watch out for next year. The Third Form also toured to Holland with the Fourth Form; this was an incredible experience for both year groups where they were led by coaches from one of the biggest clubs in Holland, competed against several clubs, and enjoyed a visit to a waterpark and a pancake cruise!

Hockey in Exham continues to improve. The students are keen to work hard and represent the School for the first time which makes coaching them a joy. With very impressive young players and a desire to keep improving, the future of hockey at Bloxham looks to be in a strong position.

There have also been notable individual achievements with four girls playing at a regional level from a range of year groups: Martha and Charlotte from Lower Sixth, Esme from Fifth Form and Pheobe from Fourth Form. A special mention also to Esme who is part of the Sweden women's hockey 5's squad. [CR](#)



2nd XI	3rd XI	4th XI	U15A	U15B	U14A	U14B	U13A	U13B	U13C	U13D	U12A	U12B	U12C
Played 12 Won 4 Drew 1 Lost 7	Played 5 Won 1 Lost 4	Played 5 Won 2 Drew 1 Lost 2	Played 7 Won 3 Drew 2 Lost 2	Played 8 Won 2 Drew 2 Lost 4	Played 10 Won 4 Drew 2 Lost 4	Played 8 Won 1 Drew 3 Lost 4	Played 11 Won 5 Drew 2 Lost 4	Played 9 Won 6 Drew 1 Lost 2	Played 3 Won 2 Drew 0 Lost 1	Played 1 Won 0 Drew 1 Lost 0	Played 6 Won 4 Drew 0 Lost 2	Played 6 Won 1 Drew 0 Lost 5	Played 2 Won 0 Drew 1 Lost 1

U14B

Olivia A.
Eva B.
Elisa E.M.
Lily G.
Emily G.
Bella H.
Anna H.
Clemmie M.
Fatima N.C.
Rosie N.
Lola O.
Poppy R.
Poppy R.
Isabel S.
Sofia V.
Alicia W.

U13A

Darcey B.
Fran B.
Willia B.
Lois C.
Grace D.
Florence D.

Emilia G.
Bella H.
Mollie H-B.
Mirabella H.
Matilda H.
Daisy I.
Beatrice K.
Abigail M.
Felicity M.
Ren P.
Lottie R.
Molly T.

U13B

Isabella B.
Darcey B.
Rosie B.
Fran B.
Grace D.
Paloma D.
Florence D.
Emilia G.
Bella H.
Mirabella H.
Matilda H.

Sophia J.
Miran J.
Beatrice K.
Charlotte L.
Felicity M.
Freya M.
Bertie M.
Seren N.
Ren P.
Lottie W-R.

U13C

Addison C.
Poppy H.
Daisy I.
Jess J.
Abigail M.
Scarlett N.
Lily P.
Uriah S.
Connie S.
Molly T.

U13D

Maya B.
Clara F.

Mia F.
Pearl G.
Genevieve H.
Edie H.
Amelia M.
Martha N.
Dara O.
Florence P.
Ellie R.
Neve S.
Arrabella S.

U12A

Maya B.
Addison C.
Clara F.
Mia F.
Pearl G.
Genevieve H.
Poppy H.
Edie H.
Daisy I.
Jess J.
Bertie M.
Abigail M.

Amelia M.
Martha N.
Scarlett N.
Dara O.
Florence P.
Lily P.
Ellie R.
Uriah S.
Connie S.
Neve S.
Arrabella S.
Molly T.

U12B

Maya B.
Addison C.
Clara F.
Pearl G.
Genevieve H.
Poppy H.
Edie H.
Daisy I.
Jess J.
Emily L.
Abigail M.

Amelia M.
Martha N.
Scarlett N.
Dara O.
Florence P.
Lily P.
Ellie R.
Uriah S.
Connie S.
Arrabella S.
Molly T.

U12C

Maya B.
Clara F.
Mia F.
Genevieve H.
Edie H.
Emily L.
Amelia M.
Martha N.
Florence P.
Neve S.
Arrabella S.

Boys' Hockey



The boys' 2024 hockey season was largely positive with a number of impressive performances and results across the School.

The 1st XI had a slow start to the season, where it took time for them to gel as a team and some early season games slipped away from them while they were not at their best. The second half of the season they started to click, with impressive wins against King's Gloucester and Bromsgrove as well as a thrilling 3-2 loss to Marlborough (which could've gone either way).

The 2nd XI produced another impressive season and were an exciting team to watch in attack. Highlights include wins against St Edward's, Marlborough and Bromsgrove. The 3rd team also had a good year demonstrating the strength in depth of boy's hockey at the senior end of the school. Wins against Abingdon and Bromsgrove capped a great season but what impressed me most about

the 3rd team was their team spirit and how they celebrated a last-minute win against Bromsgrove.

The 4th XI completed a really strong year for Bloxham's senior sides. This is a credit to the boys currently in Fifth Form upwards but also to the work that has been done in previous years to get them to this point. Highlights included wins against Dean Close and Bromsgrove. Well done to all senior boys for a strong year.

Fourth Form continue the strong trend from the senior boys with the A team only losing one game all season. They have some great players who will no doubt compete for places in the 1st team next year. The B and C team had a more difficult year in terms of results but showed significant improvement over the year.

The boys in Third Form are a strong year group contrary to what their results

currently show. A great mix of talent and team spirit will make them exciting to watch next season. Similarly to the girls, the Third and Fourth Form boys also toured Holland, an experience that will hopefully remain with them beyond their time at Bloxham.

The Exham boys are an exciting bunch, with a Second Form year group who have made great improvements from last year showing 11-a-side comes very naturally to them and a First Form group who have taken to hockey incredibly quickly. The highlight for Exham belongs to the First Form boys as they qualified for regional finals, something they are aiming to do again as an U13 team.

A notable individual achievement in boy's hockey is Joe W. in Third Form who is currently the youngest playing in his regional hockey squad. Excitingly, there are many more chasing similar goals who are not far behind. CR



Boys' Hockey Results

1st XI

Played 9
Won 3
Drew 0
Lost 6

RGS, High Wycombe	0-0
Kimbolton	1-0
Solihull	0-5
St Edward's	0-1
Abingdon	1-7
The King's, Gloucester	3-1
Marlborough College	2-3
Abingdon	0-3
Bromsgrove	4-3

2nd XI	3rd XI	4th XI	U16A
Played 7	Played 6	Played 7	Played 1
Won 4	Won 3	Won 2	Won 0
Drew 1	Drew 1	Drew 1	Drew 1
Lost 2	Lost 2	Lost 4	Lost 0

U18A

Daniel A.
Finn A.
Ruben C.
Oscar C-G.
Dominic C.
Sam C.
George D.
Alexander D.
Thomas F.
Sonny G.
Oscar H.
Jamie K.
Hardy L.
Ed L.
Rory M.
James P.
Felix R.
Murray S.
Charles S.
Harry S.
Kit T.
William T.
Ernie W.
Joel W.

U18B

Harry A.
Jack B.
Ruben C.
Oscar C-G.
Lucas D.
Alexander D.
Sonny G.
Oscar H.
Jamie K.
Hardy L.
Max O'D.
Zac O'D.
Dillon Q.
Tom R.

Corban S.
Charles S.
Harry S.
Jamie S.
Callum T.
William T.
Will W.
Ernie W.
Joel W.

U18C

James B.
Jack B.
Ruben C.
Alex D.
Lucas D.
Harry D.
Albie D.
George F.
Alexander G L.
Harley G.
Oscar G.
Joseph L.
George L.
Blake L.
Sam Macl.
Henry M.
Josh McG.
Harry P.
Theo P-B.
Will R.
Olly S.
Jamie S.
Maxwell T.
Callum T.

U18D

Ollie A.
Harrison A-B.
Reuben B.
George B.

Max C.
Alfred D.
Stepan D.
Rory F.
Alexander G L.
James G.
Ed H.
Aidan K.
Tom K.
Seb K.
William L.
Sam Macl.
Theo M.
Josh McG.
Samuel O.
Nico R.
Jack S.
Jay S.
Micah T.
Hayden W.
Oliver W.

U18E

Ollie A.
Harrison A-B.
Max C.
Harry D.
Stepan D.
Noah G-S.
Aidan K.
Lucas L.
William L.
William N.
Charlie O'C.
William W.

U16A

Samuel B.
Zac B.
Ruben C.
Dominic C.

Lucas D.
James D.
Harrison D.
Isaac F.
Noah H.
Kaspar H.
Miles M.
Rory M.
Edward M.
Will M.
Zac O'D.
Edward O'H.
RJ T.
Finnian V.
Ollie W.
Joe W.

U15A

Samuel B.
Cameron C.
Callum C-F.
Dominic C.
James D.
Harrison D.
Isaac F.
Fred G.
Noah H.
Tommy H.
Kaspar H.
Noah L.
Miles M.
Will M.
Zeph N.
Edward O'H.
Stanley P.
Henry P.
Kit P-J.
Seth R.
George R.
RJ T.
Finnian V.

Ollie W.
Joe W.

U15B

Harry A.
Harry A.
William B.
Gabriel B-R.
Jack C-C.
Callum C-F.
Oliver D.
Sammy D.
Bailey H-B.
Harry H.
William M-G.
Daniel M.
Oliver M-J.
Arthur M.
Zeph N.
Harry P.
Gregory P.
Harry S.
Henry S.
Phillip T.
Rowan T.
Sam Y.

U15C

Harry A.
Denis A.
Alex B.
Gabriel B-R.
Jack C-C.
Felix C.
George D.
Bailey H-B.
Harry H.
Charlie H.
Sam K.
Davey L.
Hugo L.



U15A	U15B	U15C	U14A	U14B	U13A	U13B	U13C	U13D	U12A	U12B	U12C
Played 6	Played 4	Played 6	Played 7	Played 5	Played 6	Played 4	Played 3	Played 1	Played 4	Played 3	Played 2
Won 4	Won 1	Won 0	Won 2	Won 1	Won 0	Won 1	Won 2	Won 1	Won 2	Won 3	Won 1
Drew 1	Drew 1	Drew 2	Drew 2	Drew 1	Drew 1	Drew 0	Drew 0	Drew 0	Drew 0	Drew 0	Drew 0
Lost 1	Lost 2	Lost 4	Lost 3	Lost 3	Lost 5	Lost 3	Lost 1	Lost 0	Lost 2	Lost 0	Lost 1

- Daniel M.
- Aryan N.
- Harry P.
- Juan S F.
- Freddie S.
- Phillip T.
- Charlie W.
- Charlie W.
- Shawn Z.

- U14A**
- Hunter A-B.
- Samuel B.
- Toby B.
- Zac B.
- Ed D.
- Isaac F.
- Noah H.
- Woody H.
- Fred M.
- Charley M.
- Dan McA.
- William N.
- Edward O'H.
- Joseph P.
- Seth R.
- George R.
- Harvey S.
- Finn T.
- Finnian V.
- Ollie W.
- Joe W.

- U14B**
- Samuel B.
- Rory B.
- Zac B.
- Freddie C.
- Toby D.
- Ed D.
- Ethan G.

- Joshua H.
- Woody H.
- Sammy H.
- Charlie K.
- Tom L.
- Charley M.
- Dan McA.
- Aulay O.
- Joseph P.
- George R.
- James R.
- Joe S.
- Finn T.
- Oliver T.

- U14C**
- Siegfried B.
- Toby B.
- Samuel B.
- Josh B.
- Luca C.
- Toby D.
- Alexander D-T.
- Jake E.
- Flynn F.
- Ethan G.
- Joseph H.
- Sammy H.
- Ronnie H.
- Charlie K.
- Rafael L G.
- Mateo N C.
- Joe R.
- Jack S.
- Freddie W.

- U13A**
- Sebastian B.
- Freddie B.
- Otto B.
- Marcus B.

- Percy B.
- William C.
- Ernie E.
- Joseph F.
- Henry G.
- Hudson H.
- Max H.
- Miller J.
- Thomas L.
- Ralph L.
- Harry L.
- Charlie N.
- David P-J.
- Toby T.
- Henry W-E.
- William W.

- U13B**
- Sebastian B.
- Otto B.
- Freddie B J.
- Harry B J.
- Archie B.
- Marcus B.
- Evan C.
- William C.
- Rohan D.
- Michael D S.
- Henry G.
- Miller J.
- Thomas L.
- Caelan L.
- Harry L.
- Charlie N.
- David P-J.
- Toby T.
- William W.

- U13C**
- Fred A.
- Freddie B J.

- Harry B J.
- Archie B.
- Marcus B.
- Percy B.
- Evan C.
- Michael D S.
- Isaac E.
- Torin H.
- Hudson H.
- Caelan L.
- Alexander L.
- Freddie L.
- Rhys M.
- Dylan M.
- Dylan R.
- Tom S.
- Freddie S.
- Thomas T.
- Dylan W.
- William W.

- U13D**
- Fred A.
- Freddie B J.
- Harry B J.
- Aiden C.
- Evan C.
- Isaac E.
- Benny K.
- Cy L.
- Ben N.
- Tom S.

- U12A**
- Otto B.
- Percy B.
- Hudson H.
- Benny K.
- Freddie L.
- Harry L.

- Cillian M.
- Charlie N.
- Ben N.
- David P-J.
- Freddie S.

- U12B**
- Henry B.
- Joshua E.
- Archie G.
- Sebastian H.
- Freddie H.
- Benny K.
- Cy L.
- Cillian M.
- Finn M-J.
- Ben N.
- Tom S.
- Josh W.
- Jack W.

- U12C**
- Harry B.
- Aiden C.
- Rufus C.
- Jude E.
- Archie G.
- Harry H.
- Freddie H.
- Barney H.
- Cy L.
- Charlie L.
- Bertie M.
- Kartar M.
- Tom S.
- Oliver S.
- Josh W.
- Hector W-N.
- Jack W.

Netball

We welcomed Milton Keynes Prep School, Hatherop Castle, Ashfold and The Dragon over for a masterclass with Miss Manning and visited Beachborough School for a morning's coaching with their year 5 and 6 on defence. At the other end of the netball spectrum, we invited Oxford University in for a game against the 1st team to help them prepare for Varsity and for our girls to meet some of the University players.

The Netball season ended on a high with a visit from a professional netball player. Fourth Form and Exham House enjoyed a games session with professional netball player, Georgia Lees. Georgia plays for Saracens Mavericks, plays Wing Attack and was the Vice Captain for this season.

The Easter break saw the closing weekend of the England Netball National Performance League (NPL), held in Nottingham. Congratulations to Jenna L., who played for the U19 Central Warriors team, after recovering from an injury that hindered her playing time this season. Jenna has played in the England Netball Pathway since she was 14, played for Wasps U15 and U17 and was awarded Outstanding Contribution to Sport Girls at the Founderstide prizegiving assembly.

We also wish to congratulate Martha S. (Lower Sixth) who is currently working to attain her B award for umpiring which is incredible for her age. The effort she puts in outside of School is commendable and was rewarded with being selected to umpire at the most recent round of



National Schools. We would also like to recognise Holly M. (Fourth Form) and Flora Macl. (Upper Sixth) who have been working on their beginners umpiring awards this year.

Holly was also awarded Bloxham's Adkins Trophy for her involvement with netball in local clubs, the Warriors and as a young umpire. Most recently, she was chosen to play for Central Warriors PDP against Loughborough Lightning.

The Firsts, having had a year to bond, were on track for a really strong season. However, during the Hockey term disaster struck and the team faced news of season-ending injuries for Captain Jenna L. and last year's Vice Captain Ciara L.. Sadly, that was not the end of the injuries, as Georgia S. also had to withdraw from the squad. However, in good news, our midcourter Milly B. was returning to form after sustaining an injury and defender Lottie H. returned to the 1st team after a year's break. These girls are nothing but resilient, and despite the disappointment of not having their teammates in the squad, they continued to prepare for the season ahead.

We started off with a convincing win against Tudor Hall on the first Saturday, possibly one of my favourite games of the term. Our brand-new defensive unit

Netball Results

	U18A
	Played 10 Won 4 Drew 0 Lost 6
Bromsgrove	10-50
St Edward's	0-0
Tudor Hall	41-26
Malvern	10-13
St Edward's	8-15
Princethorpe	37-21
Cheltenham	33-26
King Edward VI	18-30
The King's High	29-12
Oundle	28-40

U18B	U18C	U18D	U18E
Played 10 Won 5 Drew 0 Lost 5	Played 11 Won 7 Drew 2 Lost 2	Played 9 Won 5 Drew 1 Lost 3	Played 7 Won 2 Drew 0 Lost 5

of incoming Lower Sixth's Sienna H. and Fifth Former Leah A. were turning over balls for fun and gave the assembled crowd lots to cheer about.

Close games with Malvern and Teddies followed with a win against Princethorpe. The shooting circle of Alice B. and Molly S. settled into the rhythm found last term, and they were assisted by Charlotte F-S. who made several guest appearances at Goal Attack!

The second half of the season showed moments of why these girls, despite the challenges they faced, are willing to push hard to overcome them and create opportunities to win. Victories against King's High and Cheltenham College don't come easy, in fact we have never beaten them... but this year we did! It was great to welcome Jenna back into the squad for the final game of the season, after a long and committed two terms of rehabilitation.

The 2nd VII, captained by Lucy B., also had a great start to their season with a victory against Tudor Hall. Frustratingly, their next four matches were lost with just one or two goals in it each time, in games that could have gone either way up until the final whistle. They kept working hard and had a stormer of a second half of term, with wins against KES Stratford, King's High, Cokethorpe, Oundle and Sibford 1st team.



U15A	U15B	U15C	U15D	U14A	U14B	U13A	U13B	U13C	U13D	U12A	U12B
Played 6	Played 8	Played 5	Played 2	Played 7	Played 8	Played 9	Played 8	Played 3	Played 1	Played 10	Played 9
Won 3	Won 3	Won 2	Won 0	Won 3	Won 4	Won 7	Won 6	Won 2	Won 1	Won 4	Won 6
Drew 0	Drew 0	Drew 0	Drew 0	Drew 0	Drew 0	Drew 0	Drew 0	Drew 0	Drew 0	Drew 2	Drew 0
Lost 3	Lost 5	Lost 3	Lost 2	Lost 4	Lost 4	Lost 2	Lost 2	Lost 1	Lost 0	Lost 4	Lost 3

Mrs Lovering recalls the match where Annette twisted her ankle, reacted as if she was going to die and then came back on to play after a few minutes, absolutely fine! Another memorable occasion was when Poppy on the receiving end of some 'contact' and sliding across the floor, for the umpire to not give a sanction but instead calling it momentum.

Coached this year by Mr Hawthorn, the 3s enjoyed the best win rate of all the senior teams, winning their first five games in a row. Mr Hawthorn of

course puts this down to his coaching, but the girls certainly worked hard too! Malvern, St Edward's, Dean Close, KES and Sibford 2s were amongst the teams that fell at the hands of the mighty 3s and we look forward to many of them moving up the ranks of the seniors squads next year.

Mrs Carr said she was so blessed to be given such an amazing team for her first season coaching netball at Bloxham. Wins against Tudor, Malvern and Sibford 3s impressed and they also had a nail-biting draw against Dean Close.

The girls improved so much over the term and worked hard to hone their skills. Mrs Carr said they had many amazing performances, many laughs, and several falls, with Azura seeming to actively spend more time on the floor than on court!

Mrs Bowden was impressed this season with the commitment that the 5th VII showed, aiming to improve on previous performances and compete to the best of their ability. They had some difficult games, but they always played hard and with good sportswomanship.

U18A Leah A. Alice B. Milly B. Charlotte F-S. Lottie H. Sienna H. Jenna L. Ciara L. Esme R. Molly S. Georgia S. Martha S.	Angelina S. Olivia T.	U18C Molly B. Arabella C. Eva D. Amber D. Holly D. Florence G. Tabby H. Maya H. Isla McC. Shamilla M. Teagan P. Amelie T.	Flora MacI. Elizabeth T. Emma W.	U18E Sophia A. Annabel C. Vincy C. Inés D L C N. Iona K. Cici L. Melissa L. Millie M. Charlotte S. Soraya W M. Iris Y.	Emma McC. Emily R. Phoebe S.	Hannah S. Marcie S. Emily S.
U18B Lucy B. Poppy D. Makayla E-O. Maya H. Annette K. Alice L. Jaz M-G. Shamilla M. Lara S.	U18D Hermione A. Emily A. Zoe B. Evie B. Ella C. Azura H. Raphaella H. Cassia J.		U15A Hattie B. Nina B. Millie C. Mable E. Andie J. Bella L. Holly M.	U15B Jemima B. Josie B. Darcey B. Poppy B. Amelie C. Lottie G. Bridget H. Kitty K. Kitty M. Anna McR. Olivia N.	U15D Chloe C. Eliska C. Eden G. Claudia M. Liv S. Mackenzie V. Nini W.	U14A Grace B. Abigail J. Beatrice L. Emma L. Milly L. Aisling M. Taryn M. Jessica P. Rose P. Lily R. Scarlett S.



The U15As had another tough season this year, playing some difficult opponents from strong schools. One of our new members of netball staff, Miss Brooks, worked hard with the girls to gel this talented group together, with their victories against Tudor Hall, Malvern and Dean Close a real highlight of the term. Mrs Brooks brought energy and drive into this squad, with Emma McC., Bella L. and Millie C. showing much promise in attack. With our talented mid-court and defensive end, we look forward to seeing this group grow into seniors next year and showing just what potential they have.

Mrs Skevington reports that the U15B Netball squad were a great group to work with over the Lent term. They had boundless energy which they demonstrated in both practices and matches. Highlights of the season were against Tudor Hall winning 17-9 and Malvern winning 13-9. Lottie G. was nominated the MVP five out of eight matches in the season which made her our Player of the Season as Goal Defence. Poppy B. was our most improved player of the season.

The U15Cs also had a tough season, but this group of girls learnt and progressed, when it would be really easy to give up on their games. The large squad proved versatile however, with team selection each week proving a headache for Mr Lovering. The girls enjoyed the win against Tudor Hall immensely!

Our newly formed U14A team had loads of talent, leaving Mrs Heathcote with team selection difficulties each week too! They started off the season with some fantastic wins, with a huge 45-5 win against Tudor Hall a brilliant result. The second half of the season brought stronger teams for them to play, and a real test for these youngsters. Despite these tougher matches, the girls continued to work with focus and determination. It's clear that this team has a lot of potential, and I'm excited to see their future progress and achievements.

The U14B team were coached again this year by Mr Setterfield. He says they demonstrated a work ethic and team culture unmatched by any school that we played against. Their jovial character, matched with steely determination was a deadly combination which ultimately led them to impressive wins against Malvern, Dean Close and Tudor Hall.

Mrs Ladds reports that her U14C team have been fantastic. They started out as a group of 14 students with a number of players with little or no experience. All girls represented Bloxham at one point or another and some moved up because they made so much progress and were nabbed by Mr Setterfield for the B team! They won all their games bar the last two, so a super achievement and great leadership shown by Anna, Clemmie, Katie and Jemima.

This year in Exham, we focused on building our skills and putting them into practise in matchplay situations and games. We spent time learning the rules, the positions and for everyone to learn how to shoot, all whilst having a lot of fun and working together as a team.

Exham enjoyed victories against Quinton House, Rendcomb and Stonar Schools, which were new fixtures this year. There was a great double header against Warriner and it was brilliant to see every Exham girl be able to play. Highlights included a close win by one goal for the U13Bs versus Princethorpe and our first match of the year against Tudor, with three out of the four Exham teams coming home with wins! [LM](#)



U14B

Eva B.
Lily G.
Emily G.
Bella H.
Clemmie L C.
Taryn M.
Lola O.
Poppy R.
Isabel S.

U14C

Anna H.
Katie L.
Clemmie L C.
Jemima L.
Fatima N C.

Mattie N.
Poppy R.
Sofia V.
Alicia W.

U14 DEVELOPMENT

Olivia A.
Elisa E M.
Clemmie M.
Rosie N.
Lyra Q.
Violet S.

U13A

Darcey B.
Willa B.
Lois C.

Grace D.
Paloma D.
Florence D.
Beatrix K.
Bertie M.
Lottie R.

U13 DEVELOPMENT

Isabella B.
Rosie B.
Fran B.
Miruna D.
Emilia G.
Mollie H-B.
Mirabella H.
Matilda H.

Miran J.
Charlotte L.
Felicity M.
Freya M.
Ren P.
Seren W-N.

U12A

Maya B.
Addison C.
Daisy I.
Jess J.
Abigail M.
Scarlett N.
Dara O.
Molly T.

U12 DEVELOPMENT

Mia F.
Pearl G.
Genevieve H.
Poppy H.
Edie H.
Emily L.
Amelia M.
Martha N.
Florence P.
Lily P.
Ellie R.
Uriah S.
Connie S.
Neve S.
Arrabella S.

Tennis

Tennis Results

	U18A	U18B	U18C	U15A	U15B	U14A	U14B	U13A
BOYS	Played 6 Won 4 Drew 0 Lost 2	Played 6 Won 3 Drew 0 Lost 3	Played 2 Won 1 Drew 0 Lost 1	Played 7 Won 3 Drew 0 Lost 4	Played 4 Won 0 Drew 1 Lost 3	Played 4 Won 1 Drew 0 Lost 3	Played 2 Won 1 Drew 0 Lost 1	Played 2 Won 1 Drew 0 Lost 1
Bedford School	5-4							
St Edward's School, Oxford	3-6							
Bromsgrove School	2-7							
Pangbourne College	0-0							
King Edward's School, Birmingham	8-1							
Cheltenham College	4-2							

BOYS' TENNIS

U18A

Ollie A.
Freddie H.
George L.
Pablo M C.
Dillon Q.
Tom R.
Corban S.
Mason S.
Hector T.
Benjamin Z.

U18B

Ollie A.
George B.
Oscar C-G.
Harry D.
George F.
Freddie H.
Myles L.
Miles M.
Pablo M C.
William N.
Harry P.
Henry P.
Tom R.
Nico R.
Hector T.
Freddie T.
Benjamin Z.

U18C

George B.
Felix C.
Harry D.
Thomas G.
Pablo M C.
William N.
Nico R.
Mateo S.
Freddie T.
Ernie W.

U15A

Felix C.
Felix C.
Freddie H.
Noah L.
Miles M.
Arthur M.
Harry P.
Henry P.
Ollie S.
Ernie W.

U15B

Denis A.
Lucas D.
Ed D.
George D.
Noah G-S.
Alfie J.
Davey L.
Hugo L.
Henrik L.
Rafael L G.
Daniel M.
Oliver M-J.
Mateo N C.
Ollie S.
Benji T.
Rowan T.
Luke W.

U14A

Siegfried B.
Jozsef B.
Felix C.
Ed D.
Hugo L.
Rafael L G.
Oliver M-J.
Arthur M.
Mateo N C.
Otto R.
Ollie S.
Freddie W.

U14B

Toby B.
Ed D.
Alexander D-T.
Will K.
Bertie K.
Rafael L G.
Otto R.
Edward S.
Oliver S.
Rowan T.
Joseph W.
Freddie W.

U13A

Archie B.
Freddie H.
Charlie L.
Caelan L.
Alexander L.
Dylan M.

The girls' 1st VI had a challenging season, facing tough opposition but also playing some fantastic tennis. They secured strong wins over Rendcomb College and Pangbourne College. The squad, a mix of Fifth Form, Lower Sixth, and Upper Sixth students, worked well together and trained hard. This season saw a lot of learning about effective doubles play. With many senior girls returning and some excellent Fourth Form players coming through, next year looks promising. A special thanks to Dione and Lele from the Upper Sixth for their dedication and hard work over the years.

The boys' 1st VI had a very successful season, beating difficult opponents from Bedford School, Cheltenham College, and King Edward's School Birmingham. With the squad predominantly made up of Upper Sixth and a couple of Fifth Form students, the boys were well versed in what to expect from their opposition. The boys have been extremely receptive during training and were able to use key bits of

coaching advice from Mr Richardson to use in their matches. Thank you to the Upper Sixth boys, Corban, Dillon, Pablo, and Ben for their commitment to the senior tennis programme over the last few years.

The girls' 2nd VI also faced a challenging season, with several fixtures cancelled last minute. However, they celebrated a great 4-1 win over a strong Wellingborough side. The team, primarily composed of Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth students, displayed great desire and competitiveness. Their commitment and teamwork were commendable throughout the season.

The boys' 2nd VI finished the season strongly, winning their last 3 fixtures convincingly after a tough start. Similarly to the boys' 1st VI, they recorded wins over Cheltenham and King Edward's School Birmingham and had a close match against Bromsgrove. With the squad mainly being made up of Fifth Form and Lower Sixth students, the future looks bright for tennis at Bloxham School.

GIRLS' TENNIS

U18A

Evie B.
Milly B.
Eva D.
Charlotte F-S.
Sienna H.
Dione K.
Lele L.
Holly M.
Molly S.
Martha S.
Florence T.

U18B

Emily A.
Evie B.
Milly B.

U15A

Arabella C.
Zara H.
Azura H.
Tabby H.
Sienna H.
Cici L.
Esme R.
Molly S.

U16A

Emily D.
Eva D.
Bella L.
Esme R.
Olivia T.
Florence T.

U15A

Hattie B.
Nina B.
Darcey B.
Poppy B.
Emily D.
Eden G.
Bridget H.
Clemmie L C.
Bella L.
Holly M.
Taryn M.
Fatima N C.
Emily R.
Evy S.
Marcie S.
Emily S.

Cricket



It was certainly the earliest start to a cricket season at Bloxham for some time with the 1st XI embarking on a pre-season tour to Desert Springs as part of *The Cricketer* magazine's 100 ball tournament. This gave our senior players real experience of warm weather pre-season and playing against some top-quality opposition. A week of training in world-class facilities was a brilliant

opportunity that all players and coaches thoroughly enjoyed. Playing against schools not usually on our fixture card gave the players added excitement and it set us up to hit the ground running for the Summer term.

In contrasting conditions to the balmy Desert Springs, it was a rather damp season with a fair few fixtures lost to

rain which restricted some sides from gathering momentum this season. Despite these disruptions, all teams have demonstrated resilience, adaptability, and a strong team spirit, managing to complete as many of their scheduled games as possible.

Across 23 teams, there have been 87 matches and some stand out wins have been seen from all teams. The girls' 1st XI have been the form side, beating Tudor Hall home and away after a tricky opening defeat against a strong Bromsgrove outfit. The boys' 2nd XI pulled off a miraculous chase against Malvern College away from home – an impressive team effort following a strong win against Shiplake. The Yearlings B also took the mighty scalp of Malvern and with an increasingly difficult card across all sides; this was a pleasing win amongst some tough block fixtures. The 1st XI managed to throw away a match winning position against Warwick in a thrilling T20 and once again managed

BOYS' TEAMS

1st XI

Harry A.
Finn A.
Albie D.
James D.
Alfie D.
George D.
Alexander D.
Sammy D.
Thomas F.
Adam G.
Hardy L.
Ed L.
Joe M.
Luke M.
James P.
Felix R.
Ben R.
Murray S.
Dan S.
Charles S.
RJ T.
William T.

2nd XI

Harry A.
George A.
Finn A.
Albie D.
Alfie D.
Will D.
Marcus D.
Adam G.
Hari G.

Oscar D.
Freddie H.
Jamie K.
Aidan K.
Josh McG.
Joe M.
Rory M.
Luke M.
Edward M.
James P.
Nick P.
Felix R.
Ben R.
Charlie S.
Harry S.
Kit T.

3rd XI

Harry A.
Harrison A-B.
George A.
Finn A.
Max C.
Albie D.
Alfie D.
Will D.
Marcus D.
Adam G.
Hari G.
Oscar G.
Freddie H.
Jamie K.
Sam Macl.
Josh McG.
Rory M.
Edward M.
Ben M.

Jack N.
William O.
Nick P.
Harry P.
Jack S.
Edward S.
Riven S.
Jay S.
Kit T.
Callum T.

U15A

Harry A.
Harry A.
Alex B.
Cameron C.
James D.
Harrison D.
Oliver D.
Sammy D.
Hari G.
Tommy H.
William L.
Sam Macl.
Edward M.
Stanley P.
Harry P.
Gregory P.
Kit P-J.
Harry S.
RJ T.
Charlie W.
Sam Y.

U15B

Harry A.
Ronn B-A.

William B.
James B.
Gabriel B-R.
Jack C-C.
Ruben C.
Callum C-F.
Harrison D.
Oliver D.
Thomas E.
Rory F.
James G.
Fred G.
Bailey H-B.
Tommy H.
Harry H.
Charlie H.
Sam K.
Tom K.
Lucas L.
Zeph N.
Rory O.
Stanley P.
Freddie S.
Phillip T.
Luke W.
Charlie W.
Charlie W.

U15C

Rory B.
Zac B.
Gabriel B-R.
Jack C-C.
Callum C-F.
Oliver D.
Woody H.

Tommy H.
Kaspar H.
Sam K.
Tom L.
Henry M.
Fred M.
Charley M.
William M-G.
Aryan N.
Zeph N.
Aulay O.
Joseph P.
George R.
Joe S.
Freddie S.
Henry S.
Charlie W.
Charlie W.

U14A

Freddie B.
Otto B.
Samuel B.
Toby B.
Samuel B.
Aiden C.
Kingsley D.
Isaac F.
Joshua H.
Ronnie H.
Dan McA.
William N.
Edward O'H.
Harvey S.
Oliver T.
Finnian V.
Joe W.

Cricket Results

	1st XI
BOYS	Played 11 Won 3 Drew 0 Tied 0 Lost 8 Abandoned 0
Shiplake	Won by 8 wickets
Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC)	Lost by 114 runs
Warwick	Lost by 31 runs
Bromsgrove	Lost by 70 runs
Malvern	Lost by 5 wickets
The Forty Club	Won by 5 wickets
Magdalen College School	Lost by 84 runs
Cheltenham	Lost by 150 runs
South Oxfordshire Amateurs	Lost by 23 runs
Old Bloxhamists	Won by 4 wickets
Norwich	Lost by 8 wickets

a memorable and mature run chase against the Forty Club. Declaration cricket seems to be the format that they are best suited to. As a purist, this is really pleasing to see and developing more thinking cricketers is a big positive from the cricketing programme. Thomas F. made a very mature 76 not out which showed his adaptability in a run chase.

The U13 prep school festival was another highlight with Bloxham's girls coming a very commendable second. The boys' competition was sadly called off due to the rain. The sunshine did come out for many of the girls' matches; both the U14 and U15 sides showed superb skill sets and team spirit to beat Cokethorpe and Tudor Hall, making it a clean sweep for all sides against Tudor which was excellent to see.

House cricket was a very closely fought affair, with Egerton coming out winners for juniors and seniors. Stonehill proved victorious in the girls' junior house cricket played on a sun soaked Main Field, whilst Raymond were winners in the seniors competition.

A youthful boys' 1st XI enjoyed an absorbing encounter against a strong South Oxfordshire Amateurs side, with some outstanding innings from the ever-consistent Murray S. and a superb 95 from Hardy L.. Falling just short of a deserved century while trying to win the game highlights how much of a team player Hardy is and he has been the glue in the middle order for much of the season which is a big responsibility for a Fifth Former. A narrow loss by 24 runs was tough to take but certainly was a performance to be proud of.

2nd XI	3rd XI	U15A	U15B	U15C	U14A	U14B	U14C	U13A	U13B	U13C	U13D	U12A	U12B
Played 6 Won 2 Drew 0 Tied 0 Lost 4	Played 2 Won 1 Drew 0 Tied 0 Lost 1	Played 9 Won 2 Drew 0 Tied 0 Lost 7	Played 5 Won 1 Drew 1 Tied 0 Lost 3	Played 1 Won 0 Drew 0 Tied 0 Lost 1	Played 7 Won 1 Drew 0 Tied 0 Lost 6	Played 5 Won 2 Drew 0 Tied 0 Lost 3	Played 5 Won 2 Drew 1 Tied 0 Lost 2	Played 7 Won 3 Drew 0 Tied 0 Lost 2	Played 6 Won 1 Drew 0 Tied 0 Lost 4	Played 1 Won 0 Drew 0 Tied 0 Lost 1	Played 1 Won 0 Drew 0 Tied 0 Lost 1	Played 5 Won 2 Drew 0 Tied 0 Lost 2	Played 4 Won 2 Drew 0 Tied 0 Lost 2

U14B

Hunter A-B.
Samuel B.
Rory B.
Zac B.
Aiden C.
Freddie C.
Kingsley D.
Flynn F.
Noah H.
Woody H.
Charlie K.
Tom L.
Fred M.
Charley M.
William N.
Edward O'H.
Aulay O.
Seth R.
Joe R.
George R.
Joe S.
Finn T.
Oliver T.
Finnian V.
Ollie W.

U14C

Rory B.
Zac B.
Josh B.
Freddie C.
Ed D.
Jake E.
Flynn F.
Woody H.
Joseph H.
Charlie K.
Will K.
Tom L.

Fred M.

Charley M.
Aulay O.
Joseph P.
Seth R.
Joe R.
George R.
James R.
Joe S.
Jack S.
Ollie S.
Finn T.
Joseph W.
Ollie W.

U13A

Sebastian B.
Freddie B.
Otto B.
Freddie B. J.
Harry B. J.
Harry B.
Marcus B.
William C.
Ernie E.
Joseph F.
Torin H.
Harry H.
Hudson H.
Max H.
Miller J.
Thomas L.
Ralph L.
Oliver L.
David P-J.
Dylan R.
Thomas T.
Toby T.
Dylan W.
William W.

U13B

Fred A.
Otto B.
Freddie B. J.
Harry B. J.
Freddie B.
Harry B.
Marcus B.
Evan C.
William C.
Rohan D.
Michael D S.
Joshua E.
Isaac E.
Joseph F.
Archie G.
Henry G.
Torin H.
Harry H.
Hudson H.
Barney H.
Cy L.
Thomas L.
Ralph L.
Freddie L.
Harry L.
Rhys M.
Dylan M.
Bertie M.
Cillian M.
Finn M-J.
Kartar M.
David P-J.
Tom S.
Oliver S.
Freddie S.
Dylan W.
Henry W-E.
William W.

Hector W-N.
Jack W.

U13C

Henry B.
Freddie B. J.
Harry B. J.
Percy B.
Archie G.
Sebastian H.
Barney H.
Cy L.
Bertie M.
Tom S.
Henry W-E.

U13D

Fred A.
Aiden C.
Evan C.
Rufus C.
Rohan D.
Isaac E.
Rhys M.
Kartar M.
Tom S.
Dylan W.
Josh W.
Hector W-N.

U12A

Henry B.
Otto B.
Freddie B.
Harry B.
Percy B.
Joshua E.
Jude E.
Archie G.

Harry H.
Sebastian H.
Hudson H.
Benny K.
Freddie L.
Harry L.
Bertie M.
Charlie N.
Ben N.
David P-J.
Freddie S.
Jack W.

U12B

Freddie B.
Percy B.
Aiden C.
Rufus C.
Joshua E.
Jude E.
Archie G.
Sebastian H.
Barney H.
Cy L.
Freddie L.
Harry L.
Bertie M.
Cillian M.
Finn M-J.
Kartar M.
Charlie N.
Ben N.
Tom S.
Oliver S.
Freddie S.
Josh W.
Hector W-N.
Jack W.

Cricket Results

	1st XI	U15A	U15B	U14A	U13A	U13B	U13C	U12A
GIRLS	Played 4 Won 3 Drew 0 Tied 0 Lost 1	Played 5 Won 3 Drew 0 Tied 0 Lost 2	Played 2 Won 1 Drew 0 Tied 0 Lost 1	Played 4 Won 2 Drew 0 Tied 0 Lost 2	Played 4 Won 3 Drew 0 Tied 0 Lost 0	Played 1 Won 1 Drew 0 Tied 0 Lost 0	Played 1 Won 0 Drew 0 Tied 0 Lost 1	Played 3 Won 1 Drew 0 Tied 0 Lost 1
Bromsgrove U15A	Lost by 70 runs							
Tudor Hall	Won by 6 wickets							
Tudor Hall	Won by 7 wickets							
Kingham Hill	Won by 12 runs							

This year’s Founderstide saw the girls’ 1st XI play Banbury Select XI, whilst the boys’ played the longstanding fixture against the OB team. To have a girls’ team playing alongside the boys for the first time in Bloxham history is a huge step forward for the cricket programme. The hope is for the girls to also play against an OB XI next summer. We have also introduced a cup for each of these fixtures which we will present after each match and will reside in the Pavilion on display. I am excited to see this tradition grow as the fixture is always a special occasion.

My thanks to the grounds staff, particularly Paul White and James Berry, for their tireless efforts in order to keep the squares and outfield looking so pristine, a difficult job considering the amount of rain this season.

It is great to see so many of our cricketers finding their ways into club cricket and our aim is to push pupils



to keep playing beyond their school days, whether this is a fixture, House matches or nets after prep. Bloxham being shortlisted by The Cricketer Schools Guide 2024 under the highly commended category is a big positive and our involvement in their Hundred

ball format shows good momentum for the programme. School cricket is always facing new challenges, alongside the ever-present exam seasons pressure but I have been so pleased to see our students embrace this and enjoy their cricket immensely. [GNW](#)

GIRLS' TEAMS	
<p>1st XI Leah A. Jemima B. Emma B. Miriam B. Alice B. Ella C. Amelie C. Millie C. Amber D. Mable E. Makayla E-O. Florence G. Lottie G. Annette K. Hana K. Alice L. Jemima L. Flora Macl. Emma McC. Isla McC. Jessica P. Rose P. Heidi R. Phoebe S.</p>	<p>Charlotte S. Amelie T. Emma W.</p> <p>U15A Jemima B. Emma B. Miriam B. Alice B. Nina B. Chloe C. Ella C. Ella C. Amelie C. Millie C. Amber D. Mable E. Makayla E-O. Florence G. Lottie G. Hana K. Kitty K. Katie L. Alice L. Jemima L. Milly L. Emma McC.</p>
<p>Isla McC. Claudia M. Rose P. Heidi R. Phoebe S.</p> <p>U15B Jemima B. Nina B. Amelie C. Mable E. Emily G. Lottie G. Hana K. Kitty K. Katie L. Jemima L. Emma L. Milly L. Jessica P. Rose P. Phoebe S.</p> <p>U14A Grace B. Chloe C. Millie C.</p>	<p>Lily G. Emily G. Hana K. Beatrice L. Katie L. Jemima L. Emma L. Milly L. Aisling M. Emma McC. Claudia M. Mattie N. Lola O. Jessica P. Rose P. Poppy R. Scarlett S.</p> <p>U13A Willa B. Lois C. Addison C. Paloma D. Poppy H. Daisy I. Beatrix K. Charlotte L. Ren P.</p>
	<p>Lottie R. Seren W-N.</p> <p>U13B Daisy I. Abigail M. Amelia M. Scarlett N. Dara O. Uriah S. Neve S. Seren W-N.</p> <p>U12A Georgia C. Mia F. Edie H. Daisy I. Emily L. Amelia M. Scarlett N. Dara O. Lily P. Uriah S. Neve S. Arrabella S. Seren W-N.</p>

Clay Pigeon Shooting

Numbers are increasing for the Clay Pigeon shooting activity which is held each Tuesday afternoon at Edgehill Shooting Ground when daylight allows. They are taught by a team of coaches who breed enthusiasm in the students. The team is led by Arnie Palmer, an England shot and a national coach.

It was a quiet year for clay pigeon shooting competitively, with just one competition at Barbury Shooting School, organised by Marlborough School. For most of the eight students that competed it was their first experience of a shooting competition. They competed over stands of six or eight birds and finished with a flush.

The A team, Ben R., George R., Ben Z. and Joel W., finished in second place with a score of 154 behind Millfield A team with a score of 171. They were well ahead of third placed Cheltenham College with a score of 148.

The B team, Ben M., Jack S., Callum C-F., and Toby D., finished with a score of 107 finishing in ninth position out of 39 teams. The competition made the pupils hungry for more, but sadly we were unable to compete again.



In the meantime, there were 24 pupils who attended the shooting activity, honing their skills. This experience will give them the confidence to participate in future competitions and ensure they can shoot safely and with proficiency. [PG](#)



Sailing

It has been a rather windy season this year, which we shouldn't complain about as much fun has been had; however, in the first session of the year, when three boats capsized simultaneously, we thought we were going to be in trouble.

A fresh team of seniors have stepped up to the plate, improving and performing really well. The Third Form sessions worked out quite well and we managed a few sessions each Thursday, where a group of beginners learned the basics. One of the term's highlights was the Second Form camp, a two-day event when the whole year group came and experienced sailing in the School Fevas and the club Optimists. They also did some stand-up paddle boarding and canoeing. The conditions were quite windy, some might say 'character building' at times, but the youngsters coped admirably, and in the end, after some considerable challenges, a great time was had. It wouldn't have been possible to run such an event without lots of help and many thanks should go to all the students and staff who ran of the sessions.

In the House matches, seven of the nine houses managed to enter a team and some great racing took place in windy conditions, where a number of the less experienced crews found it difficult to avoid capsizing. Seymour dominated winning all of their races, with Merton finishing second. This occasion is one of the most inclusive whole-School events where all of the Houses (boys' and girls') can be involved.

Bloxham's sailing team were victorious versus the Old Bloxhamists, winning all three races with great team racing tactics. See page 82 for a full report.

At the end of term assembly, Lewis R. was awarded the Laser Trophy for most improvement and Will M-G., was re-awarded The Helm's Trophy. I would like to thank Lisa Manning for her fabulous safety boat work, while much thanks must also go to parents Sue Faithfull and Tom Mawby-Groome for their amazing support and help. [TMS](#)



Athletics

The 2024 athletics season has been a real success with three key achievements. We were delighted to field a girls' team for the first time; we took over 40 athletes to meets through the season; and we now have a good number of Third and Fourth Form students taking an interest in athletics.

The group have also been willing to travel extensively, with meets at Harrow, Winchester and Oakham all

making for very late Saturday evening returns. The dedication of the group is reflected in their performance, with a good number of students achieving county qualifying times and a small number going very close to English schools qualifying times and distances. We had the top three placings or winners in many events including shot put, javelin, long jump, relays, 100m, 200m, 300m and 800m. This has collectively underpinned some great

team placings, with a range of positive collective results for the teams.

I must mention Matthew D. and Shamilla M. as team Captains. Both have done a superb job in recruiting students, organising teams and taking the athletics programme forward. I am excited to watch the progress of athletics next year as Mr Fowler takes on the role of Head of Athletics. [JDW](#)

Basketball

The basketball team entered their third year, with the addition of new recruits who brought skill and enthusiasm. The team made significant progress through the season. The most impressive performances came at Rugby where the team competed well and were in the game through the first three quarters in both fixtures. MCS was the most frustrating fixture where some of the key players in the team were prevented from impacting the game as much as they could have.

As we look to next year, I can see a number of players with real promise: Lewis R. was coming into his own as

the season finished and with some key players in Ben K. and Mike L. still available next year there is something to look forward to next year.

I am grateful to David A. for all his work as Captain, he did a great job in maintaining the work that had been done by his predecessor. I am also incredibly thankful for the contribution of coach Franky, who adds real value to the programme. My involvement with basketball at Bloxham concludes this year and I look back on the start of basketball with real pride. The boys have achieved a great deal on a really challenging fixture circuit. [JDW](#)



Equestrian



Bloxham's Equestrian training has enjoyed development and progress at all levels, with the help of our wonderful training team of Fran and Tom Bird, Owen Cooper and Colina Pickles.

We have welcomed several younger members into the squad who have embraced our ethos of fun and confidence building and have introduced their own brand of competitive spirit with great results.

Some of our long-standing squad members have very successfully used our training platform to step up to more specialised training in their chosen discipline, although the weather this season has resulted in so many event cancellations that it has proved difficult to showcase their performance. We do have a number hoping for selection for BE's ON U18 Championships, including Toby R.,

Charlotte F-S., Raffaella C. and Lily B., and Joshua E. clocked his first win at CCI-L 3* in May. All of these rising stars started their competitive careers with the help of Bloxham training as well as their Pony Club and BE routes.

Our younger riders have trained diligently and with great spirit to contest a number of NSEA competitions throughout the year: Aisling M., Freddie S., Bridget H. and Jemima L. all qualified for the NSEA Individual Eventer Challenge Championships, whilst Jack W. came fourth in the Pop-up Dressage Championships at Hickstead.

Our teams have enjoyed astounding success in NSEA competitions with a selection of wins at qualifying level in both Show Jumping and Eventer Challenges at 80 and 90cms. Bridget, Jack, Freddie, Jemima and Aisling all qualified and represented Bloxham at the NSEA EC Championships at Hickstead in May. They showed great teamwork and cohesion throughout the two days of competition, achieving 11th place in the 80cm team championships and then with Aisling substituting for Jack they took the win the following day to become NSEA EC 90 Team Champions for 2024 beating 35 other schools from around the UK!

Our team of Aisling, Freddie, Jemima and Bridget have also won in NSEA Show Jumping qualifying competitions at both

80cms and 90cms and we await the Championships at Addington in October with bated breath. They also qualified for the NSEA Intermediate Show Jumping Championships at Royal Windsor Horse Show in May, prepped well and were fully geared up to travel to Windsor when their class was cancelled by the show organisers the day before the competition, due to the weather once again. This major championship event has been re-routed to Addington in October so we will wait to see how they fare in the Michaelmas term.

Our grass roots riders training with Regal Equestrian are also starting to get out and about with Hudson H. having recently qualified for the NSEA Grassroots Championships at Hickstead in August as an individual. Jake E. was a strong member of our Bloxham Eventer Challenge team early in the season, coming third individually in the November event and an influential member of the winning Bloxham team on that day.

Our annual Schools' Eventer Challenge Series at Aston le Walls continues to be a great success and is well supported by schools from around the country. Bloxham riders were keen to compete through the winter with a number of individual and team placings at 65cms, 80cms and 90cms throughout the series. In the Championships our 65cm team of Henry G., Josh and Bridget came third, our 80cm team of Bridget, Jake, Jack and Freddie were second and our 90cm team of Aisling, Hattie B. and Freddie were also second.

Hattie and Josh both rode exceptionally throughout the Princethorpe 2 Day Event, a tough and challenging two days with great performances from both with a 5th place in the 90cm class for Hattie and 9th in the 70cm class for Josh.

We are continually grateful to our wonderful parents for their dedication throughout the year, bringing horses to weekly training, beautiful preparation and representation at Open Days and supporting the School at all competitions as well as driving, grooming and looking after their student competitors.

It is always a privilege to watch the students in action. Whether they succeed or not, the Bloxham spirit shines through and the level of help and support that they show each other is wonderful to see. [BN](#)



Badminton

This season, Bloxham School's badminton teams, ranging from the Third Form to the Sixth Form, participated in 14 fixtures across four categories: U18 Boys, U18 Girls, Mixed U18, and Mixed U16. The teams faced strong competition from schools such as Cheltenham, Bromsgrove, Wellingborough, and St Edward's.

Despite their best efforts, the senior teams did not achieve the level of success we had hoped for. Led by standout players like Lele L., Lucas D. and Hugo L., the teams showcased some exhilarating badminton. However, they were often outmatched by top pairs with county and even national experience. Notably, our closest matches were against Wellingborough and Bradfield 1st teams, where we lost by just one game, highlighting the squad's depth and skill.

Participation in badminton at Bloxham has reached an all-time high. Last season, 46 students chose badminton for senior games, reflecting the strength of our badminton programme. Additionally, badminton has been introduced as a games option for the Third Form, and many of these students have shown remarkable progress throughout the season. We are planning more fixtures for these students next year.

The House competition was another highlight of the year, featuring competitive and explosive eight-minute matches. Merton emerged victorious in both the A and B junior girls' competitions, while Raymond clinched both the A and B senior girls' tournaments for the second consecutive year. Wilson clinched the double, winning both the senior and junior boys' competitions.

Although the season presented tough challenges, it has helped our players become more strategic and develop their skills. I am optimistic about the future of

the badminton programme. With further development of core skills, strategic improvements, and an enhanced fixture card, I believe badminton at Bloxham will continue to thrive.

I extend my best wishes to the Upper Sixth as they move on to new endeavours and thank them for their contributions to the badminton program over the past two years. I am excited to announce Lucas D. and Kaia H. as club Captains for the 2024-2025 season and look forward to working with them next year. [BF](#)

Golf

An exciting year of golf unfolded, with over fifty pupils participating in both the games and activities programme. By establishing strong ties with Tadmerton Heath Golf Club, the School now boasts one of the top local clubs as its home course for fixtures.

The senior team started with a loss against Tadmerton Heath Junior section, and then followed

up with a very narrow loss to Teddies. Exham's players also enjoyed a fixture with Swanbourne, which was a useful outing for our youngest squad members.

The high participation numbers made House Golf a standout feature of the term, signalling promising prospects for the future. Congratulations to Wilson on winning the House competition. Beyond school, Dan and Phoebe achieved success at various club and county levels. Overall, it was a strong term of fixtures, thank you to all of this year's golfers for their hard work. [ESL](#)

Squash

The squash team at Bloxham School has had a remarkable year, solidifying their place as one of the most successful teams in the School's history. Throughout the season, they secured victories against schools including Stowe, Marlborough, Cheltenham, and Uppingham.

It is only recently that squash has come back to the sporting programme at Bloxham. The school has had courts for many years, but had not played competitively for quite some time prior to 2019, when a squash team was re-established under the guidance of coach Mike Morris.

The team has been working hard to prepare for the national competition, in which they managed to come second

in the regional round, finishing ahead of Stowe and John Hampden and moving the team through to the semi-finals.

The semi-final competition provided an exceptionally high standard of squash, in a very well contested and spirited competition. In a pool with Abingdon, Aylesbury Grammar School and Merchant Taylors', Bloxham finished third, with Aylesbury deservedly winning the group and progressing to the finals in Manchester.

This places the school team in the top twenty in the competition, which is a fantastic achievement for a sports programme that only started to progress in its current form five years ago. This outstanding achievement is a source of pride for both the team and the school.



Special thanks are due to Mike Morris for his invaluable support, as well as to players Jack, Joe, Sam, Ben, Dom, Hector, and Jasper, who contributed their hard work and dedication to building a formidable squad over the past couple of years. [ESL](#)





THE BLOXHAM COMMUNITY



THE BLOXHAM COMMUNITY

Student Stories



First Form's **Jack W.** has been learning to play the saxophone on an instrument once owned by his great-grandfather. Many generations of Jack's family have learned to play on this instrument and we wanted to learn more about how it feels to be continuing such a special family tradition.

What is your favourite thing about your music lessons at Bloxham?

I like having the opportunity to grow my skill and I love the range of pieces which I have the chance to learn to play. My teacher is really great too. He has been teaching me ever since I started at Bloxham and I've definitely learned a lot from him.

Do you play any other instruments? If so, which do you like best and why?

I play the drums as well, which I really enjoy. It enables me to play more aggressively and loudly and explore different kinds of music. You can play

rock on the drums and then jazz on the saxophone. The saxophone is my favourite though, partly because I have more experience on it, but also because the connection to my family makes it special.

Do you have a favourite style of music to play? What do you like about this style in particular?

Jazz is my favourite, because it's cool, it's fun, it's funky. I also like rock music because it's your classic heavy sound. I would definitely recommend learning to play the saxophone to anyone who's interested because it's just such a fun instrument and you can do so much with it.

What made you first want to start playing the saxophone and how long have you been playing?

Growing up hearing about how so many members of my family had played the saxophone definitely made me want to carry on that tradition. Even separate to that though, it's such a good instrument because it's so cool, and you can play lots of different styles of music on it. I've been playing for just over two years now.

What does it feel like to play an instrument which generations of your family have played before you?

I feel honoured to play an instrument which generations before me have played. It's really special because it reminds me of them. I never met my great-grandfather, but my mum has talked to me about him and it feels amazing to play on an instrument he played on too. This saxophone represents a part of my family history, and that's really valuable to me.





Upper Sixth, Stonehill student **Rachel D.**, is a qualified sign language interpreter. Rachel spoke to us about her signing skills and how she shares them with others in her House.

What has the response been like from the girls in your House to you offering to teach them?

Loads of them have been really enthusiastic. Some people find it easier to pick up than others, but everyone really loved learning the alphabet because once you know all the letters, you can say any word. It takes a long time, but it feels like you're getting far quickly because you can then say anything in sign language just from learning the alphabet. It's rewarding and could be useful in the future too.

What do you find to be the most challenging thing with signing?

When I'm interpreting, I'm listening to what's being said and then reproducing that, but it's very challenging to have to multitask like that, signing and talking at the same time. I speak a lot slower and do find it hard to do two things at once. It's tough, but I'm getting there!

How long have you been using sign language?

I've been using it my whole life! There are people in my family who are deaf, and as a young child I actually learned to sign earlier than I learned to speak, because I found it so much easier. I started getting qualifications in 2020. I did a course with Doncaster University to be qualified in sign language, which means that now I can interpret at events. There's Level 1, 2 and 3 qualifications, and so far I've done Level 1. I interpret weekly at a church service for people with special needs and disabilities, which is quite cool. They're not all deaf, but they find it easier to communicate with hand gestures and actions than verbally. It's a great way to make this event accessible to everyone.

What made you want to teach others around you how to sign?

When I mentioned in House that I know sign language, everyone was just super interested because it's so different. We learn French and Spanish at school so everyone is aware of those languages,

but no-one really thinks of sign language that often. It's a different thing to learn how to do. It's quite fun as well to do things like learn songs in sign language. The signs make sense, so it's quite intuitive. People find it interesting to see the different signs and figure out why they are as they are.



The sign for 'turtle' in British Sign Language

What is your favourite sign?

Turtle, just because it looks like a turtle that's swimming and it's fun to do!



Lower Sixth and Seymour House student **Angus C.** is a fantastic example of embracing all that Bloxham has to offer, always ready to give something new a go and push himself out of his comfort zone.

Which clubs or activities have you chosen in the past as a way to stretch yourself?

I have been at Bloxham for three years now. In my first year, I tried climbing club. When I first saw climbing, I thought it meant hiking in the countryside, not climbing on a climbing wall! When I first went there, I was really nervous because I saw the climbing wall and had no idea what was happening with the harnesses and the shoes and things, but I just kept going every week and it ended up being great fun. I learned lots and met some new people and made friends. That led to me going on a school trip to Iceland for climbing where I had an amazing time. In my second year, I joined choir

because I feel passionate about singing but I wasn't sure where to start. Being part of the choir allowed me to go on the Vienna trip and that was great fun. I learned a lot and my improvement in singing has been quite significant, which is a wonderful feeling. Singing in those huge churches in Vienna was just amazing. The school allows us to have lots of trips out of the UK and that's such a great experience, to travel but with the safety net of going with people you know. Your teachers are there so you know that if anything goes wrong, it will be alright. Teenagers have a chance to be away from their parents and explore the world and that helps us to become more independent.

Why do you think that challenging yourself is important?

I want to take the opportunity now of exploring lots of different interests because that will inform the decisions I make about what I want my future to be like. The more things I try, the more options I'll have after school. The first and biggest way in which I have challenged myself was in coming to Bloxham, and I did that because I wanted to be a better me. I just keep taking steps out of my comfort zone. They don't always have to be big steps.

Coming to Bloxham was a big step and was good, but small steps are good too. Bloxham in general offers us a lot of choice when it comes to clubs and activities. There are so many sports on offer, and there's also quiet clubs like gardening and book club and so on. You just have to be brave and take the first step. Mr Bull, my Housemaster, always encourages me to try new things. The first time I tried climbing club, I thought I'd signed up for the wrong thing and wanted to give up, but Mr Bull suggested I try again and see how I got on, and I loved it!

Could you tell me about your experience as an international student at Bloxham?

I feel more confident in English now, so I've passed through the biggest challenge which any international student faces. It's hard to talk to people in a foreign language, so my advice to new international students is just to take your time. Don't think you have to be able to talk with anyone quickly, just start off with simple things like saying "hi", "bye" and "how are you?". The atmosphere at Bloxham is great. The community of international pupils is very friendly and everyone is very respectful and accepting of internationals. If I have to rush or if the environment is stressful, then I shut down and stop making progress, but this school isn't like that, it supports me in improving step by step.

What would you like to do after you finish school?

I would like to keep trying new things and spending time on myself outside of education. I want to join lots of societies at university and practice skills in art or music. I don't know about my career, but I don't worry about that because if I do enough now, I can have more choices in the future and make an informed decision. It won't be stressful. My motto is to work hard now and try new things and then when the future comes, I'll know what I want to do.



Spirituality and Service



The Chaplaincy

As usual, it has been a hectic year in the Chaplaincy at Bloxham. Each week, every member of the School gathers in the Chapel at one of the three regular House services, as well as every morning for a service of Morning Prayer.

Alongside these formal and voluntary services there have also been regular parent prayer meetings, Old Bloxhamist services, baptisms, confirmations and a wedding!

At the start of the academic year, the Parish Church of St Mary's Bloxham was in the middle of a major re-ordering project to enable it to continue to serve the local community into the future. Once this work had been completed,

the Parish Priest, Dale Gingrich, welcomed the School back to the newly refurbished Church to enable us to gather as a whole school community for worship. We have also been able to gather in the Church for the service of Carols by Candlelight, the Exham Carol Service, the Whole School Carol service and for concerts too.

On Saturday the 11th of November the school gathered on the Main Field for our annual Remembrance Day service. During the service the Combined Cadet Force Standard Flags were given their first outing, and they now stand in the school chapel, marking two of the war memorials that remember Bloxhamists who paid the ultimate price in war.

Another highlight was our School Confirmation Service. At this service two students were baptised and nine students and one staff member were confirmed by our school Prost, Bishop Jonathan Meyrick. It was great that these candidates were supported by so many members of their families as well as God Parents, fellow students, and staff.

The singing at our services continues to go from strength to strength. All our services are supported and encouraged by the excellent musical talent on hand at Bloxham, including

our organist, Dr Ruck, our choirs under the direction of Mr Ramm and our instrumentalists under the direction of Mr Redpath. It has also been great to welcome back Old Bloxhamists who have performed alongside current students and staff at a number of special services and concerts.

Throughout the year, the Chaplaincy has also been host to a student from Oxford as he prepares for ordination as a Deacon in the Church of England. Ben has helped, served, spoken, and led at some of our Chapel services, as well as helping at some of our Christian group meetings. As Ben continues his training, we pray for him and for his future ministry.

As well as the regular Chapel services, there are many other opportunities for students to meet and explore their faith. Mr Moir, assisted by some of our Sixth Form, runs the Fish Skool group for our younger years. Fish Skool meet each week to have fun, learn more about Christianity and have discussions around the role and position of faith in life. There is also the Exploring Faith group that meet each week; this group gives our older students the opportunity to meet and look in-depth at the life of Jesus and the ongoing impact of the Christian Faith on our lives and the life of the wider world. [AJL](#)

Service

As part of Sixth Form life at Bloxham School services we put on a weekly provision where the Lower Sixth give and provide service for others.

We have a group of ten students that work with residents at Green Pastures Christian nursing home. They have played games like Jenga and formed lovely relationships with residents and staff. Some of the residents visited Bloxham in December for an early Christmas lunch and came back for The Festival of Services in June where they were treated to a superb afternoon tea prepared by Mr Harvey and Mrs Danby.

Great Tew and Bloxham Primary schools attend after-school clubs run by our students. This year has had all the

traditional and popular clubs being run, such as art, animal club, sport, design and technology, languages and cooking with the primary school children proudly showing off to their parents at pick up what they have produced. They may have decorated pebbles, held a lizard for the first time, learnt how to play tennis, created a personalised laser cut jigsaw, learnt some Mandarin, or baked a bag full of cookies! In addition to this, and new for this year, was The Young Geographers club. Claire Evans created a dynamic after-school club looking at, for example, different volcanos and recreating them and what the eruptions looked like! The great thing about this club was it had Lower Sixth running the session with support from Fourth Form students who assisted the primary school children. I really hope that this can be the model we put out across all of our service provision in the future.



Whilst what they have made or learnt has been memorable, the true reward comes to our students as they mature, take responsibility for something that doesn't have an obvious benefit for themselves! Later in life they will realise just how valuable this time was for their personal and social development. [PGH and SC](#)

Staff Leavers

Dan Evans

Dan joined Bloxham School in September 2023 helping to deliver A Level chemistry to our largest Upper Sixth cohort and has made fantastic contributions in his very brief time at Bloxham. He unfortunately leaves after only one year to develop his educational business interests.

Dan has been an inspirational and dedicated teacher in the chemistry department, enthusing students with lessons that promote deep intellectual curiosity and supporting students to develop an academic rigour that is support Bloxham chemists to pursue scientific degrees beyond Bloxham. Furthermore, he has also made excellent contributions to department wellbeing, not only providing support to colleagues in the classroom drawing on his wealth of knowledge and experiences but also to all our stomachs through his culinary expertise. Indeed, Dan's excellent chemistry skills are mirrored by his cake baking prowess. His lemon drizzle and Victoria sandwich with fresh cream and strawberries were particular highlights!

Dan's departure from Bloxham is a significant loss but I'm sure he will help future chemistry students to enjoy and excel away from Bloxham. I am extremely grateful for all his hard work, dedication and professionalism. Thank you so much! SF

Stephen Haynes

Stephen Haynes retires after 24 years as Bloxham's School Doctor. Stephen and Lucy have been major stakeholders in the School, as five of their children – Simon (LS/Sy 01-08), Sam (LS/Sy 04-11), William

LS/Sy 08-15), Oliver (LS/Sy 08-15) and Alice (LS/Ry 09-16) all came here and Simon married another OB, Lauren (Brockless, Ry 04-09).

The job of the School Doctor has changed a good deal since Stephen started at Bloxham, with the increasing number of day pupils, usually with their own GP, the Health Centre's move from the building which is now Exham House and the attendant shrinkage in the size of medical provision, along with the recent challenges posed by Covid and the growing challenges of mental health and wellbeing for pupils and staff.

Stephen worked with a large number of medical staff in his time, from Steph Ashton, Jan Furley and Joyce Wilkowski in the early years to Cath Young, Sue Edmunds and now Stella Cattell and her team today. Sue recounts that on arriving in 'Old Palmer' she was made to feel welcome by Stephen: "Throughout my time he provided great support and advice whenever I needed it as well as sharing a wealth of knowledge in many areas of school medicine."

In all areas of school life, Stephen's measured approach was appreciated, not least in rugby, an area of contention due to its nature as a contact sport. Stephen was supportive to a succession of Directors of Rugby but never shied away from the challenge posed by increasing concern over head injuries.

Michael Price, who probably worked with Stephen more closely than anyone, remarked that Stephen managed to be unobtrusive, "which I think was deliberate. He didn't want to over promote

unnecessary health concerns amongst those teenagers who might be convinced their cold was actually malaria!" He was an effective advocate for individuals who needed support, always seeing the patient at the heart of his world, and never allowing the sins of the parents to overwhelm the real needs of the child. Bloxham had reason to be grateful to him when in March 2020 he provided a clear and prescient assessment of what we were facing, which shaped the school's successful response to the pandemic crisis.

We should recognise Lucy's contribution, and not just in giving the school five delightful children to teach. Michael writes "We had a great deal of Stephen's time and energy but it was so unobtrusive (there's that word again) that most people never realised. Lucy supported him in that, as well as being a regular supporter of school events herself."

One of Stephen's most fulfilling, though under-appreciated roles involved his work at a national level with MOSA, the Medical Officers of Schools Association, first through serving on its council and then as its President between 2018 and 2024. He has played a vital role in shaping Association policy and keeping Bloxham in touch with developments at other schools, not least during the pandemic.

Given that there can't be a single pupil who has never once visited Palmer, especially in the rugby season or the week leading up the House Cross Country, I suspect that since 2000 more Bloxhamists, past and

present, may have come into contact with Dr Haynes than any single subject teacher, and they and we owe him a great deal of gratitude for his calm demeanour and expertise over the last 24 years. We wish him a happy and healthy retirement. SJB



Debbie Herring

Debbie joined Bloxham in 2009 so by the time I arrived she was already a well-established figure in the Common Room.

Her arrival was a breath of fresh air, or perhaps more of a thunderstorm as she set to work overseeing not the Religious Education department, and not the Religious Studies department, but most definitely the Theology Department. Michael Price the then Chaplain commented, "Debbie brought order to the department. She introduced us to things like mark schemes and knowing specifications properly. She then brought IT into our lives. But there was always a sense of fun beneath the iron rod. Ask any Bloxhamist of the last 23 years to name the fruits of the spirit and they will burst into song." Debbie is a formidable intellect and a formidable Theologian, always keen to discuss and debate on a wide range of topics from Aristotle to Zoroastrianism!

As well as her formidable academic attributes, Debbie had a strong sense of right and wrong. She was an advocate: this must be something to do with bringing up five children. "She knew when and how to stand up for colleagues, dealing firmly but fairly and wisely with those of us tasked to represent a different point of view! She was a supporter of the underdog. She was often requested as a tutor by those who found school and education most trying. They had her confidence, and she had their backs. She saw some of our most troubled students through their school careers."

Debbie started as a Tutor in Wilson under Mark Skevington, who noted: "your very thorough Friday night duties in Wilson and meal duty queues; the walking stick with the skull top when she had her dodgy hip; but who could forget her performance of *I Will Follow Him* from *Sister Act?* – and the Great Hall reaction – you couldn't tell her apart from Whoopi Goldberg!"

But, most telling, if you ask the students to describe Dr Herring: they shiver and quake from the time they nearly forgot to do their prep or turned up seconds late for her lesson, then recall how well they did in their Theology exam or their Third Form research project. But, ask her tutees and they don't squirm: "she's not like in the classroom, she's different, she's chilled and helpful, she pulls you up when you get something wrong but she is always there to support you."

Debbie, on behalf of all those generations of students that you have nurtured through their teenage years – THANK YOU... Bloxham will not be the same without you. We wish you a very long and happy retirement. MJMM



Alice Hickling

We are saying farewell to, Alice, who's been with us since 2002. I'll reflect on her journey with us, celebrate the roles she's had and the lasting impact she's made.

Alice joined us over two decades ago, bringing her expertise and passion to the role of Head of Textiles. She also served as a tutor in Wilberforce and later in Exham, and her contributions as the Common Room social secretary are well remembered. Known for organizing fine CR dinners, Alice's flair for decoration and bringing people together enriched the events.

With a degree in Graphic Design and a PGCE, Alice has always been committed to fostering creativity. She takes immense pride in the variety and high quality work produced under her guidance. The innovative environment she has cultivated is a testament to her dedication and vision.

A significant highlight of Alice's time here has been her getting together with Nic. They became a couple in May 2022, though there's some friendly disagreement on the exact date! While The Elephant may have played a role in their story, they can't agree on the date, while many of us in DT believe it all started with a departmental visit to Pizza Calzone and a good bottle of red wine.

Alice's personal journey is also a poignant one. Her son Ben was just five when she joined Bloxham, and now he is a successful OB at 27, having completed his PhD.

The support of the school community was especially crucial during a difficult period in 2006, when Alice's partner Mike passed away suddenly. Alice expressed her deep gratitude for the compassion and support she received during that challenging time.

As Alice now departs Bloxham, she embarks on a new and exciting chapter. She and Nic are moving to Norfolk, where Alice will enjoy a well-earned retirement from teaching. Her new role as project manager for the renovation of their beautiful new, 300-year-old house promises to keep her busy. This move also brings her closer to her family; her mother and brother, who live nearby.

Alice, your departure marks the end of an era for us. Your creativity, warmth, and dedication have left a mark on us and we will miss you. TMS



Nic Hollinworth

So we're bidding farewell to Nic. Over the past seven years, Nic has been an integral part of our community and department, and his skills and care will be missed.

Nic made an impact as soon as he arrived in January 2017. Known for his kindness, caring nature, and super intelligence,

Nic has always been ready to lend a hand and share his vast knowledge. His journey with us has seen him wear many hats: Technician, Workshop Manager, Seymour Tutor, and teacher of Computer Science and Maths.

Although he found his true love in the workshop, crafting and creating, it was in IT where he truly excelled.

Nic's academic credentials are nothing short of impressive. Holding a PhD in Computer Science, his work focused on inclusive design for aging computer users, a field of research that underscores his compassionate and forward-thinking approach. Alongside his doctorate, he holds an MSc in Computer Science, degrees in Maths and Geology, and a PGCE.

His intellectual curiosity hasn't stopped there; he began exploring languages but is now starting a degree in Physics.

Throughout his time, Nic has driven forward a number of new innovations. He helped to bring us the green-powered car project, advanced laser cutting and 3D printing techniques, and even the crafting of bass guitars. His woodworking skills have grown exponentially, much to the admiration of all who have seen his work.

On a personal note, meeting Alice has been a highlight for him, a testament to the meaningful connections he has made.

Outside of his professional life, Nic has a passion for motorbiking. He's restored vintage bikes and rides both a 1978 Triumph Bonneville and a Harley Davidson Sportster. His musical talents are equally impressive; he plays the bass guitar, drums, and clarinet, and has been a member of the Sibford Orchestra.

As Nic embarks on his next chapter, he is not retiring but returning to his research roots. He's heading to Wymondham to delve into the exciting fields of VR and AI, with a particular focus on inclusive design. This next phase promises to be as innovative and impactful as his time with us, and we can imagine the impressive things he'll create in his new workshop.

Nic, your departure will leave a void that will be hard to fill. Your contributions have been invaluable, and your legacy will continue to be an inspiration. We wish you all the best in your future endeavours and look forward to seeing the amazing work you'll undoubtedly produce. Thank you, Nic, for everything. **TMS**



Nichole Guzenda

Nichole Guzenda joined Bloxham in April 2021 as Head of Psychology whilst we were sleepily coming out of Covid lockdowns, a challenging time to be joining a school, particularly as we were navigating the new isolation rules and teaching remotely. Nichole took it all in her stride and she quickly became integrated in the School – always with a measured sense of calm.

In June 2023, Nichole took over the responsibility of Head of Careers from Dr Evans. She made it her objective to ask the right people the right questions and to understand the career needs of our students. She

set about delivering a school assembly to share the potential career pathways to our students. She organised a Careers Fair for all year groups and reached out to external professionals to interview our students. During twilight sessions, Nichole offered support to students and was proactive in her research to match students' career requests to opportunities in life beyond Bloxham. Nichole is a caring and supportive member of the teaching body who also showed kindness to those she buddied.

Nichole will be moving to Cornwall this year and to a new business venture where she is hoping to offer psychotherapy advice to teachers on a consultancy basis. We wish Nichole every success in her new adventure and hope she keeps in touch. **JAC**

Claire Limpkin

Claire joined Bloxham School in September 2023 and has made significant contributions in her short stay at Bloxham. She unfortunately leaves after only one year with us to take on a full-time role at Sibford School where she will take on the role of second in Chemistry.

Claire has been a dynamic teacher in the chemistry department, enthusing students with lessons that promote curiosity through lots of practical opportunities as well as encouraging academic stretch and challenge. She has also made excellent contributions to the Exham Chemistry club as part of the broader curriculum, run support sessions for our two Chemistry Olympiad Gold medallists, and been a kind and supportive tutor in Seymour House. Indeed, over the course of the year for her Exham Chemistry club, Claire could always be found scouring the internet for the best recipe for the

largest Elephant's toothpaste or the most violent coke and mentos explosion.

The cliché of Sibford School's gain is Bloxham's loss will no doubt ring true, and I hope her new students will enjoy a positive experience that Bloxham's have had this year. I hope her new department will be as grateful as I have been for her dedication. Thank you so much! **SF**

Nadia Lovering

I had the great pleasure of working with Nadia in my previous school during her teacher training year. As her subject mentor, I witnessed Nadia teacher her very first lesson, having never taught before. From the very beginning, Nadia commanded the classroom and earned the respect of her students. After successfully completing her training, with flying colours, Bloxham was lucky enough to welcome her as a maths teacher and lead netball coach in September 2022. Having worked with Nadia again this year, it is clear to see how much she has flourished as a teacher over the past two years. She has brought vibrancy and a wealth of new ideas to the department and is never afraid to take risks in order to develop her teaching and inspire her students. She seeks to make her lessons as interactive as possible and is able to engage some of the more lively characters for whom maths is not necessarily their favourite subject!

Students have nothing but positive things to say about her and they appreciate her dedication to supporting the netball and sailing teams. Nadia has also been an integral part of the development of girls' cricket. Nadia's dedication knows no bounds.

I wish Nadia all the best for the future and know that she will continue to enrich the lives of the students

she teaches; she is an outstanding teacher and a great loss to Bloxham. Nadia is moving back to Brecon, closer to family, and will join the mathematics department at Gwernyfed High School. Goodbye and good luck! **SM**



Jocelyn Merris

Jocelyn joined Bloxham as Head of Maths in 2017; a role that she carried out up to 2023. Her tenure as Head of Maths was characterised by her relentless work rate and high standards, with the student very much at the centre of all that she did. It was however Jocelyn's move into Crake in 2018, and in the process becoming Crake's inaugural female tutor where I truly got to know this remarkable, caring, empathetic and compassionate person. Jocelyn is a person who lives out her Christian values in all that she does; she is an incredible tutor who makes time for all of her tutees and knows them not simply as tutees, but as people.

Jocelyn's tutees know how much she cares about them, and how fortunate they have been to have her 'in their corner'. At a personal level, Jocelyn has also been an immense source of strength and support for me – none more so than during my first year in post as Housemaster (2018-19) where she was able to use all the wisdom accrued from five years as a Housemistress at Rossall to help keep me going when times were tough.

One of Jocelyn's greatest traits, perhaps at times to her own detriment, is her generosity with her own time. In spite of having responsibility for both the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme as well as overseas students, Jocelyn is always there at every house event, and will inevitably be the person who stays right through until the end. She is not the sort of person who seeks the spotlight, but rather believes in doing a job well and helping others. It is her commitment to all aspects of the House that has seen her become unofficially christened as 'St Jocelyn' the patron saint of Crake, and within House she is truly irreplaceable. It was perhaps fitting that one of Jocelyn's final contributions to Bloxham was delivering the sermon in the leavers' service; a thought-provoking address delivered from the heart, which encapsulated all that this wonderful person holds dear. [RH](#)



Fi Mikel

It has been an utter privilege to work with Fi. There is a special sort of magic when specialisms, actors and teachers come together and Fi has sparked that magic in the drama department. She has supported the department with creative decisions, planning, admin, turning around exam pieces and productions, and delivering individual LAMDA examinations, helping so many of our students achieve success.

Fi has been my fixer finisher. Is there a piece that's not working? We'll take it to Fi, she will know, and she always does. This doesn't do justice to such a rare and remarkable talent. I know that she's special; parents know that too and have commented as such on numerous occasions. Most importantly, our students recognise how special she is too. Speaking to Third Form, two commented on how special the production had been with Fi's input "this has been really special, hasn't it?" and "I'm going to miss us!".

Over and above the nuts and bolts of the job, what Fi does is to see the potential

in every young person that comes to the department and declares that they want to do drama.

Fi, you have been inspirational to work alongside. Thank you for your creativity, your brilliance, kindness and support.

Thank you for the special sense of belonging that you have fostered in every cast and ensemble and for making students (and staff) feel special, talented and brilliant. Thank you for instilling that all important sense of self-belief that makes a nervous anxious student grow ten feet tall in front of an audience. Most of all, thank you for the multitude

of special moments that will stay with us all for ever.

We wish you, Sam, Raphy and Raynor the very best of all possible works in Bristol and beyond. [JCS](#)

We also say a fond farewell to the following staff who we thank for their contribution to the Bloxham School community:

Sam Brassington
Lucy Hynes
Richard Lovering
Hugo Mulvey
Jim Richardson
George Setterfield

New Staff

Alan Awcock – Director of Sport

Daniel Busby – Assistant Head of Maths

Gary Chalmers – Head of Physics

Celena Dell – Teacher of Science

Peter Dukes – Teacher of LAMDA

Hannah Edwards – Teacher of Science

Thomas Greator-Sanderson – Crake Assistant Housemaster; Head of Psychology; Teacher of Academic PE

Kathryn Head – Teacher of Spanish (Maternity Cover)

Victoria Howell – Stonehill Assistant Housemistress; Teacher of Academic PE

Matt Kent – Teacher of English as an Additional Language

Alex Peck – Head of Design and Technology

Charlotte Seaman – Teacher of Hockey

Natalie Tadman – Teacher of Textiles and Art

Sara Thomas – Teacher of English

Carla Towey – Teacher of Science

Ugo Zilioli – Head of Religious Studies, Philosophy and Ethics

Staff Changing Roles

David Bowden – Senior Housemaster; Wilson Housemaster; Teacher of History

Emily Carr – Park Close Assistant Housemistress; Teacher of History

Darran Fowler – Head of Hedges House; Head of Athletics; Teacher of Chemistry

Alex Hawthorn – Seymour Assistant Housemaster; Teacher of PE

Karla Perera – Head of Gifted and Able and Scholars; Head of Biology

Alex Redpath – Head of Barwell House; Director of Music

Sue Russell – Director of Teaching and Learning; Teacher of Geography and Business

Chris Saunders – Director of Studies

Josh Sissons – Wilson Assistant Housemaster; Strength and Conditioning Coach

Simon Thompson – Teacher of Geography; ECT Tutor; International Co-ordinator

James Walker – Egerton Housemaster; Head of Rugby

School Captains and Prefects

School Captains



School Captains – Charlotte F-S. and Toby R.

We are delighted that Charlotte F-S. and Toby R. accepted their nominations to become the School Captains for the 2024-25 academic year. They will be ably assisted by the Prefect Team, School Sacristans and House Captains.

Both students are thrilled to have been appointed School Captain. Toby shared: "I'm really excited to take on this role, they are big shoes to fill, but I'm eager to give back to this incredible community and help to aid in its continued growth and success this coming year."

Charlotte commented: "I am absolutely thrilled to have been appointed School Captain, it is a huge honour and privilege. I really look forward to working with Toby and the prefects to help uphold the Bloxham values and keep this school the brilliant place it is."

School Prefects



House Captains



Crake
George B.



Egerton
Kit T.



Merton
Jamie K.



Raymond
Kaia H.



Seymour
Charlie S.



Stonehill
Molly S.



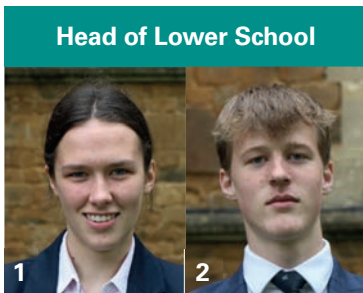
Wilberforce
Emma B.



Wilson
Will D.

Exham
Dara S. and Harry H.

Pastoral Prefects



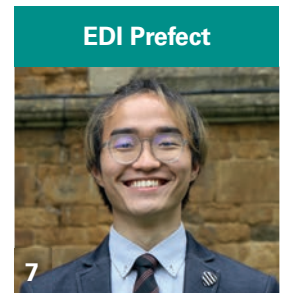
Head of Lower School



Head of Third Form



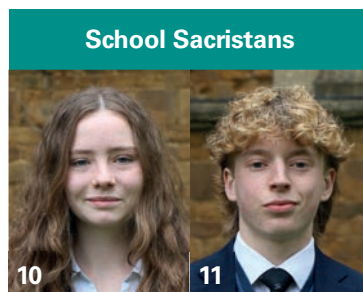
Head of Fourth and Fifth Form



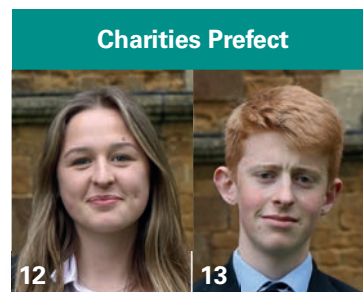
EDI Prefect



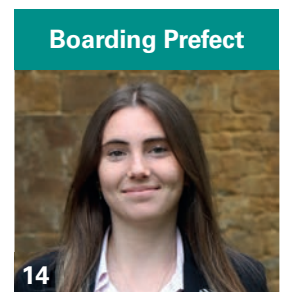
Captains of Guests



School Sacristans



Charities Prefect

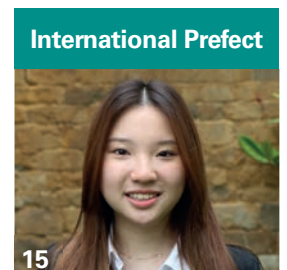


Boarding Prefect

- 1** Teagan P.
- 2** Lewis R.
- 3** Alice B.
- 4** Tom F.
- 5** Milly B.

- 6** Tom R.
- 7** Angus C.
- 8** Zara H.
- 9** Arthur D.
- 10** Martha S.

- 11** Joel W.
- 12** Sienna H.
- 13** Reuben B.
- 14** Evie B.
- 15** Vincy C.



International Prefect

House Summaries





Crake

Housemaster Rob Hudson reminisces on the 2023-24 academic year and lists his top memories:

1. Our Charity Cycle Ride: the epic challenge of cycling 130 miles from Lincoln to Bloxham to raise funds for St Barnabus Hospice, the charity who cared for the sister of Mr Ramm, Crake Tutor, before she passed away in September 2023.
2. House Magazine: after a hiatus of several years, this year saw the publication of our house magazine (renamed *The Crakian*). The level of student support and engagement was fantastic, with a huge number of students actively involving themselves with the process and contributing a variety of articles to it. This provided a great opportunity to celebrate the diverse achievements and contributions of our student body, recognising their successes outside of our immediate House community.
3. The House Concert: one of the great internal events in the Crake calendar. There is a wonderfully collegiate and supportive atmosphere, with everybody getting up on stage and participating. Particularly impressive here were the performances from Olly S., Woody R., Ed S., Bailey H-B., Alex J. and Henry M.. It was also great to see the effort put in by the Third Form band when preparing their piece; whilst some may not have played their instruments for several years, they all came together to work on their piece, and their final performance reflected their hard work.
4. The House Cook Off: the annual Crake House Cook off is always a keenly contested affair. In a tight competition which included dishes such as Teriyaki salmon, chilli squid and marinated sea bass, Mateo S. and Rafa L G. were awarded 'dish of the day' for their steak tartare. However, the overall winners were Hayden W. and George A. for their chicken tikka masala for main, and chocolate brownies for dessert.

Departing House Captain, Alexander D., writes about the lessons he has learned from his time in Crake House:

From the five years that I have spent in Crake, I feel the biggest lesson that I have learnt is the importance of valuing and cultivating those friendships that the House helps you to create. As my time at Bloxham comes to a close, I have come to realise just how many of my school memories and experiences as a whole were forged within the House.

The sheer amount of time we spend with those in our House year group means that we see each other at our worst, but

also at our best. This leads to a whole different kind of relationship, and whilst at times we have inevitably fallen out, our shared experiences and ultimately our underlying level of trust has given us the tools to quickly rebuild our relationships. It is the depth of these relationships which hopefully means that these are some of the friendships that I will hopefully hold for life. Whilst those Crake values of trust, honesty and respect are something that has been pushed to us from the start as the foundations for an effective and all-encompassing community, this is also the base for the effective friendships that have brought me so much enjoyment over the last five years.

Fifth Former Henry M. recalls his highlight from this year:

I have been DJing for four years now and I think my most memorable set was this year in the Crake Basement Rave. This involved 200 students (although not all down there at once) coming in to experience the Crake basement. We are the only House to hold our House Dance within the House itself, and we had collected the best range of speakers available to us at that time (and of course set them up in line with the Health and Safety regulations for sound and distance from participants, making full use of Mr Hudson's decibel meter...) requiring us to source separate power from another building. Aside from some brick dust coming down where I was DJing, the basement held up well, and the low ceilings, echo and low-level lighting meant that there was a great atmosphere.

Upper Sixth Pablo M C., who joined Bloxham from Spain in 2022, reflects on his time with Crake House:

One of the best experiences I have had during my time at Crake this year was Clay Pigeon Shooting at Edgehill with the Upper Sixth Crake leavers along with Mr Hudson and Mr Gamble. It was a great experience that I had never done before (made better because I did pretty well for my first time) and it was great to share this experience with my friends and teachers. When finished, where we enjoyed a very nice meal out. It was great to have all the house staff together, and our House Captain Alex D. gave us a great speech thanking everybody for a wonderful year. Mr Hudson also gave a short speech (short for him) and reminded us of all that we have experienced and gained this year. This let me reflect on my experiences over the past two years, the friends I have made, and the relationships I have been able to make with my teachers.



Egerton

Housemaster David Best recalls his top moments from the year:

1. Winning the Senior House Rugby 7s competition for the third consecutive year. The Egerton team, though filled with talented rugby players, contained the 1st XV front row and, on paper, lacked the necessary pace for 7s rugby. Team spirit won the day with a mixture of Fifth and Sixth Formers proving that, on this occasion, the speedsters contained within the other Houses would be unable to overcome the Egerton 'wall'. The team contained players from Fifth, Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth years; an encouraging sign for next year.
2. Sleep-Out: the major charity fundraiser this year was the House Sleep-Out, helping to raise funds for the Homeless in Oxfordshire. The boys were allowed use of a sleeping bag, as well as cardboard to lie on. The gazebos were only there should the heavens open, as was the case last summer. There are several opportunities during a school year when the House can come-together and create something special and memorable, and the sleep-out was definitely one of those occasions.
3. House Music Competition: for many years, Egerton has not featured in the top positions for House Music, in any category. This year's ensemble group (Corban S., Lino C D., Hugo L., Dan S. and Ramsay S-C.) came together for a rendition of the Wham! single, *Careless Whisper*. The group had practised hard in order to produce something rather special, with the audience's reaction suggesting that they had been successful.

Egerton's departing House Captain, Corban S., muses on lessons learned in Egerton:

The biggest lesson I have learned during my five years in Egerton is how to be more organised and independent, and to also have an open mind about trying new things which the School puts on offer. Throughout my time in Egerton, I believe my confidence has grown which has led me to believing in myself a lot more. This has helped me a lot especially through music and sport, as well as in my role as Egerton House Captain.

Fifth Form's Alfie G. chooses his top highlights from the year:

For me there have been countless things this term that could be highlighted as some of the best moments. However, I mustn't make this a 200-page book, so I have refined them down to only a few. House rugby has to make it into this article as Egerton have won the triple (three house rugby tournaments in a row), and even though I was not competing in the A team it was still a spectacle to watch with some truly fantastic moments.

Another event that I must mention was House sailing. It was my first time in five years sailing so I was a bit rusty. However, my co-sailor Max and I got back into form and had a successful run having come fourth overall, losing third to Wilson by one point. I thoroughly enjoyed the race, unfortunately though, having remained relatively dry the whole time, I was pushed into the very cold water at the end by my 'friends'!

Another highlight of this year has been generally spending time around the House. Everybody has been a joy to talk to, speaking about our plans for the coming term or even the things we are looking forward to after exams; the conversations have always been crammed with eventful topics.

This year has been great in every aspect, excluding exams, and I have enjoyed it thoroughly and look forward to more great memories next year!

Third Fomer, Cyrus N-J., recalls his top moments of the year:

My first year at Bloxham has been filled with many enjoyable experiences, ranging from House barbeques and spending time with friends, to participating in House competitions like hockey and rugby. The Egerton house community has been particularly inclusive, making my year smooth and enjoyable. One of the key highlights of my year was the Third Form bowling trip. It was a relaxed evening where we could all unwind and simply have fun. Additionally, Mr Best's leaving party stands out as a memorable event filled with delicious food and interesting speeches. My first year at Bloxham has been fantastic and I'm looking forward to many more great experiences in the future.



Exham

Head of Exham, Clare Bridge, reflects on her highlights from this academic year:

We had a fantastic start to the year with our First Form camp to the Trewern Centre in Hay-on-Wye. I was very proud of the students who were prepared to give everything a go, as they took part in gorge walking, climbing, canoeing, and a night hike. It was a wonderful bonding experience between the students as well as their tutors, and great to see many new friendships starting to form.

Our annual trip to Giffords Circus was as magical as always, with an amazing array of acrobatics, and a lot of laughs! The whole House also enjoyed our Exham Dance, and we were particularly entertained by the student dance off, with some hidden talents being revealed!

As I write, we have recently returned from our Second Form camp, where I was equally proud of those students for stepping out of their comfort zones, and always doing their best. Great fun was had at Boddington Reservoir where the students were sailing, canoeing and paddle boarding. They also completed a challenging hike with very few complaints! As the Second Form move on to the senior school, it is wonderful to see the characters that have developed, the friendships that have grown, and generally how far the students have come since they joined us. We wish them all the best as they move onto their senior houses.

Michael D S. and Fran B., Exham's House Captains, highlight their top lessons learnt:

As a First Former, going into Bloxham was quite nerve racking, as there were simply so many things to remember and it is very easy to get something wrong. Therefore, I think that the biggest lesson I have learnt from my time in Exham House is to stay organised. Staying organised is the key to avoiding trouble at every corner. Forgot which lesson is next? Just check your timetable! You have a prep due in tomorrow? Ensure that you get it done as soon as possible. By staying organised, you can focus on working, socialising, and enjoying every other brilliant part of Exham House! [Michael](#)

The most important lesson I have learned from Exham was the value of friendship. Beyond the classes and homework, it was the connections I made with my friendships that truly stood out. Friendships have taught me empathy, co-operation, and resilience. Working on things like house competitions showed me the importance of teamwork and communication,

while helping me socialize with people in house that I might not know that well. My friends were a constant source of support and encouragement, helping me grow and understand the world better. In the end, the friendships I made at Exham have made me a better person and prepared me for my future in a way that no class could. [Fran](#)

Cillian M. and Clara F. from First Form pick their top memories from the year:

My first year at Exham has been exciting and full of new and interesting opportunities. Daily life in Exham has been very enjoyable. In breaktime, we'd play cricket, Ping-Pong and other sports we enjoy, such as pool. One of my most memorable experiences was when we went to the Corinium museum in Cirencester towards the end of the year. We had lots of fun going on a scavenger hunt placing theories on what things meant and why they were there, and having people role-playing as people back in the Roman era. We also went to the Gifford's Circus at Blenheim, and it was stupendous with many dangerous and thrilling tricks being performed, and seemingly impossible deeds executed perfectly. There was a lot of skill required with disappearances taking place and people hanging by their teeth from high in a ring. I also enjoyed the activities I have been able to experience including performing at String Day. It has also been fun this year to take part in many showcases of music and drama. This year has been an amazing one, and there have been opportunities everywhere. [Cillian](#)

I thoroughly enjoyed my first year of Exham, from making new friends on the Trewern trip to trying fun activities such as canoeing and kayaking. I have really enjoyed the opportunity to learn a new instrument, the clarinet, and to take part in Young Musician of the Future concerts. Another highlight of my year was going to Broughton Castle and taking part in a Shakespeare drama workshop with actors from the Royal Shakespeare Company. After we watched the actors perform a scene from *A Midsummer's Night's Dream*, our school went into a small group with one of the actors and got to perform a few scenes ourselves. There are so many extra-curricular activities to choose from as well: I have enjoyed dance, cooking and netball. I have played much more sport this year representing the school in hockey, netball and tennis matches. I have really enjoyed being able to learn new languages and explore my passion for music and drama at every opportunity. It has been an amazing first year and I am looking forward to an exciting year in Second Form! [Clara](#)



Merton

Cheryl Linton, Merton's Housemistress, picks her top moments for Merton in 2023-24:

What an amazing year it has been. Starting off the first day back in September with fantastic weather, epic team-building challenges, an ultimate frisbee tournament and an ice-cream van, I had such a positive feeling about the students in Merton who are willing to give new things a go! With a new team at my side, including Mr May (Assistant Housmaster), Mrs Coventry (Matron) and Miss Jenkins (Assistant Matron). We have all now found our feet and are ready to hit the ground running in September!

One of my personal highlights of the year was hosting the first ever Merton's Got Talent (MGT) show. The aim was to raise money for The Three Parishes Community Fridge. On a dreary January evening, parents were invited along for wine and nibbles in the Great Hall whilst Merton's finest showcased their talents. The acts ranged from vocal acts to rubix cubes to magic shows. It was a hugely entertaining evening and we are already making plans for MGT 2025!

Heidi R., departing House Captain, reflects on her time in Merton:

Being Merton's House Captain has taught me many valuable skills and life lessons that I will take with me as I leave Bloxham; for example, leading my House through various school competitions and events has shown me the value of House spirit and School spirit. From these House competitions, I have developed my leadership and communication skills, as well as finding my place in the smaller school community of being in Merton House but

also the wider school in leading and representing my House. Navigating the ups and downs, successes and failures has strengthened my problem-solving skills and ability to think on my feet. Most importantly, this role has instilled in me a sense of responsibility and pride in representing my House. These experiences and lessons I've learned will undoubtedly serve me well as I move forward, both in my academic and extracurricular pursuits as an Old Bloxhamist.

Merton's Olivia and Benji look back on an enjoyable year:

This year at Merton has been incredibly enjoyable for me. I wasn't too confident when I joined, but both the teachers and students there really helped me settle in. The encouragement from the tutors and staff around me in House have encouraged me to work harder and aim higher. Being in a co-ed house has given me the opportunity to make a diverse group of friends. The House events, from House sports to Merton's Got Talent, have been a highlight, giving me opportunities and a sense of community. [Olivia A., Third Form](#)

Merton has changed in a good way this year with both new teachers and new events happening like the House talent show. I have really enjoyed the supportive environment around Merton this year which has helped me get through mocks and my real GCSEs. You know you can always find someone to talk to about exams whether it's teachers who can give you advice or if it's someone in the older years who has already been through them. Even with all the stress from exams, there is still lots of fun stuff going on and you can always find something to do to relax. [Benji T., Fifth Form](#)





Raymond

Raymond Housemistress Jude Single reflects on the past year listing her top three moments of the year:

Another busy, and rewarding year comes to a close with more memories made:

1. The charity fundraising Halloween Social and Raffle was a fantastic night of fun and dancing for the Raymond students. With an eight foot inflatable witch overseeing proceedings, and all the students fully participating in the fun of dressing for the occasion, we raised a total of £1,000 for Cancer Research UK. Thank you to all the students and parents who provided prizes and bought tickets.
2. As always, sport has been an important part of the Raymond calendar, with highlights winning the Junior House Netball, both Senior and Junior Hockey and the House badminton! House sport is a great example of all the girls working together to support each other and represent the House spirit at its absolute best.
3. As a drama teacher, I am always delighted to see the students get involved in drama and public speaking and this year the girls did not disappoint. We had fabulous performances from our Third Form students in their production of *The Best of All Possible Worlds* and have been impressed by all the hard work put in by those who took public speaking exams this term and who shared their thought-provoking speeches with us during House Assembly.

Lucy B., Raymond's House Captain for 23-24, muses on the lessons learned from her time in House:

Throughout my time in Raymond, I've not only made some amazing memories but also grown both academically and personally. One of the most important lessons I've learned is the power of community. Being part of a diverse group of individuals has shown me the value of teamwork and collaboration. Whether it was organising events, participating in group projects, or supporting each other through various challenges, I have learned that combining different perspectives and relying on each other's strengths makes us stronger. This sense of unity has been instrumental in creating a positive and inclusive community within Raymond.

I've also learned the value of being open minded and trying new things. Embracing opportunities has built my confidence, resilience, and shown me that the greatest rewards often come from pushing my own limits.

Fatima, Lily and Varvara note their most enjoyable experiences of the year:

Raymond is a House full of life and love. When reflecting on the past year at Raymond it is filled with so many enjoyable memories, including House sports such as hockey, cricket, and netball, as well as festive events during the holiday seasons. At Easter, we had a great Raymond Easter egg hunt to which we ate lots of chocolate.

One more of our favourite experiences have come from socialising with our peers. We have tea and talk which is set up by the Sixth Form, we eat a lot of food and drink tea while talking about our feelings. In Raymond we also have house families, in these families we do different activities in our groups. In these we have made towers out of spaghetti and marshmallows, played Dobble and Uno as well as so much more.

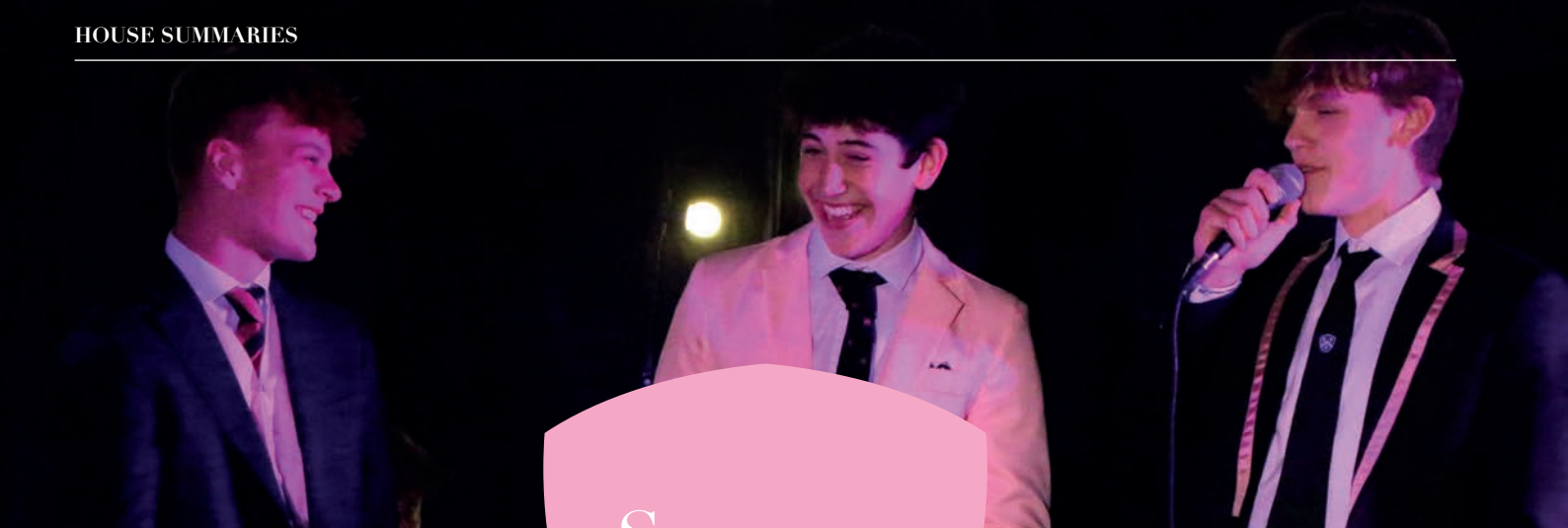
Being in Raymond has made school thoroughly enjoyable with many different events and socials. I'm sure everyone in Raymond can agree that our House is full of tight bonds and flourishing friendships which have formed so fast even considering that we've only known one another for such a short amount of time. So quickly everyone became a family and that's what we love about Raymond. [Fatima N C. and Lily G., Third Form](#)

Even though this is my first year in Bloxham, I have already received a lot of pleasant memories from school life. I have never had such an experience before, as the school system in Russia is very different, which is why this year will be unforgettable for me. I love looking back to the day when I first took part in Raymond life, when me and the girls won House Swimming. We would never have done it if not for our amazing teamwork and the ability to support each other.

Personally, the biggest achievement was taking part in the House Debate alongside Charlotte F-S.. Even though we lost, it was something I have never done before while also having to do it in another language and feeling the responsibility to win for the House was definitely a challenge for me. Nevertheless, it taught me a lot and I will never forget Charlotte and I trying to do our best.

I really look forward to my next year in Raymond which I am sure will bring even more enjoyable experiences.

[Varvara B., Lower Sixth](#)



Seymour

Seymour Housemaster Matt Bull, highlights his top three memories from the year:

1. House Concert – The range of acts on offer was more diverse than ever, with magic to music and poetry to art. Our amazing parent body played their part in the evening by getting involved with the auction and it gives us all enormous pride to know that we raised just over £3,500 for the Teenage Cancer Trust. An incredible effort from all.
2. Report Writing – This summer, when the going was especially slow with the mammoth task of report writing, I ended up searing for any distraction that might alleviate my pain. I could hear shouts from outside and wandered over to my study window. I then ended up spending 20 minutes stood watching around 30 boys, from across the years (and sporting ability spectrum!), play cricket on the Seymour Lawn. If you wanted to get a glimpse into what life is really like in House, this was it. Boys enjoying each other's company, competing and supporting each other, in the short break between supper and prep. It was one of those moments where you are able to take time to reflect and it made me realise that whilst report writing may never be 'my thing', it does mean that I am still a Housemaster and that is something I will remain forever grateful for.
3. Leavers Punting trip – As is tradition, the Seymour staff took the departing Upper Sixth off to Oxford for an evening of punting, before sending them off on study leave. This year's Upper Sixth have proven themselves to be an excellent Prefect Team and they have given so much back to Seymour. From the moment we arrived at the station to time where we bode them farewell, it was clear that not only were they fully cooked and ready to take their place in the real world, they were also tremendous company and thoroughly decent human beings.

Will N., Third Form, picks his most enjoyable memories from this year:

For my first year in Seymour, I have really enjoyed being in the house because of the community. From the matrons who are the backbone, especially for me, being someone who loses and forgets about a lot of things to Mr Bull and Mr Lovering who are always there for a chat or if you have a problem, which helps me cope with stressful times.

I loved spending time with the boys in older years, I have learnt a lot from them and also felt like a lot of boys in older years are there to support me and continue to give plenty of advice.

I took part in the House Debating competition alongside Will M-G. and I'm proud to say that we won, beating Wilson in the final. I felt that the House were very proud of me and I loved the support that we were given throughout the competition.

Charlie S., Lower Sixth, recalls a couple of the most memorable moments of his year:

Throughout this year in Seymour there have been many memorable moments to say the least. It is hard to boil these down to just a handful, but there are two that come to mind.

Firstly, winning Senior House Hockey, after coming up just short in the final last year. We came out all guns blazing and thankfully managed to go on to win the competition with an outstanding collective effort from everyone involved.

Secondly, the Christmas social was another roaring success. The whole House came together to put on an evening full of acts that showcased both the talent and spirit of the House. My personal favourite was the Lower Sixth rendition of *Snow Angel* from *Nativity*. Special mention to the Fourth Form for their slightly different take on the nativity.

Departing House Captain, Harry B., reflects on his time in Seymour:

After five years spent in Seymour House, I have not only had a great time, but I have also learnt several valuable lessons. It's tricky to narrow down and appoint one lesson as the 'biggest' that I've learnt over the course of my years in Seymour, but I think that this is a very important one: the skill of being able to get along and live cohesively with others.

This doesn't just apply to your friends or year group but goes as far as to every corner of the House, to students of all ages, with different corner interests, opinions, and backgrounds. Inevitably while living in a boarding house with 60 or so other boys, there are disagreements, and this is where the real lesson lies. These lessons and skills are ones that will stay with me, and hopefully other boys, for years to come. They are transferable to virtually any sector of life, from business to shared living to simply communicating with your friends.

The School will emphasize the value of the academics or co-curricular, but for me, the real value is found in the friends, memories, and life lessons that you make and learn along the way.



Stonehill

Harriet Woodward, Stonehill Housemistress, enjoyed Michaelmas in House before heading off on maternity leave, with the Stonehill girls providing plenty of love and support before her departure:

My Michaelmas highlight has to be a cup of tea, in fact, several cups of tea. Michaelmas term aligned with the third trimester of my pregnancy and as the term progressed, waddling back and forth from main site to House became harder and harder, and regularly ended with me collapsing on the couch in the kitchen. Every time I arrived, one girl or another would make me a cup of tea. The kindness showed to me was second to none, they made me feel very looked after and incredibly proud of our community and how the girls look out for one another. I can't wait to return in September and bring my baby son Percy to be part of it too.

Jacqui Skevington, Interim Housemistress, provides her highlight from her time in Stonehill:

Being back in a girls' boarding house is like being allowed to re-live the best years of my career at Bloxham. My Stonehill memory is the day and evening before the House Valentine's charity fundraising for Women's Aid. There was a constant buzz in the kitchen coming from the production line. Everyone contributed in some way which was a significant factor in the house successfully creating 500 gifts. Teamwork, communication, creativity and patience were in abundance and all the girls should be very proud of what they achieved collectively.

Amelia N., Upper Sixth, tells more about raising money for Women's Aid:

After conversations between all the girls, Women's Aid was the charity Stonehill chose to support this year. As a girls' boarding house, we felt especially inspired by their work of supporting women and children affected by domestic violence. When deciding how to raise money we knew we wanted a theme to follow, and as Valentine's Day was coming up, we knew it was the perfect time. Our idea was to allow people to send messages of appreciation and friendship to each other through either a sweet treat or a rose. We received overwhelming support of 500 orders, much more than we expected. With only a week until Valentine's Day, the whole House stepped up and helped package the gifts, with some of the Upper Sixth girls staying up late the night before for the finishing touches. After the 'Cupids' delivered, we successfully raised £640 and as a House were all so pleased with how it turned out.

Lucy Hynes, departing Assistant Housemistress, chooses her fondest memory from her two years in Stonehill:

These past two years have been filled with enjoyment, from Matron's legendary afternoon teas to inter-house karaoke, amongst all the many socials we have had together. On reflection, I would have to say that my fondest memories are the Stonehill events themselves, such as House Hockey and House Music. The sense of House pride and the feeling of community as the whole House pulls together to compete or create something is amazing. The fact that I can't think of anything too specific just goes to show how wonderful my time at Stonehill has been. I have loved every moment, and I will miss the whole House immensely.

Third Form's Poppy R. looks back on her first year in Stonehill:

There have been many amazing experiences, but what comes to mind first is how quickly I made friends throughout all year groups through the in-house socials. Another highlight of the Michaelmas term was House Shout, where we had great fun performing our unison entry, *Valerie*. Sport is big part of my favourite bits of life in Stonehill – there is lots of healthy competition and the odd splash of glitter for the House Sports events...! Stonehill has an amazing kitchen which is a very sociable space where I spend most of my time. During tea and chats and lunchtime breaks there's time to catch up with friends from all the years and it is always great to sample Matron's amazing cakes and hot chocolates in the winter! More recently, it was lovely to meet the new incoming Third Form girls. It made me reflect on how much I have done this year in Stonehill and all the things I have learnt from being in such a friendly and fun house. I am looking forward to what next year brings!

Molly S., incoming House Captain for 2024-25, describes what she is looking forward to next year:

I can't wait to be House Captain of Stonehill because I am extremely passionate about my house and want each and every girl in Stonehill to feel the same way. I want the Stonehill girls to be known for having a go, giving their all and taking every opportunity the School has to offer through events like inter-house sport competitions, House Shout, House Drama and as well as in events outside of Stonehill. I would like to personally play a part in setting the girls on the right path to be the best version of themselves both academically and socially but above all, I want to create a community in Stonehill, that the girls can call a home.



Wilberforce

Pippa Duncan Jones highlights her top memories for 23-24 as Wilberforce Housemistress

1. House Assemblies – these have been an integral part of cementing the Wilberforce values as well as listening to talks on inspirational people and allowing students to grow their confidence with speaking in front of a supportive audience. The topics have ranged from House charities to ‘why Wilberforce should get a puppy’, anti-racism to inspirational women. A highlight of this slot has become ‘Life skills with Matron’ and a special mention must go to the two students (one Third Form and Upper Sixth) who worked together to produce an amazing presentation on Autism Awareness Week. House time has felt very special this year.
2. House Days – the start of the year saw us hiring in the one and only Head of Health and Safety (Phil to his fans) to run self-defence workshops. There was that initial awkward silence with everyone wondering what on earth was being asked of them, swiftly followed by much noise, laughter, and fantastic displays of athleticism. It’s fair to say it was a memorable day made complete by the pool party and freshly cooked pizza-oven pizzas. At Christmas, Wilberforce took to the ice at the beautiful setting of Warwick Castle under lights. There were no injuries and a huge amount of fun, interaction between year groups, and some impressive skating from students and matrons!
3. Celebrating our Upper Sixth – We travelled into Oxford, meeting many Wilberforcians (old and new) along the way and arrived at Magdalen Bridge to punt, not quite knowing how the evening would unfold. Punting is not a House competition but if it was, Wilberforce would have won the ‘least people to fall in the river’ award and the Seymour House staff the ‘most entertaining moment’ award. Following the punting and with refreshments much in need, we headed up to a rooftop for dinner and drinks before waving the girls off for the rest of their evening. It was a wonderful way to spend the final night of the half term and to mark the end of their time in Wilberforce. They are a special group with exciting futures ahead and we feel honoured to have been a part of their formative years. Oh, and I don’t think I’m allowed a fourth highlight so I will just pop on here that we were House Music winners again this year – our ensemble and whole house choir were fabulous!

Shamilla M., departing House Captain, sums up her time in Wilberforce (Wilbo):

As I reflect on my journey at Bloxham that began in the First Form and carried me through the transformative years from the Third Form to the Upper Sixth, I feel really privileged to have been in Wilberforce. The biggest lesson I’ve learned from my time in Wilbo is the profound importance of community, kindness, and respect, which together create a family-like bond that is both supportive and enduring.

From the moment I joined Wilbo, I felt the warmth and acceptance that define this unique community. It was clear that Wilbo was more than just a boarding house; it was a home filled with girls from all years who over time have become like sisters to me. Living and growing together, we have built a network of relationships grounded in genuine care and mutual support. This environment has shown me the true essence of what it means to be part of a close-knit community.

Alicia W. looks back on her first year in Wilberforce:

Even as a Third Former, Wilberforce has already become a big part of me! In my opinion, this is because of how welcoming the House itself is. My favourite thing about Wilberforce has to be how inclusive everyone is and how we all work together even if things seem difficult. We have a lot of musical and drama enthusiasts but that doesn’t stop anyone going out of their way to try something out of their comfort zone. There are lots of examples of this like House Shout, cross country and even charity events too. This brings us together. I also love how we aren’t confined to just socialising with our House but also encouraged to do so with others.

Rafaella C., Lower Sixth, picks her highlights from the year:

At the end of each term, Wilberforce holds a bingo night partnered with a raffle. This is one of my favourite things about Wilberforce as it is not your usual end of term celebration. It generates giggles and laughter at the silly prizes and goodies to unclaimed lost property. This definitely lets the Wilberforce girls express their competitive side as well!

Another one of my favourite moments in Wilberforce this year has been when we, as a House, supported one of the girls in the Fifth Form when she decided that she wanted to run 2k every day in May to raise money for a charity close to her heart, Dravet Syndrome UK. To show our support, we ran with her before the school day on the last day of term. I think this shows the house spirit as well as the personalities we have in House.



Wilson

Wilson Housemaster, David Bowden, recaps highlights for the past year:

2023-4 was another action-packed year for Wilson. The House won its fair share of silverware including the House chess back in September, the junior hockey in the Lent term and in the Summer term House golf and junior tennis. As was the case last year, the juniors were more successful than the seniors! Two particular boys, Dominic C. and Henry P., proved what great all-rounders they are by achieving victories in hockey, golf and tennis, as well as helping their teams to win the second rung mid-week competitions, such as indoor cricket and football.

Inter-house competitions are always hard fought, fiercely contested affairs, but somehow they can't compare with the acute, intimate family rivalry created by the intra-house activities. We held the usual table tennis tournament that produced a special final on the last evening of the Michaelmas term which saw George F. overcoming the previous champion Hector T.. Monthly room inspections also proved memorable, with Darby, Buckland, Wolf and Kitchen Snr. being most prominent. This year also saw the successful introduction of house conkers, croquet, and two highly entertaining episodes of Wilson Bake off.

The House also enjoyed go karting trips, bowling, T20 at Edgbaston and rounded off the year with the House Day in Bournemouth.

One of the more memorable moments of the year followed a disappointing House Music campaign. We gave the boys a chance to redeem themselves with a spot of Christmas carol singing. On a bitterly cold evening with renditions of

We Three Kings, Deck the Halls and Away in a Manger, the boys received a predictably warm welcome from households around Bloxham, as well as the girls' Houses, raising £75 for our charity this year, BYHP. Other memorable occasions included the annual Wilson's Got Talent and the charity parents' wine tasting evening.

We are saddened to say goodbye to Mr Setterfield, Wilson Assistant Housemaster. We are grateful for everything he has done for the past two years in House. He has been an excellent tutor, initiated a number of House competitions – this year was House conkers and croquet – and most importantly he's been constantly on hand to make sure that Sky Sports has been ready for the cricket and rugby in the games room.

Third Formers, Ed D. and Zac B., reflect on their first year in Wilson:

Our first year in Wilson has been really good and it didn't take us long to settle in. We have quickly been able to make friends with all the boys across the House and with boys in our year who have come to Wilson from different schools. The House has helped us to make a good start and matron and the House cocker spaniels, Tilly and Rosie, have made it feel like home. Our highlights were:

1. Taking charge with Joe L. in the Fifth Form of compering all the acts from Wilson's Got Talent – we managed to keep the show on the road, even though there were a few missed cues!
2. This year's House Drama – everyone knew we should have won.
3. Winning the House hockey and getting a big cheer when I collected the trophy from Mr Sanderson in assembly.



THE OLD BLOXHAMISTS



Bloxhamists



Welcome

Old Bloxhamists are an integral part of the Bloxham community, creating an important link between current pupils and the world for which it prepares them. We have an incredible community of OBs across the world and our aim is to keep you connected and engaged, both with one another and with the School.

Appreciating what an important role Bloxham parents play in the life of the School, we recently launched, Friends of Bloxham (FOB), a network for former parents, to ensure that they too could remain connected to the School. This year saw our first FOB event, a wine tasting evening, and we have been delighted to welcome Friends of Bloxham to many of our other OB events throughout the year.

Thank you to all those OBs and parents who give their time and expertise to support our pupils and the School, contributing to

the School's governance, our careers programme and the broader co-curricular life at Bloxham, helping to inspire the next generation of OBs as they go out into the world. As Bloxham takes pride in its community, we hope you too are proud of both your time at the School and everything Bloxham continues to be today.



Rachel, Kate and Sarah

- **Rachel Graves**, Head of Development
- **Sarah Demirtges** (PC/Wf 94-96), Alumni & Development Officer
- **Kate Greaves**, Alumni & Development Officer

Keep your details up to date

If you have recently changed your contact details or current address, please email us so that we can update our records. If you do not already receive our electronic newsletters and communications, including invitations to events, please share your email address with us.

Contact Us

The Old Bloxhamist Community continues to thrive as we engage with former students, staff, parents, governors and supporters of the School. It is always lovely to welcome OBs back to visit so please get in touch and we would be delighted to organise a tour for you.

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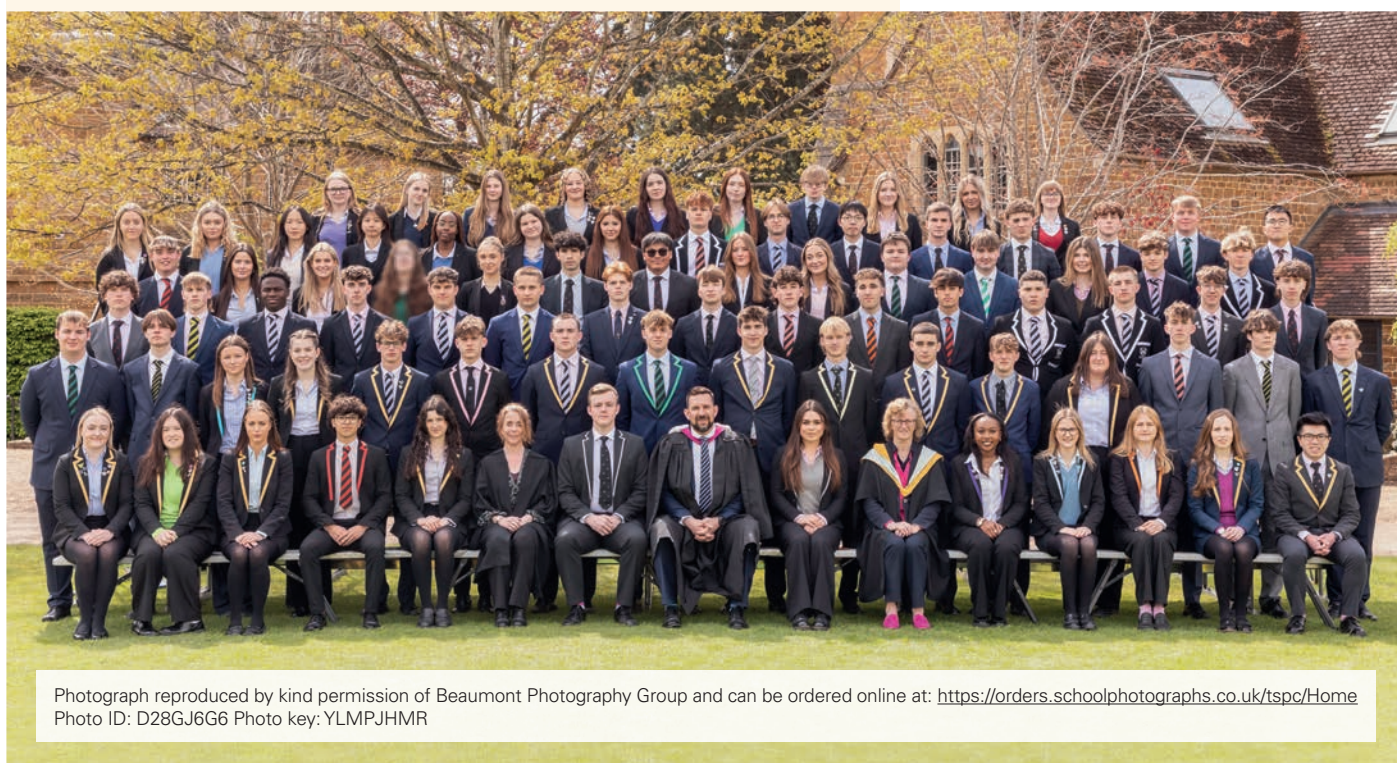
www.bloxhamschool.com

 The Old Bloxhamist Society

 The Old Bloxhamist Society

Welcome to the Old Bloxhamist community, Class of 2024!

As you step through the Memorial Arch, you carry with you not just the knowledge and memories of your formative years, but also the proud title of Old Bloxhamist and, with it, a life-long connection to the School. As the Headmaster said at Founderstide, "Once Bloxham, always Bloxham!" ♥



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The Year in Events

September

OB Golf Autumn Meet: Our year of events started in style as OB golfers met at Northamptonshire County Golf Club for the annual Autumn Meet.

October

FOB Wine Tasting Evening: Inaugural event for the Friends of Bloxham, hosted by School Archivist, Simon Batten, and catered by our Sixth Form hospitality students.



November

All Saints' Tide: OBs returned for a Chapel service, followed by the 200 Club Lunch and a competitive Ladies' Hockey match.



Remember Him at the Altar: Simon Batten and **Matthew Dixon** (Cr 89-94) gave a virtual talk about their book *Remember Him at the Altar: Bloxham School and the Great War*.

December

Icarus Carol Concert: The OB and School community came together in the magnificent setting of St John's Church, Hyde Park, to listen to the Chapel Choir and support the Icarus Trust Charity Carol Concert.



Carols by Candlelight: We were delighted to welcome OBs to St Mary's Church, Bloxham, for an evening of Lessons and Carols.



OB Drinks: OBs joined us for a pre-Christmas catch up with friends and staff at The Ele.

January

OB London Meet: Held at The RAF Club, Piccadilly, OBs enjoyed a wonderful evening of drinks, canapés and great company. It was wonderful to welcome the Classes of 2004 and 2014 for their 20th and 10th reunions.



March

Old Bloxhamist Day: OB Day was a great success incorporating the 200 Club Lunch and an afternoon of sport with Fives and Men's Hockey.



Gala Concert: OBs and Friends of Bloxham came to St Mary's Church, Bloxham, for the Gala Concert to sing Mozart's Requiem with the School Chapel Choir.



The Headmaster's Dinner: This year's dinner was a great success as we welcomed OBs from 1984 and 1994 for their 40th and 30th Reunions. Our guest speaker was **Vanessa Hartley** (SH/Wf 92-94).



May

The Egerton Society Lunch: On a glorious sunny day, Egerton Society members gathered for their annual lunch. Guest speaker Simon Batten spoke of **E J ('Sam') Kahn** (Staff 39-83) a Bloxham stalwart known to many of the guests.



OB Sailing: The School won the Douglas Perrin Trophy at this year's OB Sailing Meet.



July

OB Golf Spring Meet: OB golfers met at Tadmarton Heath Golf Club.

June

OB Cricket: OB v MCC biennial cricket fixture, played at Bloxham.

Founderstide: It was wonderful to welcome hundreds of guests, including many OBs, to Founderstide. The guest speaker at the Prize-giving was **Sheraz Daya** (Cr 75-77).



OB Cricket: Cricketers enjoyed the annual Cricket Festival. ♥



Old Bloxhamist Sport

Our thanks to all those who have been involved in OB sport this year and in particular, the captains for their wonderful work organising the teams. In depth sport reports are on the School website.

Golf

At the Autumn Meet, the OB Golf Society gathered at Northamptonshire County Golf Club to compete for the impressive Humphries Trophy.

Despite the challenge of heavy rain mid-round, some good golf was clearly evident. **Carl Norton**, a previous winner, and **Tony Tame** both scored 31 points, but it was the current holder 'Mr Consistent' **John Williams** who can now claim back-to-back victories.

At the end of the competition, the group enjoyed dinner and the presentation of prizes in the friendly atmosphere of a traditional clubhouse.

Humphries Trophy 2024 Results:

- 1 **John Williams** – 33 points
- 2 **Carl Norton** – 31 points
- 3 **Tony Tame** – 31 points
- 4= **Peter Murray-White** – 29 points
- 4= **Rick Beard** – 29 points
- 4= **John Nason** – 29 points

In May, the OB Golf Society came together at Tadmerton Heath Golf Club for the Spring Meet, playing for the Greenway Trophy.

We are grateful to **Peter Murray-White** for the following report:

Once play got under way, **Simon McDaide** and **Scott de Weymarn**, soon showed the more regular players how the game should be played.

Scott de Weymarn won the day with an impressive 34 points off a handicap of 8. His playing partner confirmed after the round that he had witnessed a formidable display of controlled power-hitting that defied the strong gusts swirling around the course. As well as an obvious ability with a golf club in his hands, maybe his youthfulness was an additional factor in being able to drive the ball well over

300 yards. As someone so eloquently summed it up in the bar later, "That's further than I go on holiday!"



Simon McDaide so nearly made it, finishing just one stableford point behind on his debut.

John Nason, always a consistent performer in these events, tied for third along with our esteemed organiser, OBGS Captain, **Simon Smith**.

Like all golfers do, the remaining members of the group managed to find a number of different reasons for not challenging the winning score, but none of them were levelled at the course; 'Taddy' was in really good condition again.

Greenway Trophy 2024 Results:

- 1 **Scott de Weymarn** – 34 points
- 2 **Simon McDaide** – 33 points
- 3= **John Nason** – 30 points
- 3= **Simon Smith** – 30 points

Players: **Simon Smith** (Wf 71-76) – Captain, **Rick Beard** (Ry 72-76), **Scott de Weymarn** (Cr 07-12, Staff 19-21), **Simon McDaide** (Cr 69-74), **Peter Murray-White** (Wf 64-69), **Graham Nash** (Wf 56-60), **John Nason** (Wf 56-59), **Carl Norton** (Wf 71-74), **Robin Olley** (Wn 56-58), **Tony Tame** (Eg 60-65), **Dick Tysoe** (Eg 67-71) and **John Williams** (Wf 64-69).

Ladies' Hockey

All Saints' Tide saw a thrilling ladies' hockey match between the Old Bloxhamists and the School at the Dewey. The School stamped their authority on the game from the start, keeping the OBs' defence on their toes and were granted an early lead within the opening 10 minutes (Charlotte F-S.). However, the OBs quickly got into their stride and retaliated with vigour. Their efforts were rewarded as **Flora McCullough** found a spectacular equalizer from just inside the circle at the end of the first half. In the second half, both teams showed determination, pace and teamwork, but despite a very strong effort from the OBs, the School scored two more goals before the final whistle (Heidi R. and Alice L.), bringing the score to 3-1 in favour of the School. The sporting spirit prevailed at the end of the match with OBs awarding their Player of the Match to Phoebe S. (current Fourth Form)



for the School, and the School awarding **Harriet Boland** their OB Player of the Match. Our thanks to **Elsbeth Barr** for captaining the OB team.

Team: **Elsbeth Barr** (LS/Wf 16-23) – Captain, **Charlotte Boland** (LS/Wf 10-17), **Harriet Boland** (LS/Wf 08-15), **Emily Cavender** (Wf 15-20), **Harriet Ellis** (Wf 18-23), **Izzie Franck-Steier** (LS/Ry 16-23), **Grace Hopkins** (Ry 12-20), **Annie Maginnis** (LS/Wf 16-23), **Flora McCullough** (LS/Wf 18-23), **Kiera Tibbetts** (Wf 21-23), **Annabel Topley** (Ry 18-23), Goalie: Sofia V..

In March, an Old Bloxhamist Ladies' Hockey team competed in the Dean Close Sixes – an annual ladies' invitational alumni tournament. Competing for the Carnhill Cup, which we last won in 2016, the OB side played a fantastic tournament against sides from Malvern College, Rendcomb College and Bristol Grammar School. The team had the crowd behind them as, despite only being a team of five, they narrowly missed finishing in third place in the third/fourth place play-off. It is a great testament to the team that they were given a special mention by the organisers and particular congratulations to **Emma Stephenson** who was awarded overall Player of the Tournament.

Team: **Muqaddas Ahmed** (Mn 19-21), **Olivia Finch** (Ry 16-21), **Hannah Phillips** (Ry 18-20), **Sophie Tredwell** (Ry 16-21), and **Emma Stephenson** (Wf 19-21).



Fives

During a well-contested OB Fives tournament, no player emerged unbeaten from the round-robin format, but **Charlie Gulliver** (Sy 10-15) finished top of the table of four after an 11-7 win against **Jonny Stirrup** (LS/Sy 08-15). **Charlie Tredwell** (Sy 10-15) finished third while **Sam Manning** (Sy 13-15), to whom we

are grateful, as always, for organising the event, finished fourth despite beating the eventual champion.



Men's Hockey

The OB v School XI Hockey match, appropriately played on St Patrick's Day, was preceded by a minute's silence in memory of **Paddy Kellett** (Wn 05-10) and was played in the presence of many members of Paddy's family. One of them, **Will Kellett**, scored a hat trick in a 5-2 win for the OBs which ranked among the best matches witnessed in this fixture.

The game was much closer than the scoreline suggests, with a skilful young school side scoring two excellent goals through brothers Sam and Dom C., while **Charlie Bastable** and **Charlie Gulliver** also scored for the OBs. In goal for the School, Oscar H. was in fine form and kept out some fierce goals.

In the end, the difference between the two sides was the greater cohesion between the members of an OB side containing several players who have built up an understanding playing together for School, OB and Banbury sides over the years. Remarkably, one of the veterans, **Martin Noble-Bowers**, was playing in this fixture for the 22nd time.

Steve O'Connor was awarded 'Players' Player' by the School Team. For the second consecutive year, the Old Bloxhamists awarded their trophy to Lower Sixth student Tom F..



We are enormously grateful for the work that the sports captains do. This year marks a fantastic 13 years for **Steve O'Connor** as Men's Hockey Captain. Steve has held together the side for many years, and we are thankful to him for always getting a team together, even if he has recruited in The Ele, moments before a fixture! While he is hanging up his captaincy hat, we look forward to seeing him continue to play for many more years to come. We are very grateful that **Jonny Stirrup** has agreed to take on the Captaincy.

Team: **Steve O'Connor** (LS/Cr 02-09) – Captain, **Charlie Bastable** (Cr 10-13), **Scott deWeymarn** (Cr 07-12, Staff 19-21), **Charlie Gulliver** (Sy 10-15), **Louis Harris** (LS/Sy 04-11), **Theo Harris** (LS/Sy 02-09), **Morgan Haylor** (LS/Sh 11-19, Staff 22-23), **Will Kellett** (Wn 03-08), **Jago Poole** (LS/Eg 04-11), **Tom Lowry** (Sy 18-23), **Martin Noble-Bowers** (Eg 92-97), **Jonny Stirrup** (LS/Sy 08-15).



Cricket

In June, we hosted the biennial OB v MCC cricket fixture.

The MCC won the toss and elected to bat first. Either side of (as ever) a fantastic lunch, the MCC scored fluently to declare on 239 for 9, with **Charlie Williams** the pick of the bowlers for the OBs, taking 5-85 in 18 overs, and **Olly Tice** (Cr 10-13) top scoring for the MCC with a well-paced 63.

A tricky 15-minute period followed before tea, with the OBs losing the first wicket just before the break, before **Tom Gurney** (27) and **Scott deWeymarn** (45) steadied the innings to set up the run chase. **James Gurney** and **Jonny Wilkinson** accelerated the scoreboard in an unlikely chase. With five overs remaining, all three results were possible, but the last wicket fell to leave them 48 runs short. An entertaining game, played in great spirit, on what is always a special occasion. We look forward to hosting the MCC again in 2026.

Team: **Tom Gurney** (Wn 07-12) – Captain, **Scott de Weymarn** (Cr 07-12, Staff 19-21), **James Gurney** (Wn 17-22), **William ‘Wiggy’ Gurney** (Wn 10-15), **Henry Hopkins** (LS/Eg 11-19), **Sam Manning** (Sy 13-15), **Harry Rymer** (Cr 10-15), **Jonny Wilkinson** (Sy 17-22), **Charlie Williams** (Sy 10-12) and Ed Selby-Lowndes (Staff).

The annual match against the School 1st XI took place at Founderstide. With an expectant crowd of spectators around the Main Field boundary, Old Bloxhamist Captain **John Brown** won the toss and elected to bat on a beautiful summer morning. The highlight of the OB innings was a swashbuckling 56 off 37 balls from **Issam Baig**. **Morgan Thomas** and **Sam Blake** added valuable late runs to help the total to 152 all out. Adam G. was the pick of the School’s bowlers, taking 3-17.

Despite economical bowling from **Zac Wilton**, the School set off boldly in pursuit of their target of 153; Alex D. and Ben R. put together a fine partnership of 92 before Alex was run out for 53 thanks to some sharp piece fielding at point from the evergreen **John Brown**. Ben was unbeaten on 61 to guide the School to victory by six wickets. After the game, Master in Charge of Cricket, Greg Webber, presented to this year’s School Cricket Captain, George D., the splendid 1875 silver cup which will henceforth be awarded to the winning side in this fixture and reside in the Pavilion.

Team: **John Brown** (Wn 82-86) – Captain, **Issam Baig** (Eg 00-02), **Sam Blake** (LS/Sy 16-22), **Stan Deeley** (Sy 17-22), **Sam Kentigern-Fox** (LS/Sy 15-22), **Jamie Lumb** (Eg 10-17), **Zac Wilton** (LS/Sy 14-21), **Morgan Thomas** (Cr 19-22), **Ian Turton** (Ry 83-88), Ed Selby-Lowndes (Staff), and current pupils Alex B., James D. and Joe M..

It was wonderful to welcome OB cricketers and visiting teams from Oxford Downs and South Oxfordshire Amateurs Cricket Clubs to this year’s OB cricket festival in July. Despite the challenges of inclement weather, the festival witnessed two days of very enjoyable cricket and the usual levels of OB revelry.

On Sunday, the Downs’ skipper elected to put the OBs in to bat. Sadly, by lunch the OBs were 49 for six with **Harry Rymer** and **John Brown** at the crease. Following an excellent lunch, Rymer and Brown took the score to 140 before the former was out LBW just shy of a maiden half century.



The Downs’ father and son opening pair reached 118 before the son chipped Brown to backward point where **Jolyon Griffiths** (Ry 74-79) took the catch overhead. With just one wicket down, The Downs reached their target for a well-deserved win. **Harry Rymer** (0-46 from 11 overs) and **John Brown** (1-11) cemented their all-rounder status in the OB Cricket pantheon with current pupils Nina B. and Phoebe S. (both on debut) performing very well in the field.

Monday saw the arrival of SOA who elected to bat and started well, reaching lunch at 119 for three. After another excellent lunch, SOA proceeded to 155 all out with the last seven wickets falling for 36 runs. The pick of the bowlers were current pupil Hardy L. (11.2-2-27-6) and **Ed Lloyd** (8-2-26-2) having taken over from openers **Zac Wilton** (1-36) and Harry Williams guesting from Westbury (1-62).

The OBs opened with Alex Ross guesting from SOA and current pupil Murray S. (OB debut). Ross left an in-ducker to have his off stump knocked back. Murray went on to make 29 and was third out with the score on 77. **James Gurney** joined **Wiggy Gurney** with the score on 78 and took it to 116 with the latter perishing in the deep for a swift 20 as heavy rain fell. After a hiatus, play resumed with 40 required and the OBs quickly lost Hardy bowled. **James Gurney** (43 not out) and **Ed Lloyd** (13 not out) then saw the OBs through to a four-wicket victory without undue alarm.

Team: **Tom Gurney** (Wn 07-12) – Captain, **John Brown** (Wn 82-86), **Jolyon Griffiths** (Ry 74-79), **James Gurney** (Wn 17-22), **William ‘Wiggy’ Gurney** (Wn 10-15), **Ed Lloyd** (Sy 18-24), **Zac Wilton** (LS/Sy 14-21), **Harry Rymer** (Cr 10-15), **Jonny Wilkinson** (Sy 17-22), **Fin Smith** (Wn 11-16), **Sam Kentigern-Fox** (LS/Sy 15-22), **Max Barkes** (Wn 05-08), **Charlie Tredwell** (Sy 10-15), Alex Ross (SOA), Harry Williams (Westbury) and current pupils Nina B., Hardy L., Murray S., and Phoebe S..



Sailing

This year’s OB sailing fixture produced an excellent day with close competition and a narrow win for the School. Each team had seven members, so they could both employ a reserve. While all three races were won by the School they were all close and there were some great team racing tactics on show. The barbeque laid on by OB Captain, **Tom Mawby-Groom**, was a great spread and helped to make this a relaxed but competitive occasion.

Team: **Tom Mawby-Groom** (Sy 89-94) – Captain, **Jemima Bond** (LS/Wf 16-23), **Bertie Bond** (LS/Sy 16-23), **Will Howells** (LS/Wn 15-22), **Jake Faithfull** (LS/Wn 16-23), **Pippa Little** (Ry 17-22) and **Holly Brigden** (Wf 18-23).



Next year, we have exciting plans for a Festival of Sport with multiple matches taking place on Sunday 2 March; please put the date in your diary! ♥

OBs Inspiring Pupils

We are always grateful to welcome OBs and members of the Bloxham community to share their experiences, knowledge, learnings and successes with students. This year it has been fantastic to have heard from the following OBs:

The Bloxham Sustainability Challenge has been created by Bloxham's Geography Department in partnership with Dalcour Maclaren, supported by Esri. Lower Sixth students took part in a 20-week research project to evaluate critically whether a solar park should be built in Oxfordshire. We are hugely grateful to current parent **Mike Lee** (Cr 93-98) for spearheading this hugely successful project and excited to be rolling it out as a regional, inter-school competition next year.



Cadets and Officers of the Bloxham School CCF Contingent welcomed **General Sir Adrian Bradshaw KCB OBE DL** (Wn 71-76) back to Bloxham for a formal regimental style dinner. The highlight of the evening was Sir Adrian's fascinating address, based on his decades of experience in leadership of Britain's armed forces, analysing current threats to world peace and proposing wise, humane and robust ways of response.



We are very grateful to **Sheraz Daya** (Cr 75-77), world-renowned ophthalmologist and Founder, Chairman and Medical Director at the Centre for Sight UK, for being our guest speaker at this year's Founderstide. To read an interview with Sheraz, turn to page 84.

OBs **Mike Lee** (Cr 93-98), **Nikki Gracey** (Daymond, SH/Ry 88-90), **Simon Mills** (Cr 75-80) and **Andrew Whiffin** (Staff 88-09) together with a number of former and current parents, joined over 30 other professionals and companies at the Careers Fair. The younger pupils were able to learn about the range of careers available to them and to ask the exhibitors about their companies and career paths. Older pupils adopted a more focused approach, targeting companies and individuals from their interest and study area to ask more specific questions.



Storm Geomatics, the business of OB parents **Mike** and **Polly Hopkins**, ran an informative session for our Fourth Form geographers. Storm Geomatics are innovative measurement experts in river function, providing knowledge to inform projects that reduce flooding and improve natural habitats.

Dan Eckersley (Cr 18-20) gave an inspiring talk to the Third, Fourth and Fifth Forms. Dan is the Loughborough University ambassador for the Oddballs Foundation – a charity which raises awareness of Testicular Cancer. We look forward to Dan returning to speak to other year groups in the future.



Vicky Fox (Wf 00-02), Bloxham's first female School Captain, spoke to Sixth Form pupils about her path into law and

encouraged them to seek out every opportunity. The students and staff who attended were impressed by her passionate and inspirational messages. To read an interview with Vicky, turn to page 85.



Flora Haberfield (Hudson-Evans, Ry 98-00) returned to share her experiences of life after Bloxham with the Sixth Form. She spoke frankly about initially not being sure of what career path to follow. Cutting short her time at university and going into the world of work proved to be the right decision for her. Now Director of Human Resources at Aspect Capital, a firm which seeks to provide innovative systematic investment products, she spoke passionately about the need to increase the representation of women in the finance sector. Flora also encouraged pupils to be flexible and open-minded in their approach to careers.



Annie Cowperthwaite (Ry 20-22) kindly visited Bloxham to speak at our Sixth Form Transition Day. Annie really connected with the pupils sharing her experience of Sixth Form life and how she felt it had impacted her future.

Max Tyler (LS/Sy 14-21) entertained pupils and parents with his DJing expertise both at a House Dance in March and at the Founderstide Ball.

Our thanks to **Henry Wood** (Sy 08-14) and **Simon Mills** (Cr 75-80) for offering careers advice in law and the film industry respectively. ♥

A Vision for Success

Interview with Sheraz Daya (Cr 75-77)



Parents and pupils were treated to a truly inspirational speech at Founderstide Prize-Giving this year, given by world-renowned ophthalmologist, Sheraz Daya.

After leaving Bloxham, Sheraz studied Medicine and worked in Belfast before emigrating to the United States.

Director and Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon of the Corneo Plastic Unit and Eye Bank at the Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Trust, he performed the first LASIK laser vision correction procedure in the UK in 1995. Dissatisfied with the limitations of eye care provision in private hospitals, he established the Centre for Sight UK in 1996.

Sheraz has pioneered a number of ground-breaking techniques in eye surgery and is a leading authority on stem cell transplantation of the eye surface. He is a key opinion leader for the international ophthalmic industry and has many awards and publications to his name.

He is married to Marcela Espinosa, also a leading eye surgeon, and they have two children both currently at medical school.

What are your fondest memories of your school days and what did Bloxham teach you?

I felt the beginnings of a personal liberation coming to Bloxham after being at an unreasonably strict boarding school for children of missionaries in India. When I was asked to speak at Founderstide about my memories of Bloxham, the first thing that came into my mind was music. Every study had music blaring from a variety of hi-fi sets. The era of punk rock began during that time, and although a bit outrageous, was acceptable and that resonated with me – it was fine to think and behave differently. It was liberating and started me on the journey that enabled me to become ambitious. The influence of the educators at Bloxham was phenomenal and resonated and led me to choose Medicine as a career.

At 18 did you know what you wanted to do?

Yes – I wanted to read Medicine at university but as a foreign student had a difficult time getting a place. Medicine attracted me as it was a profession with considerable possibilities that would have a direct impact on people.

Where did you go after Bloxham?

I gained a place at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and moved to Dublin.

I qualified with an honours degree and spent a year in Belfast as a house officer at the Royal Victoria Hospital at the peak time of the 'troubles'. This was a valuable experience where I learnt a great deal about people – seeing the best and worst of them in times of conflict. I then moved to New York. Again, like Medicine, I could not get a place to train in Ophthalmology, my chosen speciality. Instead, I trained in Internal Medicine and during that time, between doing research at the weekends and networking, I managed to get an ophthalmology training position in Brooklyn and Queens. I then returned to New York, spent a couple of years in practice on Madison Avenue and in Queens before returning to the UK in 1994.

What advice would you give students for success in life after Bloxham?

First, strive for excellence in whatever you do. I do not mean perfection, that is as bad as being mediocre. Whatever you do, give it your best. Second, carefully choose the company you keep – take a look at the characteristics of people you admire and try to adopt them. By the same token, take note of what you do not like and ensure you eliminate these features from yourself.

What is the best piece of advice you have been given?

"Qui cum canibus concumbunt cum pulicibus surgent" translated "If you sleep with dogs, you will wake up with fleas".

Who has been an inspiration to you?

While training in New York, the Chairman of the Ophthalmology residency program David Paton MD, was very well known having set up the flying eye hospital, Orbis, amongst many other accomplishments. He was a great mentor and exemplary individual who just did not tolerate mediocrity. In Minneapolis I was mentored by two very well-known eye surgeons, Edward J Holland and Richard L Lindstrom who inspired and influenced me to strive for more.

A Buddhist Abbot in Burma has also been a great inspiration. Despite living as a Buddhist with all its simplicity, his true desire to have impact has meant that he has managed to accomplish so much. He has established numerous monasteries internationally, a large Buddhist university, as well as a network of eye and healthcare establishments throughout the country – truly living the noble path.

What are your proudest professional achievements?

I came to the UK to head an ailing NHS department. Not having worked in the NHS – some might say I was naïve – I set about radically changing the unit with considerable cutting-edge developments in the speciality of Cornea and Oculoplastics. Through recruitment of incredible colleagues, it has become well-known internationally and has trained numerous eye surgeons, many of whom are now in prominent positions. Concurrently establishing Centre for Sight, a private organization, almost 30 years ago was unheard of and equally ambitious. I am pleased that we have been an inspiration to many colleagues who have followed in our footsteps. Academically, pioneering work in the area of stem cell and tissue engineering, as well as laser eye surgery, are accomplishments that have had considerable impact and for me are areas I am particularly proud of. ♥

From Bloxham to London's Law Courts

Interview with Vicky Fox (Wf 00-02)



Vicky was Bloxham's first female School Captain and she was involved in every part of Bloxham School life. This is evident from *The Bloxhamist* in her leaving year with the numerous mentions both inside and outside the classroom. On the academic side, she won the Shaw Geography Prize, the Senior Business Studies Prize and the Aubrey Deeley Biology Prize. After degrees in Business Management and in Law, she became a lawyer. Today, she lives in London with her husband and young son and, having previously held the position of Vice President at Burford Capital, she is now an underwriter in the specific risk team at Dual M&A.

What did you study at Bloxham?

I chose to study a wide range of subjects at A Level: geography, business, art and biology purely on the basis that I enjoyed these the most. I had a wonderful two years and was very busy. Among other things, I was part of the Debating Society, the 1st XI Hockey team and captained the 1st VII Netball team.

What else did you enjoy?

As well as lots of studying, I have fond memories of being part of the School's Young Enterprise programme. We created 'Revolution' – a business producing and selling novelty clocks, as well as providing a Valentine's Day service. This experience taught me some of the key skills needed to work as part of a team. It was an incredible experience to represent the UK in the Young Enterprise European Trade Fair in Stavanger, Norway. Our business won many local and county awards and, at the time, we were the most successful Young Enterprise team that the School, and Oxfordshire, had produced.

At 18 did you know what you wanted to do?

I joined Bloxham for Sixth Form and didn't know what career path I wanted to take. I had an idea that I wanted to do 'something in the City'. I was attracted by the hard work, exciting lifestyle, the lucrative career opportunities and financial gain.

Tell us about your path after Bloxham?

I chose to read Business Management at The University of Nottingham because of its reputation, broad application and career prospects following graduation.



I have always enjoyed business and economics, however at graduation I was still unsure of what I wanted to do and so I studied for a graduate diploma in Law at Oxford Brookes University.

While studying for my diploma, I was fortunate to secure a training contract with city law firm Stephenson Harwood, who sponsored me through the Legal Practice Course. Having completed my academic studies, I started my training contract with Stephenson Harwood in 2008, and went on to work there for almost 15 years.

What is your most interesting professional achievement?

One case that sticks in my mind involved the collapse of an Icelandic bank. My client was accused of having conspired to bring down the bank. Early one morning, I had a call from one of the firm's senior partners: "Your client has been arrested, their offices are being raided by the Serious Fraud Office and they are being interviewed by the police." That incident informed the rest of my career.

My law firm challenged the SFO's decision to arrest the clients (it was found to be unlawful), we then sued the SFO for damages and well, it snowballed. I worked for this one client for over a decade – it had legs that went everywhere; it had criminal proceedings, it had proceedings in offshore places like Jersey and Guernsey.

What advice would you give to students for a successful life after Bloxham?

The options are open. Bloxham gives you a great start in life and the options are there for the taking. Grades are important and count, so work hard, but also getting a job is tough. It is really competitive, so try and get as much work experience as possible, no matter how junior. Your career is a journey and, more often than not, it isn't linear. ♥

Old Bloxhamist Survey

Thank you to all those who took part in our digital Old Bloxhamist Survey in October 2023, we were delighted with the response. 20% of our alumni, in 24 different countries, completed the survey and we are working on incorporating the findings into our alumni relations programme.

Your relationship with Bloxham

The headline conclusions are that the majority of OBs are loyal to the School, with 84% saying they were proud to have attended Bloxham and feeling that their time at Bloxham played an important role in their personal development. OBs value their connection to the School and view fostering a sense of community between alumni and the School as a continued priority. The survey findings in other areas have provided us with useful learnings as to how we might strengthen this connection and further enhance the Bloxham Community.



Event feedback

Events play a significant role in the way in which the School engages with OBs and while many see our current events programme as relevant to them, there were some key insights as to how the programme could be improved. Over 87% of respondents were interested in reunions with their year group and 81% were interested in events held at School. There was also a clear interest in career and networking events in addition to the more established social and sporting calendar.

Communications feedback

We are always aware of the inherent risks of both over and under communicating so we were happy to learn that the majority of OBs believe we are getting our levels of communication 'about right'. *The Bloxhamist* emerged as our most popular communication vehicle (71% read and found interesting) with email newsletters also being generally well-received (55%). In terms of content, the most popular areas of interest were articles about alumni from their era (66%), photos and articles from the archives (52%) and OB and Staff obituaries.

Your views on fundraising

In response to the section on fundraising, the majority of respondents believed that hardship funding (64%) and the provision of bursaries (55%) should be the School's priorities over fundraising for facilities. Many respondents had themselves benefitted from financial support during their time at the School (29% overall, 60% from 2000 onwards) so this is clearly recognised as an area in which Bloxham can, and does, add real value.

Volunteering feedback

We were hugely grateful and greatly encouraged by the number of respondents who offered to support the work of the School across a range of different areas. Over a third expressed an interest in providing career advice or work experience to fellow OBs or current students, and/or in being interviewed to help inspire the next generation on their career paths.

Separately, OBs offered to help with organising events, acting as year group representatives and providing advice to the School.

What next?

The survey results have provided the School with valuable insight as to what is working well and how we could improve. The findings will help to inform our strategic thinking as we plan for the next academic year.

Specifically, we aim to:

- Introduce more year-group-based events including reunions for key anniversary years
- Incorporate more industry themed career networking events into our annual programme
- Work with the School Careers Department to involve more OBs in our careers programme
- Engage our volunteers to help foster a greater sense of community by launching an OB Advisory Panel to support and amplify the work of the Development and Alumni Relations Office. ♥

What's in a Name?

Raymond

Raymond is a name that will be familiar to all Bloxhamists, past and present. A pupil can walk from Raymond House to the Raymond Field, passing the Raymond Technology Centre and the Pavilion – formerly the site of the Raymond Society ('the JOC') – en route. The Roger Raymond Charitable Trust has generously supported the School since 1984, and many Bloxhamists have benefitted from the transformational effects of Raymond Scholarships. But what lies behind the name?



The Raymonds were three brothers from North London who attended Bloxham School in the 1920s, all joining Crake House. Roger Raymond arrived in 1920 at the age of 10 with his older brother Basil and was a pupil at the School until 1928, while younger brother Peter attended from 1926 to 1933.

The First World War and expansion of London had opened an incredible opportunity for their father, AG Raymond, to begin a meteoric rise from small dairy owner eventually to Managing Director of United Dairies. He immediately assessed that Bloxham would be an ideal start for his sons, and Roger in particular grasped the challenge as intended, enjoying a record of unbroken success. He was School Captain and Sergeant in the O.T.C. and won full colours in rugby, fives, boxing and cricket, captaining the side in the first three, as well as setting school records in hurdles and shot put.



On leaving Bloxham, Roger found himself despatched to New York with £25 in his pocket. There he found work at a milk bottling plant but, after injuring his hand, he travelled and observed the American building trade. He was impressed by seeing ultra-modern houses sold ready-made with fully equipped kitchens and built-in furniture, and was convinced that the same business model could work in Britain. On his return, he studied architecture at night school while selling houses by day and, still in his twenties, started his own company, Roger Malcolm Homes. His first 26 houses were built with loans requiring refinancing as each house was sold in turn, innovatively featuring built-in bedroom cupboards and kitchen units, modern bathrooms, and turfed gardens. They cost £895, considerably more than the competition, but Roger's emphasis on quality proved an immediate success, even during the Great Depression.

During WW2, Peter and Basil served in many theatres from anti-aircraft in the East End to Sri Lanka, the Middle East and Germany. Roger was unable to serve due to his poor eyesight but made an invaluable contribution by organising emergency repairs to the thousands of blitzed homes, air-raid shelters and hospitals damaged during the London Blitz.

After the war, Roger, like his competitor and brother Basil, continued to lead the provision of quality homes in rapidly expanding north-west London. In 1966, after being elected Chairman of the London Master Builders Association, Roger sold his company to the Capital and Counties Group of which he became the Honorary President. His building career

gave him the expertise and the financial resources to become the greatest benefactor in Bloxham School's history.

During this period, Roger served on the School Council of Governors for 31 years and as Chairman of the Old Bloxhamist Society for 15 years. In both of these roles he helped Bloxham through his business acumen and his generosity, with Raymond House and Raymond Field being his most visible legacies during his time at the School.



Following Roger's death in 1983, Peter, having retired from his own very successful career with United Dairies, led Roger's Charitable Trust with a desire to continue his work at Bloxham in his memory. In addition to facilities such as the Raymond Technology Centre, the School benefitted from the provision of five full Raymond Scholarships, and the Raymond Scholar Programme continues to thrive to this day (see page 88). Roger's Trust also provides support for a wide variety of charities and organisations worldwide, with an especial emphasis on education, opportunity, sport and ambition, in true Bloxham fashion. ♥

Development at Bloxham

The Raymond Scholar Programme

Every autumn *The Bloxhamist* provides an annual record of the school year capturing, in images and prose, individual and team achievements, academic and co-curricular successes, and news from across our community. We are rightly proud of our School and value the opportunity to celebrate these successes. As each new generation of OBs proceeds out through the Memorial Arch, we can be confident that their time at Bloxham has equipped them for life after school, providing them not only with exam results but also with life skills, emotional intelligence and resilience, all of which will help them to thrive and make their world a better place.

For a number of our pupils however, the opportunity to access everything that a Bloxham education has to offer has only been made possible through the provision of bursarial support. Offering financial support at all levels

sits at the heart of the School's mission, and honours Philip Egerton's founding vision, that Bloxham should be a school for all families from all backgrounds. Accessing a Bloxham education provides pupils with the opportunity to expand their horizons, raise aspirations, instil ambition and open doors to future careers. Each year we witness first-hand the positive impact of our bursary programme, not only on the individual but also on our community, making Bloxham the rich and diverse community we have all come to value.

Like the majority of schools in the independent sector, Bloxham has seen an increase in the demand for financial assistance. According to the Independent Schools Council (ISC) Census and Annual Report 2024, fee assistance across ISC schools witnessed an increase of 10.2% on 2023, with over a third of all ISC pupils now receiving some form of fee assistance. Given the current economic



I loved my time at Bloxham and took advantage of all the opportunities it had to offer. Bloxham is a tight-knit community and provided me with a context that was very different from my home life. My upbringing was very results-driven whereas Bloxham nurtured everything and made me feel valued for other things as well. There was a sense that everyone was looked after rather than that everyone was looking out for themselves. The School provided me with the chance to explore other opportunities, to travel, to be part of a team and to excel, as well as exposing me to a very different culture.

I feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to attend Bloxham; without that bursary I would not be where I am now. Being at Bloxham opened the door to a world of new opportunities, helped me to grow as an individual and gave me access to a network for life.

Muqaddas Ahmed (Mn 19-21),
Raymond Scholar



and political climate, we are aware that demand is only likely to increase in the months and years ahead.

Generating philanthropic support for our Bursary Programme has been a priority for many years. In 1984, the Roger Raymond Charitable Trust, originally settled by Old Bloxhamist **Roger Raymond** (Cr 1920-28) (see page 87), established the Raymond Scholarships to support a small number of pupils at the School in his memory. Over

the years, the Trust has continued to fund the programme which has now grown in scope due to additional funding from both the School and other philanthropic sources.

Raymond Scholarships are, like other Bloxham Scholarships, offered to pupils who show talent or potential in a particular field or all-round ability and/or qualities of leadership. Unlike other scholarships, they are means-tested awards, typically where significant financial assistance is required to access the opportunity. Over the years, the programme has supported over 160 pupils and we are committed to ensuring that similar levels of funding remain available for future generations of deserving pupils.

The number of awards available varies according to the amount of funding available each year. On average, there are between 10 and 15 Raymond Scholars throughout the School. While a percentage of the cost of the Raymond Scholar programme is funded by the School, the programme is largely funded by philanthropic gifts from The Roger Raymond Charitable Trust, the Bloxham community and other charitable trusts and foundations. Donations to The Raymond Fund, a restricted fund dedicated to supporting transformational bursaries at Bloxham, together with income from the School's Endowment Funds both ensure that the School can support a number of Raymond Scholars each year. It is Bloxham's ambition to increase the number of Raymond Scholars through the raising of further philanthropic funds.



I received the scholarship for my Sixth Form at Bloxham. It was at the time of the recession which hit my parents pretty hard. To be told that you were going to have to leave your friends and everything that you know and go somewhere different was very hard. I was really happy at school and had everything I wanted with all my closest friends and some great opportunities and experiences. I was devastated that I was going to have to leave.

But then I was offered a Raymond Scholarship which was a massive thing for me. Looking back on it, I will always be grateful to the School for the award. I gained a huge amount from those final two years which set me up very well for university and beyond. I definitely realised the impact of it at the time.

Louis Harris (LS/Sy 04-11),
Raymond Scholar

Thank you to all those who share our vision and have contributed to our bursary programme throughout the year. Our thanks also go to our Egerton Society members who have pledged gifts to the School's Bursary Endowment Fund in their Will.

The Egerton Society exists to celebrate and recognise the support that members of the Bloxham community provide by leaving gifts to the School in their Wills.

If you are interested in learning more about the Raymond Scholar Programme and ways of supporting it, or about The Egerton Society and leaving a gift in your Will, please contact Rachel Graves on 01295 724386 or at r.graves@bloxhamschool.com ♥



I am proud to be part of The Egerton Society and I cherish the friendships my wife, Donna, and I have made with fellow OBs before and since leaving Bloxham. Having personally been the recipient of a bursary, I feel if you are able, it is important to pass on that kindness to someone else. The School's ability to support pupils is enhanced by the generosity of OBs and unsung friends of Bloxham.

One of the most important lessons I've learned in life is not to just be a 'taker'. Never be too proud to accept help if you need it. But always pass the ball down the line and pay decency forward when the opportunity arises. You might rightly say there are many organisations that deserve our support. That is true, but Bloxham also deserves to go from strength to strength, it is already!

Whether you are an OB or a present pupil, what you are doing at the moment is important, but more important still is to inform and involve the next generation in supporting the School in any way they can. We all need to think and care for each other and our school.

Tony Tame (Eg 60-65), Bursary Recipient and member of The Egerton Society

A Worldwide Career in Service

Interview with Oliver-Rupert Scarles-Pelendrides (Wn 08-13)



Ollie's career in the Royal Navy was inspired by his school days, where he first became attracted to the idea of service, particularly to serving his country. At Bloxham he was School Sacristan, House Prefect and Cadet Sergeant Major. Realising that university was not the right path, he was commissioned into the Royal Naval Reserve, where he rose to Second-in-Command of *HMS Medway*, the West Indies Guardship. Today, he continues to work for the Royal Navy. He is married to Georgina and is a proud member of the School's legacy association, The Egerton Society.

How did Bloxham influence you?

Bloxham instilled in me the drive and determination to aim for excellence; professional, academic and personal. I learnt the importance of community, understanding, and tradition carefully held. Bloxham showed me what I could do, the potential I could achieve, while teaching me of morality, friendship and duty.

Tell us about your career path

I found it difficult to choose between the Navy and the Army, but my final decision came down to my love for adventure and travel and in 2015, I was commissioned into the Royal Navy as a warfare officer. From Britannia Royal Naval College, I joined the fleet, serving in HM Ships *Diamond*, *Daring* and *Enterprise* while studying for my professional qualifications. During this time, I had the honour of working closely with the US Navy, Royal Navy of

Oman, various NATO navies and partner nations worldwide.

In 2020, I was appointed First Lieutenant of *HMS Medway*, a newly commissioned vessel and newly assigned West Indies Guardship. On completion of my Executive Officer's course, I joined *Medway* in the Caribbean, conducting humanitarian, counter-trafficking and diplomatic operations. I was heavily involved with the prevention of narcotics, arms and people smuggling through the region and supporting a range of Caribbean nations during the hurricane season.

What has been the most exciting moment of your career?

Bringing the supercarrier *HMS Queen Elizabeth* into service and deploying with her to North America in 2018 and 2019. Especially exciting were the first landings and trials of the F35 Joint Strike Fighters on her flight deck.

And what has been the most rewarding?

It was a true honour to help lead the ceremonial duties for Her Late Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, including the Royal Windsor Horse Show, Platinum Jubilee Pageant and Beating the Retreat with the Band of HM Royal Marines. Truly the greatest of honours was carrying the Queen's Colours of the Royal Navy for their final time and assisting in leading the Guard of Honour during the State Funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

What advice would you give to your past self?

University is a choice and not always the right one. I was lucky enough to find a way to follow my passion. Whatever you do in life, ensure you carefully research your chosen path.

What is your fondest memory of Bloxham?

The spirit of family and community are more truly seen at Bloxham than any other school I know. The friendships and mentorships I have known, and still have, are more than any person could wish for. I feel very fortunate to have been a Bloxhamist and to still feel part of that great community even now.

Why was it important for you to leave a legacy to benefit future generations of Bloxhamists?

Being a student at Bloxham was a pivotal moment in my life, my subsequent success and achievements are inextricably linked to two things; my parents' love and my education, in all senses of the word. Without the funding I received via a scholarship, my family would have struggled to afford the education which Bloxham gave me. I hope that by being a member of The Egerton Society and leaving a gift in my Will, I might leave a way for other young people, like me, to receive the best education possible and realise their potential, no matter what that may be. ♥



Recent Graduations

Our thanks and congratulations to those from the Classes of 2019 and 2020 who got in touch to tell us about the diverse subjects that they have studied since leaving school – we look forward to following your chosen career paths. If you are graduating this year, please keep us updated for next year's magazine.

Class of 2019

Alex Bradley (Eg 17-19) graduated with a First Class BSc in Product Design from Nottingham Trent University.

Henry Denison-Smith (Cr 17-19) graduated from the University of Plymouth with a BA (Hons) in Acting (2:1).

Johnnie Hand

(Eg 14-19) graduated from Oxford Brookes University with a BA (Hons) in Communications and Culture (2:1). He is now working in London for a company specialising in financial media.



Henry Hopkins (LS/Eg 11-19) is working for Marsh McLellan as a site surveyor having completed a Level 3 Insurance Practitioner Apprenticeship in 2022.

Hannah Lee (LS/Wf 11-19) graduated from the University of Manchester with a BA in Philosophy and Politics (2:1).



George Nicholson (Sy 14-19) graduated from the University of Bath with a BSc in Biochemistry (2:1).

Henry Simmonds

(Cr 13-19) graduated from the University of Plymouth with a BSc (Hons) in Business Management (Project Management) and gained a 2:1. While at university he played for the 1st XI Cricket, was Student Ambassador and played with the University Golf Club. He is now working on a career programme in hospitality at an exclusive luxury hotel in London.



Ella-Mae Smith (LS/Wf 12-19) graduated with a First Class BA (Hons) in Theological Studies in Philosophy and Ethics from the University of Manchester.

Ben Staveley Parker (LS/Cr 11-19) graduated with a First Class BA Hons in Architecture from Newcastle University. He is now working for dMFK Architects in London before going to the Royal College of Arts to continue his RIBA qualification.

Ed Whitfield (LS/Cr 11-19) graduated from the University of Bath with an MEng in Aerospace Engineering (2:1).

Class of 2020

Harry Fellingham (Cr 15-20) graduated from the University of Warwick with a BSc (Hons) in Biomedical Science (2:1).

Grace Hopkins (LS/Ry 12-20) graduated with a First Class BSc in Real Estate from Harper Adams University. She now has a graduate position with Dalcour Maclaren where she will study for her Royal Institute of Chartered Surveying (RICS) qualification.

Ethan Jones (Eg 14-20) graduated from the University of Northampton with a BA (Hons) in Business and International Political Relations (2:1).



Venetia Moir (Wf 15-20) graduated with a First Class BA (Hons) in Philosophy from Durham University. She is currently

completing her MA Law Conversion at Birmingham University of Law.

Hannah Phillips

(Ry 18-20) graduated with a BA (Hons) in Geography from the University of Nottingham (2:1). She is currently doing her Masters in Environmental Management and Leadership, also at the University of Nottingham.



Fred Scarf (Sy 18-20) graduated with a First Class BA (Hons) in Business Management and Entrepreneurship from Nottingham Trent University.

Daisy Swaby

(Wf 18-20) graduated with a BA (Hons) in Commercial Photography from Arts University Bournemouth (2:1). Since graduating she has been working in collaboration with American-based fashion designer, Kit Hunzinger as well as working for the Puppy Adoption Programme for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.



Other Year Groups

Harry Moir (Eg 10-15) graduated from the University of Cambridge with a BA Hons in Geography (2:1). Harry now works in property investment with AEW in London, having started off with Deloitte and qualifying as a Chartered Surveyor.

Alex Brown (Wn 11-16) graduated with First Class Honours from the University of St Andrews with an MA in Art History and Management. He went on to study for an MSc (Hons) in Rural Estate Management at the Royal Agricultural University (Distinction). He is now working for Howkins & Harrison LLP as a Graduate Surveyor.

Eleanor Moir (Wf 12-17) graduated from Durham University with a BA (Hons) in Geography (2:1). She went on to do a PGCE at the University of Oxford and has been teaching Geography at Reading Blue Coat School. She is moving to City of London School in September.

Monty Ng (LS/Sy 10-18) graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBChB) from the University of Liverpool.

He is now doing his first foundation year (F1) at Southport Hospital. ❤️



Old Bloxhamist News

July

Nick Rudge (Eg 81-84) along with his daughters, raised over £5,200 for the Thames Valley Air Ambulance. They completed their challenge in July 2023, crossing as many bridges, tunnels, fords and ferries that cross the River Thames from source to mouth, by car, bike, foot or ferry. They made just over 100 crossings in under 14 hours.



Nick Rudge

Hannah Shergold (Ry 98-03) was one of just 15 artists and celebrities to be chosen to design one of the life-sized gorillas as part of The Tusk Gorilla Trail at Covent Garden, London, during the summer. The Gorilla was titled 'Respect the Family' and Hannah says she played with the idea that if the gorilla could communicate its own values, beliefs and sense of humour through tattoo art, what would it say? Hannah is an ambassador of Tusk, a charity supporting forward-thinking and successful conservation intervention in Africa.



Respect the Family – Hannah Shergold

August

Max Tyler (LS/Sy 14-21), DJ and Music Producer, returned to CarFest South over the August Bank Holiday weekend headlining on the Club Stage. Max began DJing live on Instagram during the Covid lockdowns and his career has gone from strength to strength, now being booked for high profile shows and events across the UK. A particular highlight was playing to over 50,000 people on the Main Stage at the British Grand Prix at Silverstone. [Read more about Max's career on the School website.]



Max Tyler

Will Green (Ry 89-94) was appointed CEO of Princess Yachts, one of the UK's largest boat builders. He joined the Plymouth-based company as Assistant Sales Director, became Sales Director, Commercial Director and then, in August 2023, was promoted to CEO.



Will Green

Sam Church (Cr 16-21) was chosen to umpire his first international hockey tournament – the U21s 4 Nations Tournament in Dusseldorf, Germany. Sam started umpiring while at Bloxham and has been an England Hockey umpire since 2019.



Sam Church (right)

Kyle White (Wn 07-14) competed in the European Hockey Championships in Dublin representing Scotland. The Scottish team won Bronze after beating Italy 4-1 in the play-offs. Kyle is very proud to now have 26 caps for Scotland.



Kyle White

September

Tom Bird (LS/Eg 13-20) was the youngest competitor, aged 21, at the Burghley Horse Trials. He delivered a fantastic performance, securing a top-30 finish in his first five-star competition, on a horse which he produced from the very start of his career, *Rebel Rhyme*.



Tom Bird

A group of former members of Bloxham School staff met for their annual lunch at The Red Lion, Bloxham. A fantastic afternoon was had by all with much reminiscing and laughter.



In attendance were, clockwise from bottom left: **Paul Keyte** (Wf 74-79), **Felix Francis** (Staff 84-91), **Andrew Whiffin** (Staff 88-09), **Laura Hillman** (Staff 67-99), **Bob Axbey** (Staff 77-09), **Martin Folliot** hidden (Staff 63-84), **Col Stewart** (Staff 71-12), **Penny Folliot** (Staff 63-84), **Sandi Tideswell** (Staff 70-06), **Mike Tideswell** (Staff 70-06), **Jan Furley** (Staff 71-04), **Robin Hillman** (Staff 67-99), **Alison Ullmann** (Staff 72-85), **Margaret Griffin** (Staff 68-99), **Alan Griffin** (Staff 68-99), **Laurence Gunner** (School Chaplain 69-86).

Katy Wright (SH/Sy 91-93), **Andrew Markou** (Wf 88-93) and **Chris Webb** (Wn 88-93) organised a 30-year reunion in London.



30-year reunion in London

November

It was super to see former School Captain, **Charlie Spicer** (Sy 95-00) supporting his son (currently in the First Form at Bloxham) in the Bloxham Eventer Challenge. His son came 1st in the 90cm category.



Charlie Spicer

Robin Spicer (Sy 05-10) competed in the Ultra Marathon series in Morocco. Setting off from the city of Ourzazate, south of the Atlas Mountains, the 110km, two-day race included rocky desert trails, steep plateaus and green oases. Robin managed to finish second out of 250 competitors, completing the course in 10:46:18.

Simon Batten was delighted to attend a dinner in London for members of the Old Bloxhamist Racing Partnership at the end of a successful first season. Also present were trainer **Billy Aprahamian** (Sy 06-08), **Charlie Aprahamian** (Cr 06-11), **Rob Watts** (LS/Cr 04-11), **Will Ducker** (LS/Sy 04-11) and **Joe Faccenda** (LS/Cr 07-13).

Will Mawby (Sy 93-94) captained the British Armed Forces Polo Team against the US Military.

Will Warr (LS/Cr 01-08) had a great year with TopJaw, a food and travel brand, which he co-founded with Jesse Burgess. They have seen enormous success (with over 530,000 followers on Instagram) and have received worldwide acclaim for the 'Best of London' interview series where they talk to prominent chefs, restaurant owners and hospitality dons about their most loved (and most overrated) spots in London. They have had stand-alone articles about their success including features in *The Sunday Times* and *Financial Times*.



Will Warr

Steve Tunnicliffe (Ry 85-90) published a book *Somalia: The Land of Camel Milk and Honey*. He reflects on a time long-past and his youth living in a country with relative peace and freedom. He details how the country has endured a great deal of conflict and disorder over the last 30 years. Proceeds from the sale of the book are being donated to UNICEF's East Africa Campaign.



Steve Tunnicliffe

January

Congratulations to **Felix Hunt** (LS/Cr 16-23) who was awarded 'Man of the Match' playing for Banbury. At School, Felix was Captain of the 1st XV. In a comment after the game, a Banbury team representative said, "He runs like he's angry at the grass!"

© Simon Grieve



Felix Hunt



Our congratulations went to landlord **Simon Finch** (Cr 86-89) and the Finch family for 50 years at The Ele. For those of you who know Simon, you may appreciate the styling of the elephant on their newly launched Finch family ale, Legacy, from Hook Norton Brewery!

Amber Reed (Staff 13-15) was selected for the England squad to play in the Women's Rugby Six Nations.

February

Pip Torrens (Ry 73-77) led a 24-hour "Byrothon" at Trinity College, Cambridge, to mark the bicentenary of the death of the poet, Lord Byron.

Over half term, our School Archivist, Simon Batten, visited Nabugabo Community Primary School in Uganda on behalf of the charity HUGE (Helping Uganda Educate). He took with him two large bags packed with trainers donated by Bloxham pupils and staff.



Simon Batten

March

We were delighted to see so many OBs playing for the Pot-Bellied Farmers this year, both in an annual charity tournament at Buckingham RFC in December and v The Bucknell Barbarians from Hereford at Buckingham in March.

Players included: **Tom Alderman** (Wn 17-22), **Stan Deeley** (Sy 17-22), **Charlie Gulliver** (Sy 10-15), **James Gurney** (Wn 17-22), **Tom Gurney** (Wn 07-12), **William 'Wiggy' Gurney** (Wn 10-15), **Callum Horne** (Wn 11-13), **Dougie Oliver** (Eg 17-22), **Tom Oliver** (Eg 16-21), **Harry Rymer** (Cr 10-15), **George Sawbridge** (Cr 15-20), **Jack Sawbridge** (Cr 06-08), **Andrew Smith** (Sy 10-15), **Charlie Tredwell** (Sy 10-15), **Jonny Wilkinson** (Sy 17-22), and current members of staff James Ramm and Ed Selby-Lowndes.

Congratulations to **Ben Pauling** (Eg 00-02) on a great win at the Cheltenham Festival with *Shakem Up'arry* winning the Plate Handicap Chase for trainer Ben and owner Harry Redknapp. Ben also had a second place on the opening day of the Festival with *Twig* in the Ultima Handicap Chase.



Ben Pauling



Pot-Bellied Farmers

April

Bloxham School achieved a rare rugby double when two OBs played the number seven position for both of Loughborough University's teams in the BUCS Super Rugby finals at Saracens' StoneX Stadium. **Dan Eckersley** (Cr 18-20) and **Lucy Finch** (LS/Ry 16-21) both play open side flanker for Loughborough; Dan scored a try for the Men's side which won a thrilling 35-31 victory over reigning champions Exeter to record their first ever BUCS Super Rugby title, and was also awarded Player of the Match. Sadly, Loughborough's Women came up short in a close match against reigning champions Hartpury, losing 34-22.

We were delighted to see **Andrew Bock** (Wn 88-91) and **Rob Pile** (LS/Cr 98-03) playing for the victorious Banbury RUFC in the Vets County Shield.

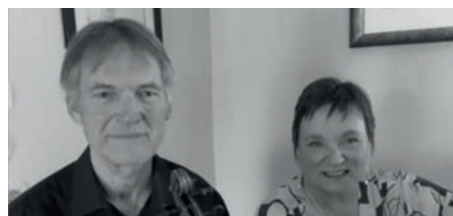
Charlie Lewis-Jones (LS/Wn 10-18) ran the Brighton Marathon raising funds for St Joseph's Hospice in Hackney.

James Miller (Wf 94-99) has been made a Board Trustee of Sported UK, a charity which supports community clubs and groups in the UK, using the power of sport to transform the lives of disadvantaged young people.

Nick Taylor (Wf 96-01) featured in the inaugural Raconteur 50 list, celebrating exceptional CEOs who are making a real difference to the face of business today. Nick featured in the 'Industry Champions' category – for leaders driving meaningful change beyond their sectors.

May

The School was honoured to support a classical music concert in memory of **Paddy Kellett** (Wn 05-10). Paddy's mother, classically trained pianist, Jacky Kellett and violinist, Richard Boland performed a beautiful programme. The concert was in aid of a charitable foundation in Paddy's name, set up through Banbury Hockey Club to bring sport to young people who need support.



Richard Boland and Jacky Kellett

It was fantastic to see OBs in action, playing for Banbury Hockey Club in the T1 Men's Cup Final at Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre, London. Our particular congratulations to **Will Kellett** (Wn 03-08), **Fergus Dunleavy** (Eg 12-17) and Connor Roberts (Current Staff) who were part of this National Finals team, and to **Richard Hobley** (Staff 10-19), and **Paul Dunleavy** (OB parent), the Banbury coaches. Despite it being a well-fought contest, the final score was 4-2 to Beeston.



T1 Men's Cup Final

We are delighted that **Morgan Tinkler** (Cr 18-23) was able to celebrate his Gold DofE achievement at Buckingham Palace in the presence of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.



Morgan Tinkler

Caleb Bowden (Sy 21-23) and his brother Jonah appeared as extras in the second series of the hit BBC historical drama *SAS: Rogue Heroes*. Their great-grandfather was one of the original Rogue Heroes, Gentleman Jim Arnold, and is played by actor Corin Silva. Series two was filmed in the UK and Croatia in September 2023 and is due to be aired later in 2024.



Caleb Bowden

June

Congratulations to **Hannah Shergold** (Ry 98-03) who was highly commended in the British Ex-Forces in Business 'Entrepreneur of the Year' award. Hannah has worked hard with her painting to create a brand that can 'pack a big philanthropic punch in an industry that is so fraught with uncertainty'. The Ex-Forces in Business Awards are the world's largest celebration of military veterans in second careers. Hannah was also a Finalist in the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation Wildlife Artist of the Year competition with two of her paintings shortlisted. Her work was exhibited in the Mall Galleries in July.



What Lies Beneath – Hannah Shergold

Jennifer Fox-Gainsborough (Warren-Smith, Eg 79-81) co-founder and partner of Thornybush Game Lodge, was nominated for the 2024 Condé Nast Readers' Choice Awards.

Alfie Barbeary (Eg 14-19) capped an excellent season in which he represented England A team v Portugal scoring a try, by playing in the Gallagher Rugby Premiership Final at Twickenham, representing his club, Bath. They were narrowly beaten (25-21) by Northampton Saints who took home the trophy.

Congratulations to **Emily Cavendar** (Wf 15-20), **Emily Clarke** (Wf 15-20) and **James Swaby** (LS/Wn 16-23) for completing the Leamington Spa Half Marathon helping to support The Myton Hospices.



James, Emily and Emily

Announcements

Engagements

Congratulations to **Andrew Lace** (LS/Wn 01-08) and Charlotte Meyer on their engagement.



Andrew and Charlotte

Marriages

Annabelle Bailey (Ry 99-04) married **David Taylor** (Wn 99-01) at St Etheldreda's, Horley, on 1 June 2024. **Harriet Sheppard** (Ry 02-04) and **Charlotte Embley** (Ry 99-04) were bridesmaids and **Charlie Moreton** (Cr 97-02) was Best Man, while other Old Bloxhamists in attendance included **Will Moreton** (Cr 99-04), **Amy Irvine** (Ry 00-04), **Matthew Thornton** (Sy 97-02) and **Anthony McClellan** (Wn 02-04). A number of members of Bloxham staff also attended, including Mark and Jacqui Skevington, and Dave Quinney. Annabelle and David are expecting their first child in October.



Annabelle and David

Emma Glanvill (LS/Wf 07-14) was married to Harvey Hawkins on 14 June 2024 at St John the Baptist Church, Middleton, with a reception at Moxhull Hall, Sutton Coldfield. Old Bloxhamists in attendance included **Mary O'Reilly** (Wf 09-14), **Ben Thompson** (Sy 12-14),

Laura Marshall (LS/Wf 07-12) **Natasha Girling** (Wf 09-14), who sang during the signing of the register, **Oliver Johnson** (Sy 09-14), **George Herbert** (Eg 09-14), **Emily Dove** (Wf 09-14) and **Barney Neal** (LS/Eg 07-14).



Emma and Harvey

Lt Oliver-Rupert Pelendrides RN (Wn 08-13), married Miss Georgina Scarles, on 22 July 2023 in the Chapel Royal of Saint Peter and Vincula of His Majesty's Palace and Fortress of the Tower of London. The couple have chosen to combine their surnames to Scarles-Pelendrides. Fellow Old Bloxhamists **Nicholas Oborn** (LS/Cr 06-13) and **Edward Wooster** (Wn 10-13) were in attendance.



Georgina and Oliver-Rupert

Anna Tait (PC/Eg 88-90) married Paul Taylor on 30 September 2023. They hosted their reception at The Moon and Sixpence in Hanwell. Among those in attendance were **Chris Nash** (Wf 85-90), **Jonathan Tibbetts** (Cr 88-93), **Harriet Boland** (Wf 08-15) and **Charlotte Boland** (Wf 10-17).



Anna and Paul

Harry Whale (LS/Wn 01-08) married Louisa Dobbs on 21 July 2023 in Ballycarry, County Antrim. His brother **Seb Whale** (LS/Sy 02-07) and sister **Lucy Whale** (LS/Wf 06-11) attended the wedding and **Jack Paxford** (LS/Wn 01-08) was Best Man.



Louisa and Harry

Births

To **Emma Cartledge-Taylor** (LS/Ry 02-09) and Ryan, a son, Cillian Donald, on 11 March 2024.

To **Henry Powell** (Wn 01-06) and **Gemma Powell** (Young, LS/Ry 99-06), a son, Otto, on 7 September 2023.



Henry and Otto

To **William Powell** (Wn 05-10) and **Hayley Powell** (Nunneley, Ry 08-10), a son, Monty, on 18 December 2023.

Anniversaries



Mairi and Alan

In March 2023, **Alan Adey** (Wn 52-55) and his wife Mairi celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary after 60 years of marriage and received a card from the King and Queen.

Tours

We are always delighted to welcome OBs back to Bloxham and are most grateful to School Archivist, Simon Batten, for leading tours for our alumni.

Giles Harrison (Wn/Ry 67-73) visited Bloxham while on a rare visit to the UK from New Zealand, with his school friends **Martin Bolton** (Wn 69-73) and his brother, **Stephen Bolton** (Wn 72-75) and **Charles McGregor** (Ry/Eg 69-73) and Charles' wife, Lynne.



Charles, Stephen, Giles and Martin

It was very special for local man, Peter Bond, to surprise his childhood friend, **Charles Herbert** (Cr 62-66) with a visit to Charles' old school, having not been to Bloxham for nearly 60 years. Charles had a wonderful time reminiscing and marvelling at all the School had to offer in the 21st century.

Faye Richardson (Ry 01-04) and **Ali Gray** (Ry 01-06), both Class of 2006, met up, with their babies, for coffee at Bloxham's White Lion Café having not seen each other since school. They enjoyed a tour of the School and had a lovely time reminiscing and hopefully showing the next generation their future school!



Faye and Ali

It was wonderful to welcome Andy Parcell and his daughter Ametz, the son and granddaughter of the late **John Bryan Parcell** (Wn 43-47). Ametz is at Bangor University with Old Bloxhamist, **Tabbie Harris** (Wf 16-21). They were fascinated to see where John had been to school and to hear what the School was like at that time. As well as photos from the archives, Simon was able to show the visitors a diary kept by **Jim Graham** (Wf 41-45) which helped portray what life was like at Bloxham during the Second World War.



Ametz and Andy

The photograph of Andy and Ametz is taken in front of the same tree where Bryan Parcell and the other Wilson House prefects were photographed in the summer of 1947 (Bryan is on the far left of the front row below).



Wilson House Prefects, Summer 1947

We were delighted to host a visit from **Julian Seymour** (Ry 93-98) taking him on a tour of his old house and also visiting his housemaster, **Col Stewart** (Staff 71-13). He greatly enjoyed popping in to see the house named after his grandfather, **Derek Seymour** (Headmaster 65-82).

Other OBs visiting the School included:

- **Hilary Coleman** (Wf 67-72)
- **David Eary** (Ry 82-87) with his wife Shani and their daughter
- **Marcello Gianni** (SH/Ry 80-82)
- **Paul Muschett** (Wn 71-75) with his wife and daughters, all visiting from Jamaica
- **Dan Morgan** (Cr 82-85) and **Anthony Charlton** (Cr 82-85)
- **James Penny** (Ry 86-90)
- **Ben Taylor** (Eg 82-87) and his three children visiting from Singapore
- **Felix Wong** (Eg 88-93) visited while in the UK for a reunion of 1993 Bloxham Leavers in London ♥

From the Archives

Duke of Edinburgh's Awards



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award was founded in 1956 by HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh as a means of teaching young people team-building and resilience.

The awards recognise young people for completing a series of self-improvement exercises and involve three areas: skills, volunteering and physical. For most Bloxhamists, the enduring memory will be of the assessed expeditions, carried out in the Fourth Form (for the Bronze Award) and Lower Sixth (for the Gold Award).

The Duke of Edinburgh Award arrived at Bloxham in 1964 as part of post-CCF training under **John Fiori** (Staff 53-83). The Forty (a rather misleading title once numbers in the Third Form swelled to sixty) took part in the Bronze Award, and the first 21 bronze medals were awarded in 1967. The following year the Gold and Silver group came into being as an alternative to CCF and expeditions to Exmoor, Dartmoor and Wales, both North and Mid, were soon the feature of Bloxham life that they continue to be today. During this period, **Ken Spring** (Staff 66-81), **Richard Theobald** (Wn 52-57 and Staff 66-81) and **Brian Kemp** (Staff 52-84) were all key elements in the School's DofE programme.

By the 1990s, the numbers taking part in the scheme were so great that more expeditions than usual had to be organised. In 1993, for example, **Peter Mayes** (Staff 67-95) ran two Bronze Award expeditions in the Malvern Hills, two Silver Award expeditions in

the Forest of Dean, a Gold Award trial expedition in the Berwyn Mountains and an assessed Gold Award expedition on Dartmoor, while another group used their World Challenge expedition to the Himalayas to fulfil the requirements. Peter Mayes organised the DofE Gold for many years, accompanied on expeditions by sidekicks both canine (Bracken) and human **Chris Fletcher-Campbell** (Staff 82-07) and **Colin Stewart** (Staff 71-13), and after his retirement in 1995 the extraordinarily tireless CFC took over. The main challenge for participants has often been not the expeditions but completing the process when faced with all the other pressures of school life. Peter Mayes noted that those who passed displayed sometimes extraordinary perseverance in that they were probably the pupils with some of the heaviest responsibilities in the School anyway, including School Captains and Oxbridge candidates.

Every expedition leaves the participants with stories to tell. One veteran of the 1989 Dartmoor Expedition, **David Tillyer** (Wf 85-90), recalled a torrential downpour: 'All eleven of us crowded into the already cramped toilet block to peel off the wet clothes that were absolutely drenched under our waterproofs. We planned to travel south across the

moor to make a final rendezvous with the Headmaster. However, mother nature did not approve of our plans, and she did her best to stop us. Over the next three days the wind blew, the rain poured and occasionally the fog would ... fog.'

Another group on Dartmoor had an especially exciting encounter with a big cat in 1998. They were sleeping under cover at Giant's Basin on the high moor when a big cat clawed through their tent. The next morning, they found what they took to be the remains of a sheep nearby, and police confirmed that a paw print left by the animal was almost certainly made by a big cat, probably a lion. Amidst intense media interest in the story, **Tom Hayman-Joyce** (Wn 94-99) told the *Daily Telegraph*: 'We had gone to bed early only to be awakened by a ripping and pulling noise at the porch of the tent. The bottom of the tent was badly torn with what appeared to be claw marks.' **David Dennehy** (Wn 94-99) said he shone a torch out of his tent and saw two pairs of green cat's eyes, while another pupil, **John Pollard** (Cr 94-99), said he felt 'sick with fear' and hardly slept.

Big cats have thankfully not been a feature of recent Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, but the scheme continues to play a big part in the lives of many Bloxhamists under the leadership of Miss Merris and Mr Shepherd.

To read about this year's DofE expeditions please turn to page 29. ♥

Obituaries

1940s

1946

Stephen Woodridge (Wn 43-46) passed away on 25 April 2023, at the age of 93. His family said that he was very proud of his time at Bloxham and kept very fond memories of his school days, which he shared with all his family. He lived a long and adventurous life surrounded by a loving family and with no regrets – apart from never scoring as many runs for Bloxham cricket team as his age at passing! He will be deeply missed by his wife Jacqueline and their four sons Toby, Jason, Gareth and Matthew.

1948

John Barker (Wf 46-48) passed away on 8 September 2023, at the age of 92. John was a member of the 1948 1st XV, played for the 1st XI v MCC in 1947 and was awarded 2nd XI Colours for cricket. He also won Shooting Colours and swam and boxed for the House. John was a regular attendee at Old Bloxhamist events, especially The Headmaster's Dinner, and was a member of The Egerton Society. In 2002, John was responsible for the erection of a headstone in the Bloxham Churchyard in memory of his old housemaster, George Bolton (Staff 34-67), and his wife Louie.

Mike Fountaine (Wn 44-48) passed away on New Year's Day 2024 at the age of 91, after having a stroke a few days earlier.

We are grateful to his daughter, Jane, for the following obituary: Mike was at Bloxham just after the war, a time of rationing, and remembered growing a lot of the food they ate, including potatoes that stayed frozen in the ground during the harsh winter of 1947, and milking cows at a local farm. Each day he saved his sugar allowance in order to give his mother a jam jar of sugar at the end of term. He stayed friends with many of his fellow pupils over the years, with Tim Brown (Wn 48-51) attending his funeral earlier this year. Mike was a House Prefect and Secretary of the School's Young Farmers Club. He earned his Colts Rugby colours in 1947 and won the Junior High Dive and Standing Dive at that year's Swimming Sports.

His great passion in life was farming which he continued doing right up until the end, with his wife Isobel and son Richard (Wn 76-81). As well as Isobel and Richard, he is survived by his daughters Julie and Jane (Wf 83-85), eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. His other son Charlie (Wn 78-81), passed away in 2001.



Mike and Isobel Fountaine

1949

David Smith (Wn 46-49) passed away on 12 August 2023, at the age of 91. David was a 2nd XV regular and played one match for the 1st XV in 1948. He was a member of the School's Boxing team for three years as well as winning School Colours for fives. He was a Wilson House Prefect in his final term. David was an active Old Bloxhamist, a regular attendee at OB dinners and social events. Simon Batten, remembers David as a man of impeccable manners and sartorial elegance.

1950s

1952

Charles Robert Gilman (Wn 47-52) passed away in December 2020 from Covid. While at Bloxham, Charles was Chairman of the Young Farmers Club, a House Prefect, in the 3rd XV rugby and a member of the School Stage Club. His son told us that he lived a long and happy life being a farmer in Staffordshire and enjoyed country pursuits. Charles often recounted the story of how cold it was when he joined Bloxham in January 1947!

1953

John Anthony Jefferis (Wf 47-53) passed away on 20 May 2024. We are grateful to his daughter, Lucy Powell, for this obituary: My father John led a full life and made the most of his opportunities. At Bloxham he especially enjoyed subjects involving rules and logic. During National Service he was a member of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers' Rifle Team. John studied mechanical engineering at Jesus College, Cambridge – at the suggestion of his Bloxham maths teacher. He rowed in the college first boat, winning the Fairbairn Cup in 1957.

John completed an electrical engineering apprenticeship before returning to Cambridge; he married my mother Nancy the day after he completed the experiments for his PhD thesis. John joined Timsons Engineering, Kettering, in research and development, retiring from the company aged 65. As a churchwarden at SS Peter and Paul, Kettering, he was a leading member of the tower and spire restoration team.

In retirement John shared his knowledge, lecturing in higher education. He was elected to the Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers and made a Freeman, later a Liveryman, of the City of London in recognition of his lifetime's work in the printing industry. He enjoyed Old Bloxhamist dinners and was pleased to offer Stationers' Hall as a lunch venue for The Egerton Society.

He will be greatly missed by my mother, my brother Timothy, myself, his grandchildren and extended family.



John Anthony Jefferis

1954

James (Jim) Dale (Wn 49-54) Jim, passed away peacefully in his sleep on 17 December 2023, at the age of 87. We are grateful to his wife, Anne, for the following obituary: During his time at Bloxham, which he spoke of with great fondness, he was a School Prefect, played 1st XV rugby, shot for the School at Bisley (including in the Ashburton Shield) and founded the Photographic Society. After leaving Bloxham, Jim completed his National Service in Germany where he trained as a tank driver and played rugby for the regiment. In 1960, he married Anne, his best man was David Poore (Wn 49-54) and one of their ushers was John Wright (Wf 50-55). Jim was a great family man; he and Anne had a son and daughter and four grandchildren. They subsequently lived in Nottingham, Buckinghamshire and Essex. He retired, aged 57, after a highly successful career in the Heavy Earth Moving industry. He continued his love of golf, sailing and photography into his retirement.



James (Jim) Dale

William (Bill) Hurst Faulkner (Wf 51-54) passed away on 14 December 2023. His daughter, Joanne, said that he loved his time at Bloxham and visited on many occasions. We are grateful to the family for this obituary.

Bill was born on 21 June 1937. He was the youngest of three and had a wonderful childhood on the family farm. He joined Bloxham when he was 13, making lifelong friends. He was in the CCF, Young Farmers Club, boxed and played rugby and cricket. On one school trip to France, he threw a butter paper out of the train window which of course flew in another to hit one of the masters in the face. While at school, the winters were cold enough to freeze the moat at Broughton Castle and he spent many afternoons skating there. After school, he went to Moreton Hall to study Agriculture.

Bill married Pam in 1961 and they moved into Bryher Cottage, named after their

favourite Island in the Scillies, and they had two children: Joanne and Marcus.

Bill was an active member of the Rural District Council, Parish Council and Parochial Church Council and was a Church Warden for many years. Bill was a Mason and was Master of the Old Bloxhamist Lodge more than once. He was a keen season ticket holder of Aston Villa and enjoyed cricket at Edgbaston and rugby at Wasps.

Bill was very proud of his children, Joanne and Marcus, his grandchildren, Josh and Hannah and his great grand-daughter, Evie.

His great friend, and fellow OB, Michael Morrison (Wf 51-55) adds: 'I met Bill in the Wilberforce Junior dormitory and together with John Lilwall (Wf 51-55) and Ted Byron (Wf 50-55) we spent four years together. The funeral was a fitting tribute where us Bloxham pals all wore Bloxham School attire: blazer and cricket caps. In the celebration of Bill's life, the Test Match Special music was played and reminded me of Bill bowling very fast on the square.' Tom Heritage (Wn 53-55) and Malcolm Thorne (Eg 76-80) were also in attendance.



William (Bill) Hurst Faulkner

1958

Stuart Badger (Wf 56-58) passed away on 6 December 2023, at the age of 81. Stuart arrived at Bloxham in May 1956 from Emscote Lawn. He was a cadet in the CCF, passing Certificate A, parts I and II. He was a chapel server and chorister and took part in the Choral Society's productions of *Patience* and *The Mikado*. He represented the School in rugby, cricket and cross country.

1960s

1963

Robert Christopher Aldridge Fisher (Cr 59-63) passed away on 5 November 2023. Robert was the younger brother of Michael (Cr 45-52) and the uncle of

Tony (Cr 74-79) and John (Cr 80-83). He was a Lance Corporal in the CCF and won House Colours in boxing. The formative influence on him at Bloxham was his Housemaster, Brian Kemp (Staff 52-84), who ran Crake for an unequalled 22 years. On leaving Bloxham, Robert wrote under 'future plans' that he hoped to become a Chartered Accountant, and, sure enough, he ran the family accountancy business and lived on Merseyside all his life. According to his nephew, Tony, he was a keen golfer and photographer who particularly enjoyed travelling to Majorca.



Robert Christopher Aldridge Fisher

Duncan Harrington FSG, FSA, LHG, DipGen (Wf 59-63) passed away in March 2023. Duncan was a Wilberforce House Prefect and played rugby for the 2nd XV during the 1962-63 season. He was also a member of the Athletics team and Editor of the Bloxham Miscellany. After Bloxham, Duncan became a respected genealogist and antiquary; he was a member of the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies, and for many years was attached to The National Archives. He also taught part-time at the School of History at the University of Kent, the county which was the focus of most of his research. He was elected President of the Kent Family History Society in 2004, having helped to



Duncan Harrington FSG, FSA, LHG, DipGen

found the organisation in 1974. Bloxham School benefitted from his expertise, and especially from the fruits of his research into the family history of the Founder, Philip Reginald Egerton.

1980s

1980

Simon Read (Ry 75-80) passed away in May 2024.

Our thanks to Andrew Wray (Ry 77-80) for sharing his memories of Simon: Simon arrived at Bloxham from Haileybury Junior School and settled into Raymond House (later joined by his brother Tim (Ry 78-81)). He was the first to admit he was no academic – a fact frequently drawn to his attention by his Housemaster and tutor!

His qualities lay in different fields: a keen all-round sportsman, representing the School and his House in rugby, cricket and athletics and in the CCF, a member of NCO Cadre. However, his application to join the Chapel Choir raised a few eyebrows and it was decided he was not quite what they were looking for!

Simon's loyalty as a friend coupled with an irreverent sense of humour were his most endearing qualities. Shortly before he lost his battle with cancer, he made a concerted effort to contact his old school friends, just to catch up. We are so grateful he did.

1984

Stephen Eberlin (Ry 79-84) passed away on 4 December 2023. Stephen was a successful athlete at Bloxham, his prowess at the discus earning him Half Colours in his final year. *The 1979 Bloxhamist* commented on his rugby as a third former: 'Eberlin was a giant of a forward, but his performances did not generally match his physique.' By the time he had made it into the 2nd XV it was observed that 'at second row, Chris Cooney (Wn 79-84) and Stephen Eberlin will become very useful players next season when they have gained in weight and strength. As it was, they contested the line outs and loose play with great vigour.'

1985

Jane Spalton (SH/Wf 83-85) passed away peacefully on 20 March 2024. Jane always remembered the happy time she spent at Bloxham both in Stone Hill and

Wilberforce. During her two years she made many valued friends and was in touch with several of them until recent years. Moira Ogilvie (Staff 83-91) was her Housemistress in Stone Hill in her final year. In 1986, when Jane applied for a job as a PA at the Warneford Hospital in Oxford, Moira wrote 'she is an adaptable person with an outgoing personality and innate intelligence and common sense.' She was a Chapel Prefect and studied history, geography and art at A Level, showing particular talent in art, especially sculpture and photography.



Jane Spalton

2000s

2005

Mariam Alston (Seddon, LS/Ry 99-05) passed away on Friday 7 July 2023. Mariam will be remembered by many for her artistic achievements at Bloxham, especially in drama and singing. Her closest friends at Bloxham remember her as follows: "The first to challenge and the first to hug, Mariam applied her keen intelligence and fathomless empathy to help people whenever and wherever she could. She was a loyal friend and lifelong advocate for the unheard voice. She may have hated sport, but her impact on those lucky to have her on their side made her the team member anyone would want. Our school memories are full of her infectious laughter and mischievous sense of humour – her powerful energy. She has profoundly impacted everyone in her orbit and is deeply missed by her friends and loved ones, especially her husband Lewis and her family."



Mariam Seddon (left) with Emily Ruck-Keene and Noe Baba (2003)

2006

Simon Hughes (LS/Wn 99-06) passed away in 2024.

Former Staff

The Reverend Derek Duncanson

(School Chaplain 86-99) died on 13 May 2024, aged 76. Derek came from a parish, arriving at Bloxham in 1986, and returned to parish work in Peterborough after his time at the School. He was noted for his no-nonsense style and refreshing ability to communicate with pupils and staff in a down-to-earth manner. He built up an extremely strong sense of commitment among his loyal and efficient team of Chapel prefects, sacristans and servers. Two noted elements of his time at Bloxham were his work as Child Protection Officer and the introduction of All School Eucharists. David Exham, Headmaster for most of Derek's 13 years at the School, commented when Derek left Bloxham: "How the School will miss him; how I shall miss him! The one person who is probably quite literally at the moment irreplaceable. The Chaplaincy is not a job but a critical vocation, especially in a Woodard School, and especially at Bloxham." He will long be remembered for his final sermon, in which he addressed the perennial question posed by Bloxham pupils 'How long will it last?'

Derek's funeral – fittingly, a full Requiem Mass – took place at Holy Trinity, Broadstairs, where he had served the congregation faithfully for many years. The Bloxham School community extends its sincere condolences to Margaret and the Duncanson family for their loss.



The Reverend Derek Duncanson

Jane George (Staff 84-88) Bloxham School is saddened to hear of the news of the death of Jane George on 14 February 2024, aged 68. As the School's first Head of Girls' Games, Jane played a vital role in the establishment of girls' team sports at the School in the 1980s. She made great strides in providing sporting opportunities for the increasing number of girls at a time of expansion due to the opening of Stone Hill and Park Close houses. She arrived at Bloxham in 1984 to join her husband Ian, who served as Director of Sport between 1983 and 1988, when they moved to Haileybury. While they were at Bloxham they had twins, and their youngest son, Jamie, is currently Captain of the England rugby team. Our sympathies go out to Ian and to the George family.



Jane George

Robin Hillman (Staff 67-99) died on 27 March 2024, aged 82. Robin was Housemaster of Wilson between 1981 and 1995 and Head of Science between 1973 and 1982.

He arrived at Bloxham in September 1967 from Marlborough Grammar School, having been appointed by Derek Seymour as Head of Chemistry. Later he introduced the Nuffield A Level, marking the start of a long and very successful association with the Nuffield courses. Robin elevated chemistry at Bloxham to new heights with his series of textbooks with colleagues Mike Cane and Colin McCarthy. He was also a member of numerous examination committees and played a big part in revising new exam syllabuses. His successor as Head of Chemistry, Jeff Freeman, commented that "I remain impressed by a man whose apparent frantic pace of life overlaid an intense degree of careful planning and a meticulousness of preparation that engenders only wonderment."

Robin learnt his tutoring skills under John Fiori in Wilberforce before joining Ralph Ullmann in Wilson. As Wilson Housemaster himself for 14 years, he was tirelessly caring in his stewardship

of the House. Laura was a constant support to Robin and served as the first Assistant Housemistress of Stonehill, as well as teaching languages both at Bloxham and Tudor Hall.

The frantic pace at which Robin lived his life took a toll on his health, and after 14 years running the house he deserved a reduction in his workload, spending four years as a tutor in Egerton before he and Laura retired to Brittany in 1996. There they welcomed a procession of Bloxham visitors and tended their beautiful garden at Bubry – Robin really did have green fingers, with a particular passion for fuchsias; he was a finalist in the BBC's *Mastermind of Gardening* in 1993.

His Christian faith was absolutely central to Robin's life, and he played a leading part in the School Chapel, assisting at Communion and delivering sermons. His hymn singing, though, was not of the same order of excellence! Robin was a generous friend and host who always took a compassionate interest in anyone with whom he came into contact. Typically, he and Laura threw themselves selflessly into the life of the parish both in Brittany and then in Evesham, to which they moved to be closer to their children.

It was somehow appropriate that a man of such strong belief should pass away on his way to a service of Compline in Holy Week. Our sympathies go to Laura and to their family.



Robin Hillman

Sarah Roberts died on 11 August 2023. Sarah was the widow of former Director of Music, Martin Roberts (Staff 73-96), whose death was reported in last year's Bloxhamist. Sarah was an extremely gifted piano teacher and gave great service in her own right to the Music Department at Bloxham as well as Tudor Hall. Our sympathies go to her daughters, Joanna and Sophie, on this second great loss.

Mary Vallance was wife of Michael Vallance, Headmaster of Bloxham School between 1982 and 1991. Mary was a kind and graceful lady and a generous host who will be remembered by many Old Bloxhamists for her excellent teas for new pupils and members of the Sixth Form Literati Society. After leaving Bloxham, Michael and Mary retired, ultimately to Wallingford, where Michael passed away in 2013. Mary died on 2 May 2024, aged 86. The Old Bloxhamists and the School community extend their condolences to Mary's children, Rachel, Emma and Vivian on their loss.



Mary Vallance

Former Governor

Lord Saye and Sele (School Governor 61-91) Nathaniel Fiennes, 21st Baron Saye and Sele, died on 20 January 2024 at the grand age of 103. Lord Saye and Sele was a familiar figure to many generations of Bloxhamists who would have encountered him and Lady Saye and Sele on school trips to Broughton Castle, which has been the family home since 1377. Many a Second Form historian will remember 'Nat' pointing out the portrait in the Great Hall of his ancestor William Fiennes, one of the leaders of the Parliamentary side in the Civil War, while others will have visited the castle on art trips and CCF field days. Lord Saye and Sele was a Governor of Bloxham School for thirty years, with his standing in the community and knowledge of the property business proving invaluable to the School over the years. ❤️



Lord and Lady Saye and Sele

Teaching Staff

Mr P.W. SANDERSON, BSc, MPhil	University of St Andrews	Headmaster; Biology	2013
Mr M.A. BUCKLAND, BA, MEd	University of Lancaster	Deputy Head (Curriculum); Geography	2014
Mr M.D. BULL, BSc	Leeds Metropolitan University	Deputy Head (External Communications); Seymour Housemaster	2015
Mrs L. LADDS, BA, MA	University of Wales	Deputy Head (Pastoral)	2023
Mrs J.H. SKEVINGTON, BEd	Moray House, Edinburgh	Assistant Head (Student Welfare and Pastoral Care); School DSL	1998
Mrs J.A. COCHRAN, BA	Wolverhampton Polytechnic	Assistant Head (Staffing and Wellbeing); Modern Foreign Languages	2016
Mr S.J. BATTEN, MA	Jesus College, Oxford	School Archivist	1985
Mr T.M. SKEVINGTON, BEd	Shoreditch College, London	D&T	1985
Mr M.J.M. MOIR, BSc	University of Durham	Head of Fourth & Fifth Form; Mathematics	1999
Mr D.R. BEST, BEd	University of Exeter	Mathematics	2000
Mrs R. LEHMANN, BA	Swansea Metropolitan University	Art	2003
Dr C.E. EVANS, MSc, PhD	University of Liverpool	Head of Geography	2004
Mrs S.K. HEATHCOTE, RGN	The Royal London Hospital	Park Close Housemistress; Girls' Games	2004
Mr R.S. DANN, BA, DipM	University of Coventry	Business Studies	2012
Miss L.M. MANNING, BA, DMS, PG Dip.	Brunel University	Wilberforce Assistant Housemistress; Head of Netball; Girls' Games	2012
Dr M.J. RUCK, MA, DPhil	Oriel College, Oxford	Director of Data, Tracking and Examinations; Physics; Chemistry	2012
Mr S.D.A. THOMPSON, BA	University of Southampton	Geography; ECT Tutor; International Co-ordinator	2013
Mr R. HUDSON, MA	University of York	Crake Housemaster; Head of History; Politics	2014
Mr R.D.J. MATTHEW, BA, MDes, FRGS	Edinburgh College of Art	Director of Art; Photography	2014
Mr A.J. REDPATH, BMus	Royal College of Music	Head of Barwell House; Director of Music	2015
Mr C.J. SAUNDERS, BA, MSc	University of Oxford	Director of Studies; English	2015
Miss H.E. WOODWARD, BSc	University of Manchester	Stonehill Housemistress; Mathematics	2015
Mrs V.C.M. MOIR, BA	University of Durham	Latin	2015
Mrs C.M. SUMMERS, MA	Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge	Head of English	2016
Miss E. LESU, BA, MA	University of Warwick	Modern Foreign Languages	2016
Dr K.A. PERERA BSc, PhD	The Queen's University, Belfast	Head of Gifted and Able and Scholars; Head of Biology	2016
Mr J.R. RAMM, BA	University of York	Head of Third Form; Music; Geography	2016
Miss J.C. SINGLE, BA	University of Loughborough	Raymond Housemistress; Drama; English	2017
Mr G.N. WEBBER, BSc	University of Exeter	Biology; Head of PSHE; Head of Cricket	2017
Mr P.G. HARVEY, Cert PCE	Warwick University	Head of Food and Nutrition; Head of Services	2018
Mr J.D. WALKER, BA	University of Central Lancashire	Egerton Housemaster; Head of Rugby; PE	2018
Dr S. FLOATE, BSc, PhD	University of Liverpool	Head of Chemistry	2018
Mr R. BROADY-BENNETT, BEd	University of Leeds Metropolitan	D&T	2018
Miss A.E.M. GOODE, BA	University of Southampton	Spanish	2018
Ms C.E.R. POTTER, BA	The Open University	English	2018
Mrs S.J. CLITHEROE, BA	The John Moores University of Liverpool	Head of Economics and Business	2019
Mrs C.M. BRIDGE, BSc	University of Nottingham	Head of Lower School; Mathematics	2020
Mr D.R. BOWDEN, BA	Roehampton University	Senior Housemaster; Wilson Housemaster; History	2020
Mrs E.J. EXELBY, BA, MA	Anglian Ruskin University	Head of Sixth Form; English	2020
Mr B.J. FORD, BSc	University of Leeds	PE	2020
Mrs C. LINTON, MAPP	Buckinghamshire New University	Merton Housemistress; Physics	2020
Mrs K.M. SOLIE, MA	University of Minnesota	Art	2020
Mr A. BOWDEN, MEd	University of Buckingham	Mathematics	2021
Mrs E.L. DANBY, BSc	University of Reading	Food Technology	2021
Mrs P. DUNCAN-JONES BSc	Loughborough University	Wilberforce Housemistress; PE	2021
Miss G.N. GAMBLE, MA	University of Bath	English	2021
Mr J. HORNSBY, BA	Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts	Head of Drama	2021
Rev. A. LADDS, MA	University of Durham	Chaplain	2021
Mrs N.C. LONG, BSc	University of Portsmouth	Special Needs Co-ordinator	2021
Mrs X. PAN, BA, MA	Nanjing University	Mandarin	2021
Ms S.C. RUSSELL, MA	University of Buckingham	Director of Teaching and Learning; Geography; Business	2021
Mr S.A. SHEPHERD, MSc	De Montford University	Head of Outdoor Education	2021
Mr J. SISSONS, BSc, MSc	University of Middlesex	Wilson Assistant Housemaster; Strength and Conditioning Coach	2021
Miss R.G. ANDREW, BSc	Brunel University	Sports Professional	2022
Mr L.T.G. HARRIS, BSc	University of Gloucestershire	Head of Computing	2022
Mr C.R.S. ROBERTS, BSc	University of Ulster	Head of Hockey	2022
Mr E.W. SELBY-LOWNDES		Egerton Assistant Housemaster; Sports Professional	2022
Mr R.B. BOWER, MA	University of Edinburgh	Director of Co-Curricular; Modern Foreign Languages	2023
Miss E. CARR, BA	Newcastle University	Park Close Assistant Housemistress; History & Politics	2023
Mr D. EVANS, BSc, MA	University of Southampton	Chemistry; Head of Athletics	2023
Mr D.W. FOWLER, MSc	Teeside University	Chemistry	2023
Mr A.M.J. HAWTHORN, BSc	Nottingham Trent University	PE	2023
Mr L. MAY, BA	Leeds Metropolitan University	Merton Assistant Housemaster; Economics	2023
Mr S. MOULDER, BSc	University of Reading	Head of Mathematics	2023
Mrs C. PEPPER, BA	Open University	Cover Supervisor	2023
Mrs L. ROBERTS, BA	University of Wales, Aberystwyth	SEND	2023
Mrs J. ROSE, BA	University of Exeter	Head of MFL	2023
Mr R. TAYLOR, BA, MA	American University Washington	Assistant Head of English	2023
Mr A. AWCOCK, MA	Cardiff Metropolitan University	Director of Sport	2024
Mr D. BUSBY, BA	Leeds Metropolitan University	Assistant Head of Maths; PE	2024
Mr G.R. CHALMERS, BSc	University of Manchester	Head of Physics	2024
Miss C.M. DELL, BSc, MPhil	Brunel University	Science	2024
Mr PR. DUKES, BA	Guildford School of Acting	LAMDA	2024
Mrs H. EDWARDS, BSc	Swansea University	Science	2024
Mr T.W. GREATOREX SANDERSON, BA	University of East Anglia	Crake Assistant Housemaster; Head of Psychology; PE	2024
Miss V.C.M. HOWELL, BSc	University of Worcester	Stonehill Assistant Housemistress; PE	2024
Mr M. KENT, MA	University of Birmingham	English as an Additional Language	2024
Mr A.R.G. PECK, PGCE	University of Buckingham	Head of Design and Technology	2024
Miss C. SEAMAN, BSc	Oxford Brookes University	Hockey	2024
Mrs N. TADMAN, MA	University of Central England	Textiles and Art	2024
Mrs S.J. THOMAS, BA	University of Surrey	English	2024
Mrs C. TOWEY, BSc	Loughborough University	Science	2024
Dr U. ZILIOI, PhD	Durham University	Head of Religious Studies, Philosophy and Ethics	2024

