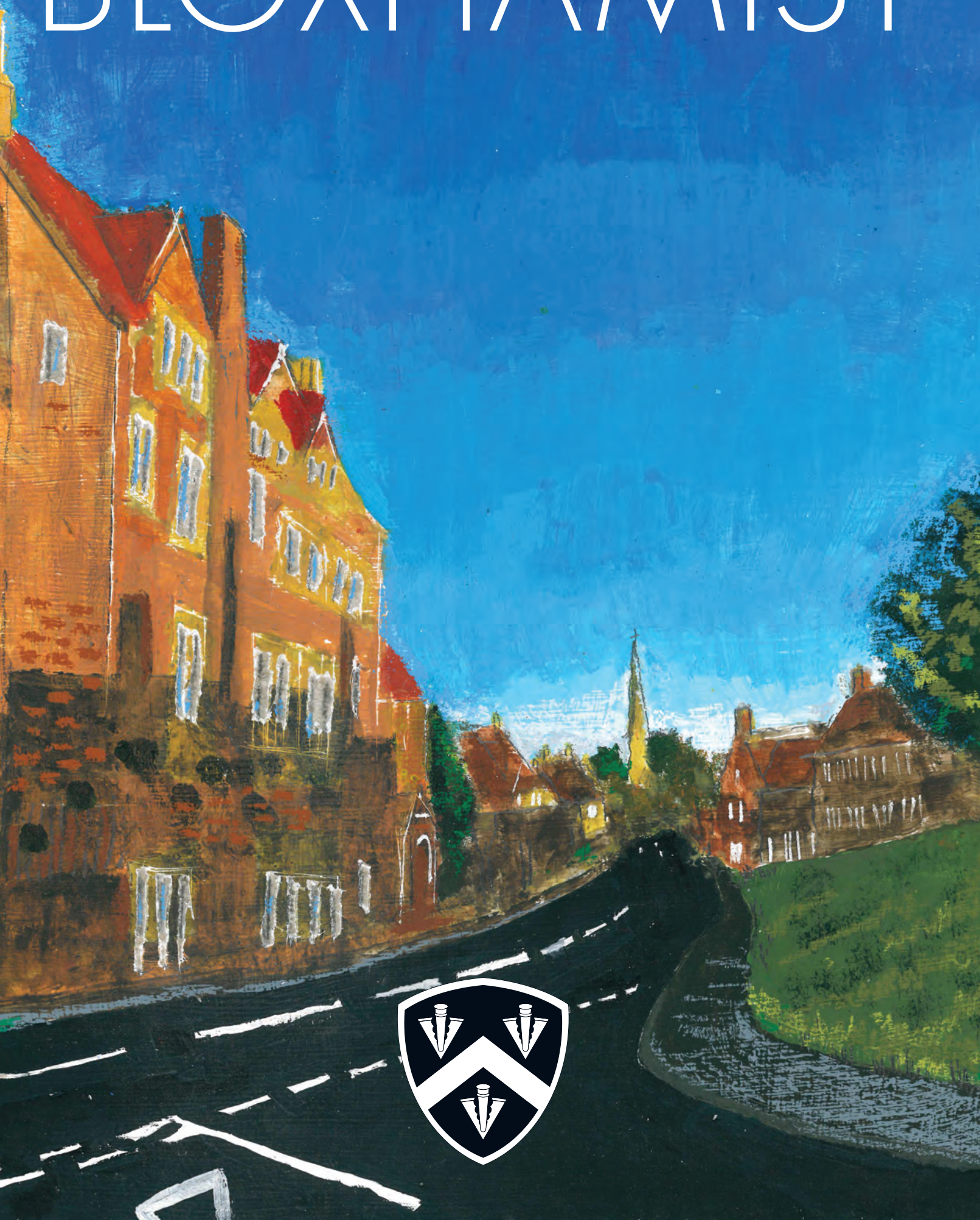


SEPTEMBER 2021 | ISSUE #563

# BLOXHAMIST





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# Note from the Editor

For the purpose of archiving, the following context is required for the 2020-21 edition of The Bloxhamist, as the school continued to see disruption from the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

All pupils returned to Bloxham School in September 2020 following an extended period of remote learning at home for UK primary and secondary pupils during the prior Lent and Summer terms. A number of precautions were put in place for teaching and boarding to reduce the risk of infection. This included house and year group 'bubbles' to reduce the number of contacts for each child, the wearing of masks in classrooms and chapel and assemblies held only for year or house groups.

Unfortunately, due to a second wave of infections nationwide, the government closed all schools once more from January 5th 2021. The majority of Lent Term was again spent with remote learning in place. This was with the exception of our overseas pupils who had quarantined on return after Christmas and children of parents who were critical workers, for example those in health and social care who were able to board in school.

Fortunately, all pupils were able to return to the school site from March 8th, but with the additional precaution of twice weekly 'lateral flow' testing for staff and pupils. This measure reduced risk of transmission of Covid-19 by highlighting anyone carrying the virus but were not showing symptoms.

GCSE and A Level exams were cancelled for a second year running with alternative measures put in place for 'centre assessed grades', where evidence was gathered through internal examinations and coursework to determine grades.

Although restrictions gradually loosened throughout the summer months, large scale events such as Founderstide, were unfortunately still not permitted. However, the final two weeks of the Summer term saw a myriad of extracurricular activities, trips and celebrations, in line with regulations, to provide the pupils with the fullest school experience possible.

This edition of The Bloxhamist shows the impact felt throughout the year on pupils, staff, the academic and broader curriculum.

**Editor, Nicola Gray**

# BLOXHAMIST

## Contents

<b>4 HEADMASTER'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR</b>	20 Music	39 Cricket	64 From the Archives
5 Academic Prize Winners	22 Drama	42 Equestrian	66 The Egerton Society
<b>6 ACADEMIC</b>	24 Design Technology	43 Athletics	67 OB Q&A
6 English	26 Food and Hospitality	44 Sailing	68 Reflection from the School Chaplain
8 Maths	<b>27 OUTDOOR EDUCATION</b>	44 Squash	69 OB Cricket
8 Science	28 Duke of Edinburgh	<b>45 THE BLOXHAM COMMUNITY</b>	70 Thanks for the Memories
9 History	28 CCF	<b>46 SPIRITUALITY AND SERVICE</b>	72 The White Lion
9 Geography	29 Summer Outdoor Trips	<b>47 STAFF LEAVERS</b>	73 OB News
10 Modern Foreign Languages	<b>30 SPORT</b>	<b>49 STAFF CHANGING ROLES</b>	74 Engagements, Marriages, Births
12 Computer Science & Psychology	31 House Sport	<b>49 NEW STAFF</b>	75 Obituaries
13 Enrichment	32 Rugby	<b>50 SCHOOL CAPTAINS AND PREFECTS</b>	
15 Business Studies	33 Girls' Hockey	<b>52 HOUSE SUMMARIES</b>	
16 Future Focus	35 Boys' Hockey	<b>62 THE OLD BLOXHAMISTS</b>	
<b>17 CREATIVE ARTS</b>	36 Netball	63 Events roundup	
17 Art	37 Girls' Tennis		
	38 Boys' Tennis		

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

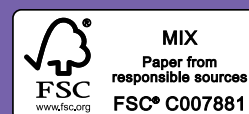
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# Headmaster's Review of the Year

*The following speech was given by the Headmaster, Paul Sanderson, at the end of year assembly held for our leaving Upper Sixth students in June 2021. Mr Sanderson reflects on the past year and what it has taught us about what makes Bloxham special:*

What an academic year that has now come to an end. We have all lived through the wake of Covid-19 and I hope the worst is now behind us as we reach a fresh dawn. My first reaction is to say how dreadful it was and to resign it to the 101 box in history. However, whilst I know it was hard, we did not just get through it, as a school, we made the best of it and exceeded expectations. When everyone has positioned 2021 as a disaster, we have seen the opportunities, and for that I thank the staff and student body. Don't get me wrong, Covid-19 has imposed immense heartache and pain on many, many people; some have lost loved ones, others have suffered physical, mental and financial difficulties, whilst others have had their plans for the future disrupted and dreams have come crashing down. But there is most certainly light at the end of the tunnel. There is hope and hope springs eternal.

I have spent time examining and reflecting on the year with our senior staff. I have posed a number of questions. They are as follows:

## What is sacred about a Bloxham education?

To me that is that the collective is greater than the sum of the individual parts, that we are individuals in a community. There is sense of belonging and being looked out for. Our values of tolerance, kindness and respect, along with being of service and doing the right thing when no-one is watching are paramount to who and what we are. I believe these values remained intact throughout the Covid crisis. The very fact that some of the Houses spent their House Day this week, amongst other points in the year, raising money for those less fortunate than themselves is a testimony to those values.



## What is learning?

One of the most important lessons from 2020-21 is the reminder that deep and powerful learning only happens when it is relevant, real-world, collaborative and driven by values.

Learning did not stop during the lockdown period. Our online lessons, tutor time, online social activities and finding new ways to reflect and communicate were innovative. In fact, I would go as far as to say that our learning at school and at home this year has exceeded my expectations. The focus and drive, particularly in the exam years, has been exceptional and I hope that you get your just rewards at GCSE and A Level in August. You have entered into a learning process through new mediums that demonstrates that you are powerful, curious, passionate learners who are ready to learn their way through whatever comes next.

## The last question was 'why'?

Covid has prompted us to ask the question 'Why?'. Why do we do certain things? Why can't girls play cricket? Why can't we see our tutors every day? Why do we do prep when our students have

been such amazing independent learners during lockdown? More importantly, how can we do something that is important at Bloxham? With our desire to educate you in a holistic way, body, mind and soul, we found solutions to the restrictions to put on as much as possible in our final two weeks of term, whilst still looking to minimise Covid risk. From a leavers' ball and Fifth Form prom, to drama productions and House Music, House days and an Open Morning, this last fortnight has brought much to the whole school.

Why? Because it matters to us as a community! Listening to your experiences, your drive and enthusiasm has made these matters possible. Thank you.

And it is now I would like to take a moment to thank those who have run the school through such a difficult time. Firstly, Father Michael who co-ordinated the entire planning and response to Covid, ably assisted by Health and Safety Manager, Phil Smithson. To Mr Buckland, the Heads of Department, sports, music, drama, art, activities and IT who arranged a seamless programme throughout a year of ever-changing Government rules. To our support staff for making the school Covid ready. To the very diligent and impressive House and senior pastoral staff who looked after you, particularly those that did not take holidays so they could look after quarantined students. To catering for feeding us and looking after our physical needs. To the teaching staff for delivering lessons day after day, even when their own circumstances were difficult. Do take time to thank your teachers for what they have done... your thanks really do make all the difference.

And lastly, thank you, the student body, for all your endeavours this year. A school is judged by the people who are part of it and I believe we have a great school. **PWS**



# Academic Prize Winners 2021

Askwith Junior Geography Prize	<b>Harriet Ellis</b>
Junior Art/Fine Art Prize	<b>Douglas Moulin</b>
Junior Biology Prize	<b>Luka Daniels</b>
Junior Business Studies Prize	<b>Ophelia Swan</b>
Junior Chemistry Prize	<b>Hannah Bird</b>
Junior Computing Prize	<b>James Swaby</b>
Junior Creative Writing Prize	<b>Emma McGowan</b>
Junior Drama Prize	<b>Bertie Bond</b>
Junior Design & Technology Prize	<b>Hannah Bird</b>
Junior English Prize	<b>Izzie Franck-Steier</b>
Junior French Prize	<b>Luka Daniels</b>
Junior Food Prize	<b>Holly Brigden</b>
Junior Latin Prize	<b>Holly Brigden</b>
Junior Mathematics Prize	<b>Alvin Lau</b>
Junior Music Prize	<b>Ocean Nash</b>
Junior Physical Education Prize	<b>Felix Hunt</b>
Junior Physics Prize	<b>Pippa How</b>
Junior Reading Prize	<b>Joseph Buckland</b>
Junior Spanish Prize	<b>Isabella Ellis</b>
Junior Theology Prize	<b>Thomas Lowry</b>
Nigel Weekes Junior History Prize	<b>Lydia Lowe</b>
Aubrey Deeley Senior Biology Prize	<b>George King</b>
Bletchly Senior History Prize	<b>Mark Davies</b>
Bolton Senior Mathematics Prize	<b>James Fry</b>
Brock Senior French Prize	<b>Luka Halozan-Bayley</b>
Dewey CCF Prize	<b>Charlie Bygate</b>
Jeremy Durrant Senior Drama Prize	<b>Robert Frankland</b>
John Honey Music Prize	<b>Jack Phillips</b>
Matthew Smith Senior Physics Prize	<b>Charlie Yates</b>
Marsden Public Speaking Prize	<b>Murray Douglas</b>
Senior Art/Fine Art Prize	<b>Alejandro Jimenez Pasqual</b>
Senior Business Studies Prize	<b>Ben Makin</b>
Senior Chemistry Prize	<b>James Fry</b>
Senior Computing Prize	<b>Isaac Parkhouse</b>
Senior Creative Writing Prize	<b>Izzy Chamberlain</b>
Senior Debating Prize	<b>Maria Kononova</b>
Senior Design & Technology Prize	<b>Zachary Wilton</b>
Senior Economics Prize	<b>Lottie Lee</b>
Senior English Prize	<b>George Compton-Alway</b>
Senior Hospitality Prize	<b>Jenny Jervis</b>
Senior Physical Education Prize	<b>Jessie Urquhart</b>
Senior Photography Prize	<b>Henry Stainton</b>
Senior Politics Prize	<b>George Baker</b>
Senior Spanish Prize	<b>Ione Dalla Mura</b>
Senior Theology Prize	<b>Mark Davies</b>

Shaw Senior Geography Prize	<b>Lottie Lee</b>
Theatre Studies Prize	<b>Scarlett Lawson Johnston</b>
Woodard Board Ethos Prize	<b>Mark Davies and Lottie Rymer</b>

Old Bloxhamist Prize - Crake	<b>Sam Church</b>
Old Bloxhamist Prize - Egerton	<b>George Baker</b>
Old Bloxhamist Prize - Exham	<b>Joseph Lamb</b>
Old Bloxhamist Prize - Merton	<b>Jack Phillips</b>
Old Bloxhamist Prize - Raymond	<b>Millie Pinder</b>
Old Bloxhamist Prize - Seymour	<b>Sam Landaw</b>
Old Bloxhamist Prize - Wilberforce	<b>Tabby Cunningham</b>
Old Bloxhamist Prize - Wilson	<b>Jack Dunk</b>

Outstanding Contribution to Sport – Boys	<b>Oscar Hunt</b>
Outstanding Contribution to Sport – Girls	<b>Lottie Rymer</b>
Outstanding Contribution to Bloxham Community, Sport	<b>Sam Church</b>
Leaf Personal Development Prize	<b>Ben Makin</b>
Outstanding Contribution to the Bloxham Community	<b>Patrick McNamara</b>
Wilson Prize	<b>George King and Sophie Tredwell</b>





# Academic

## English

This was the year that many made connections to the conditions Shakespeare faced at times in his career. In particular, links between the writing of such plays as King Lear, conceived during plague years, and the self-isolation experienced worldwide over the last year. But we should not linger on tragedy, as it was the way that our pupils responded that must be celebrated. Whilst we were unable to experience live theatre, pupils were able to engage with material in new ways. Visits, lectures and workshops were cancelled, but the Bloxham spirit endured and it was done with good grace, community spirit and belief.



## Michael Morpurgo's Tales from Shakespeare

In January 2021, the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) launched an initiative based on Michael Morpurgo's new book 'Tales from Shakespeare'. These special events for schools introduced students to some of Shakespeare's best-loved plays including Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, A Midsummer Night's Dream and The Tempest. The stories were told by both Michael himself and members of the RSC acting company. A number of classes in Lower School streamed these live events during lockdown in the Lent term. This tied in wonderfully to the thematic work done on Shakespeare and in extending knowledge of these iconic plays.

## LitSoc

This year saw the launch of our Bloxham LitSoc, a Literary Society which is focused on reading beyond the GCSE and A-level syllabuses with the intention of exploring literary classics, poetry, prize-winning novelists and gripping stories. Over the past year, we have looked at the openings and endings of various famous novels in order to identify key ingredients used by writers as they set up their stories; we have also considered the cultural impact of fairy tales and analysed a range of different poems. We have also enjoyed a more dedicated read of Michelle Paver's 'Dark Matter', an exploration into the far north of the Arctic Circle as well as an exploration of the human psyche.

In the Michaelmas term, we are looking forward to reading further extracts from Booker prize-winners and considering the complexities of T.S. Eliot as well as looking further into the darker elements of Shakespeare's tragedies.

The Exham Book Group has also looked to inspire a love for reading. The group have met weekly with pupils reading books of their choice or selecting a title to read together. We read and discussed 'Cow Girl' and had an interesting debate on whether or not it is important to know the gender of the author when reading a title. Pupils are encouraged to explain their choice of book to the rest of the group and to make recommendations for the Library on the basis of their reading.

From the English Department: A huge thank you to Sara Swann for everything that she has done for the English

Department and the wider school community. Her presence in the library, I know, will be missed by many. See page 48 for a tribute to Sara's time at Bloxham.

## Creative Writing

One thing that we have been able to keep going throughout the past year has been engaging pupils in creativity. Whether this has been through role playing characters from plays and texts studied, producing recreative writing as minor characters from texts or simply allowing for imaginative writing to flourish, allowing for freedom of expression has been paramount.

Pupils in Second Form produced some recount writing, as though they had summited Everest. Some pupils even recorded video diaries during lockdown, getting into character and immersing themselves in the experience. An example from Cassia Johnston's epic recount: *"We trekked for a good two hours, using ladders and our crampons to get up the steeper sections. The ghostlike mist surrounded us at times as if it was haunting us and the bone white snow poured down on us like thousands of silver beads. The high altitude made it hard to breathe and more difficult, but I knew it was only going to get worse. We were now at one of the most dangerous sections of the climb: the Khumbu Icefall."*

We ran a creative writing competition, following contact from a new author, Caroline Boxall. This was following the publication of her first novel, 'It's Raining in Moscow and I Forgot my Umbrella'. The rules were simple: the story had to be 500 words long and include the words of the story. This really intrigued our creative writers, and they produced some original and creative responses.

Our chosen winner was **Layla Williams**. Her story is recreated here: *It began on a Monday, as our daily morning rush commenced. Panic surged through my mother's manner as she ushered us out of the door and off to school. Running out of the drive, I shouted back to her, 'Mum! I have forgotten my umbrella!' She ignored me and slammed the door. I guessed she had finished with us for the morning. With a quick light-bulb moment, I rummaged in my bag and pulled out a crumpled ten-pound note – bingo! Taking a detour, I spotted an old, wrinkled man, holding an umbrella for sale.*

*'Excuse me!' I called out, almost laughing at my good luck, 'I would like to buy an umbrella!'*

*The old man slowly turned his head, a sly smile creeping around his crooked yellow teeth. He sold me the umbrella, with no hesitation, and I ran off, praying I would get to school on time. Later in the day, I opened the umbrella only to be met with sinister words. 'Meet me at the cherry tree, midnight. Or we will kill your brother.'*

*My steady breaths suddenly turned to shallow gasps as I processed the meaning of the words. Ignore it. It's just a prank. Panicked voices swirled around my flustered brain. Shaking, I darted out of the school and raced home, only to be met by my angry mother. I was sent to my room that night, with no food and no reassurance that my brother would be safe.*

*I stared out the window for hours. Only at the first strike of midnight did a shadow appear, inching forward in a relaxed manner. My breath caught in my throat as I stared down, waiting for any signs of movement. Tick tock. Tick. Tock. Time seemed to slow down until, in the blink of an eye, he dashed towards the front window and stealthily climbed inside. I waited. In fact, I almost fell asleep.*

*Suddenly, an ear-piercing scream echoed dangerously throughout the house, and I yearned for the safety of yesterday. Without thought, I sprinted down the stairs, towards the direction of sharp scream. Charging into the basement, I came to a halt.*

*Blood dripped from the polished silver knife, trickling innocently like a leaking tap. Dumbstruck, I stared at the fear dancing around his eyes. With a slight gasp of shock, I opened my mouth to scream but a voice seemed to echo in my head. 'Don't do that. Or I will kill.' His voice was soft, almost kind, not fitting the ugly face that spat out the words with a cackle. Instantly, a hand seemed to grasp hold of my neck muffling my cries of terror as the man spoke again. 'You disobeyed my command, and now you will pay.' The invisible hand grasped my face tightly as it forced me to watch my brother's lifeless body. Wrestling with the force that held me still, I tried to weave my way towards my shaking brother, but I was stopped in my tracks. A faint sound of knife meeting flesh sent a shiver down my spine. It is raining in Moscow. And it's raining my brother's blood. The end.*  
CJS, SES, EJE.



# Maths

Pupils throughout the school were entered for the Mathematics Challenge, a national problem solving competition run by the United Kingdom Maths Trust (UKMT). In the Intermediate Challenge, Bloxham pupils achieved amazing results. Congratulations to the pupils for their placings in the Intermediate Challenge and special thanks to Mr Best for organising the entries for this online competition.

## Bronze Award

Reuben Baston  
Bryn Taylor  
Jenna Little  
Hannah Marles  
Dillon Quaedvlieg  
Olly Shawcross  
Elizabeth Taylor  
Luna Tillo  
Oliver Brooks  
Daniel Holman  
Felix Hunt

## Silver Award

Sam Olah  
George Bygate  
Sophia Albino  
Finn Camerling  
Rachel Davies  
Caitlin Dubber  
Shile Li  
Ben Richards  
Jasper Witney  
Izzie Franck- Steier  
John Adams  
Felix Matthews  
Holly Bridgen  
Luka Daniels

## Gold Award

Shamilla Muracia  
Hannah Bird  
Alvin Lau

# Science

Bloxham's teaching staff worked hard throughout the remote learning period (January to March 2021) to develop innovative methods of delivering lessons which still provided the pupils with hands on experiences and limited direct screen time with a variety of activities.

One example in Science of an 'outside the box' lesson was a biology lesson where Miss Lafford directed pupils on how to dissect a chicken wing at home.

Bloxham's Head of Chemistry, Simon Floate, explained how his department

redeveloped schemes of work for each year group which could be worked through remotely, aiming for four or five different activities each lesson which develop different skills. "Pupils completed shorter, discrete tasks which were varied from writing to maths, reading comprehension, note taking, wordsearch, website research and informational videos. The combination of on and off-screen activities helped to keep the pupils engaged with each lesson."

As an example, Dr Floate's Second Form pupils were looking at chemical reactions, in one lesson exploring

matter and how it cannot be created or destroyed. They did so by creating Lego models from building blocks, weighing them, dismantling them and weighing them again.

"We also included some kitchen chemistry in other year groups so that pupils could experience chemical reactions safely in their own homes, whilst giving them practical subject experience." For the more complex chemical reactions, Dr Floate was able to use a visualiser in his lab to demonstrate online to his Sixth Form students.



# History

Whilst Covid restrictions have somewhat limited the scope for pupils to engage with the subject outside of the classroom, the department has done their utmost to ensure that pupils this year have the same opportunities for engagement as those in previous years. The Enrichment fortnight at the end of the Summer term made it possible to run our traditional Kenilworth Castle trip with the First Form, and English Civil War trip with the Second Form. The English Civil War trip to Edgehill Battlefield, Radway church and Broughton Castle proved particularly successful, with Martin Fienes - the future Lord Seye and Sele - showing students around his ancestral home of Broughton Castle - itself the site of a siege in the aftermath of the Battle of Edgehill. A particular highlight was being taken to "the room that hath no ears", where key Parliamentary figures such as Pym, Hampden and Lord Saye and Sele would meet when plotting against Charles I. To be shown this room by one of the direct descendants of the plotters was incredibly powerful and truly added to the occasion.

A number of Second Form pupils really impressed during the Enrichment fortnight when the department put on a scholars' event, requiring them to read an article from the BBC History magazine and present to their peers. The student led talks were incredibly informative and

well developed, covering a wide range of subjects including the murder of Robert Packington (the first recorded person to be murdered by a handgun in 1536), Early Modern London and Tudor food. Pupils presented with real confidence - it was great to see just how well they coped when pushed out of their comfort zones, and how well they coped with some quite academic texts.

In February, our Sixth Form students remotely welcomed Dr Kirsten Clayden Yardley who gave an incredibly informative lecture on Thomas Howard, the second Duke of Norfolk entitled 'The Man Behind the Tudors' which tied in closely with their Rebellion and Disorder in Tudor England course. Kirsten has previously worked as an historical consultant on the TV adaptation of 'Wolf Hall', and also wrote the recent heritage report for St Mary's church in the village, so is no stranger to Bloxham. The period of lockdown did also provide us with some new opportunities: it was fantastic to be able to run a History enrichment activity as part of the remote Broader Curriculum looking at Shackleton's Trans-Antarctic Expedition of 1914-17. This is not something covered as part of the formal curriculum, and it was wonderful to see pupils get engrossed in what is a truly epic tale of endurance and fortitude.

Unfortunately, the Historical Association's



Great Debate Competition did not take place this year; however, last year's final was re-arranged remotely allowing Upper Sixth student George Compton-Alway to compete in the national final. George was unable to secure a podium finish this time around but winning the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire heat just three months into to his A Level studies back in December 2019 remains an incredible achievement. George has been offered a place to read History at the University of Sheffield next year, and the fact that nearly 40% of Upper Sixth historians have received offers to read History at universities such as Sheffield, Durham and Royal Holloway is a real positive for the department. [RH](#)

# Geography

In the penultimate week of term, various year groups were at last able to get out into the real world to study the Geography of the locality.

The First and Second Forms used a variety of photos and maps, old and new, together with their own observations to unravel the stories of Stow-on-the-Wold and Burford. This took us from their origins as 'planted towns' over 900 years ago to the tourist 'honeypots' of today. Surveys of land use allowed comparisons with Banbury and Bloxham and led us to consider how both have eclipsed these Cotswold's towns over time.

In their quest to discover if Sor Brook increases in velocity downstream, the Forth Form met to formulate a geographical enquiry before scattering to various locations along the river to collect data. Widths, depths, gradients and velocities were carefully recorded from near Upton House, its source in the north west of Adderbury and its confluence with the Cherwell in the south east.

Finally, the Lower Sixth first travelled to the Huscote flow control structure which helps protect Banbury from future floods. They then walked through the Banbury Gateway retail park and the Wildmere industrial estate before



crossing under Hennef Way into first Old Grimsbury and then New. A whole host of land use characteristics and processes were revealed en route to the town centre and a consideration of the future prospects for Banbury's central business district (CBD). In the afternoon, the students carried out their own exploration of Bloxham, discovering so much about the village they rather take for granted. [NDSP](#)

# Modern Languages



## Language Leaders

The vibrant and lively Modern Foreign Languages department has provided our Bloxham students with the opportunity to take part in many exciting activities this year. Five of our Lower Sixth students – Izzy Zuydam, Josh Ardron, Pippa Little, Lorelei Allden and Millie Whittaker – have been working hard towards the Foreign Language Leaders award. During the Summer term, the students have supported our First to Third Form pupils during their French/Spanish lessons. They have been developing life-long leadership skills by doing lots of one-to-one and small group speaking practice and also supporting the students during their lessons. Here's some of their thoughts on this award:

"I really enjoyed taking part in the Foreign Language Leaders award this year. I was able to help the younger students improve their confidence in French speaking, which is something I used to struggle with, so I felt a big sense of achievement from this. I assisted them in writing and showed them where they may have gone wrong and how to learn from any mistakes so that they would be increasingly sure of themselves when producing written work. I learnt how to effectively communicate with students one to one and be confident in myself and my knowledge of French. I would absolutely recommend this to future Lower Sixth students who study a language as it is a very rewarding experience and the students were extremely grateful to me for supporting them." *Lorelei Allden*

"During my time as a Language Leader, I have been able to interact with students of different ages which, in my opinion, has been the most rewarding part of this experience. I mainly helped by speaking with the students and by helping them with things such as: their pronunciation and how to use the best language possible to get them the highest marks. I would definitely recommend this programme to any Lower Sixth student as it is a great way to show passion in your A level subject; it also looks great on your UCAS!" *Millie Whittaker*

"I most enjoyed taking small groups from the class to the library to do quick speaking sessions as this allowed me to get to know the students better and develop their speaking skills more directly. This experience has equipped me with better social skills as well as providing a good form of French practice." *Izzy Zuydam*

## French and Spanish Eunoia Society Event

La cuisine française y la comida español were the delicious and aromatic focus of the Languages Eunoia event in the Michaelmas term. Our Lower Sixth Spanish and French linguists had spent the previous weeks studying the importance of cultural heritage in the Francophone and Spanish speaking worlds. They had been learning about fiercely guarded traditions, from ten course family meals in France and the Tomatina festival in Spain to street food in central America and tabbouleh in Morocco.

Top of the menu were French crepes, with batter whisked to perfection by Josh Ardron and equally skilful crepe tossing skills in evidence. Felicity Clark constructed a restaurant-worthy salade niçoise, which she had practised and perfected at home. There were some colourful and tempting Spanish tapas and pinchos (small plates typically served in bars in Northern Spain) and a fantastic tortilla – not an easy dish to master. Hats off to our French and Spanish chefs who also conversed throughout in their second languages,





feasted like kings and queens and added some vibrancy to the first topic in the A Level curriculum.



## Erasmus+ Language courses

Thanks to the funding received from the British Council and the European Commission in 2019 as part of the Erasmus+ Programme, which provides MFL teachers with opportunities to access continued professional development, Bloxham teachers were able to further develop their language skills and deepen their understanding of the French and Spanish culture. Ms McCaffrey, Miss Goode and Miss Lesu completed French and Spanish virtual lessons and distant learning during the Easter holiday and May half-term. We all hope to attend these courses next year in person – in Granada and Lyon-

and continue to explore the intricacies of the French and Spanish language. Stay tuned as our Erasmus+ experience will generate cooperation with various international partner institutions and lots of exciting activities and trips for our Bloxham students. [CMM](#) and [EL](#)

## First Form Latin Trip

In June a group of very excited First Formers spent the day being transported back in time to the first centuries AD and the world of Roman Britain.

Our first stop was the Corinium Museum in Cirencester, the multicultural capital of Britannia Prima, second only to Londinium in size. The pupils met several ancient individuals through examining their tombstones (complete with ancient spelling mistakes) – Sextus Valerius Genialis, a Frisian tribesman who had served in the Thracian regiment of the Roman army for 20 years, who died at age 40,

Bodicacia a young Celtic woman who died when she was just 27 years old and Mettus from the Getan tribe who was 35 when he died, amongst others. The pupils were given a glimpse of the kind of life these ancient people would have lived – what and where they ate, what they did for a living and what they believed. The centrepiece of the museum was its stunning second Century mosaic pavement, depicting the story of Acteon, about to be transformed into a stag and under attack from his own hunting dogs – perhaps a little gory for our modern dining room floors but undeniably beautiful and revealing the Roman influence on British life.

Our next stop was Chedworth Roman Villa, possibly the country home of Lucius Septimius, the governor of Britannia Prima, and certainly the residence of an extraordinarily wealthy family. Here the ancient ruins were brought to life by our knowledgeable guides and the students were able to imagine how life had been not only for the billionaires of Roman Britain but also the hundreds of slaves that were needed to keep them in the style to which they had become accustomed. A particular treat was to get to see an extraordinarily rare piece of ancient glass recently discovered at Chedworth and identified as coming from a small fish shaped perfume bottle imported all the way from Ukraine – a window into the international trade bringing luxury goods across the world to ancient Britain in the 2nd Century AD.

Another gem was the wonderful triclinium (dining room) with its intricate mosaic floor which depicts the four seasons in each corner. The mosaics have been fantastically preserved with the hypocaust Roman underfloor heating system in evidence.

The guides were able to bring to life the villa's baths complex – still largely intact. We wandered through the various rooms in which the inhabitants and guests would have luxuriated, had their skin scraped, discussed politics and business whilst the heat and cold did their work opening and closing skin pores, revitalising and cleansing.

But perhaps what will stay with the students longest, having been introduced to the "luxury" latrine at Chedworth, is how grateful they are for 21st Century private lavatory facilities – and loo paper! [VCMM](#)

# Computer Science and Psychology

Qualification choices at Sixth Form are varied, with close to 25 courses to choose from. The Bloxhamist has spoken to two Sixth Form students to find out more about their A Level choices and how their studies are influencing their future career aspirations.



**Will Howells**, Lower Sixth and upcoming School Captain for 2021-22, speaks about A Level Computer Science, which he also studied for GCSE.

## Why did you choose to study Computing and why do you enjoy the subject?

I am a logical thinking person and that approach fits in very well with Computer Science. I enjoy breaking down problems and applying logic to solve them. There is creativity in approaching the problems of computing and trialling many ways of answering the same problem.

## What topic have you enjoyed studying most within Computing this year?

I really enjoy the coding side of the course, as opposed to the theory. The theory helps us to look at real world examples of what we are learning, but coding is where I have the chance to apply our learning in solving problems, for example creating programmes to encrypt data. I also study Maths which helps in applying mathematical functions to problems.

You don't have to be a certain type of person to do Computing, as

stereotyped as it may seem. Within our class there are both academic and creative types: we specialise in different areas and work together well as a team.

## How do you think Computing will help you with your future career options?

I am looking for career in Computing so there is definitely a strong link! The skills you learn with problem solving and thinking before you approach a task are useful for life and not just Computing. Patience is important. We are set tasks that we are not expected to be able to complete and through struggling we have learnt important lessons that have rapidly developed our Computer Science abilities and improved our resilience in the face of hard challenges.

## What are you looking forward to next in your studies?

I am looking forward to programming more complex structures next year and learning a higher degree of complexity.



**Emma Stephenson**, Upper Sixth, talks about her experience of A Level Psychology.

## Why did you choose to study Psychology and why do you enjoy the subject?

I find Psychology fascinating and so different to anything else. I didn't originally know much about it, but I spent time researching it and thought wow! It is so interesting to learn why

humans behave in the way they do. It is such a diverse subject with so many research studies across so many areas.

## How did Psychology fit alongside your other Sixth Form options?

I have also studied PE and Business where there has been quite a lot of overlap. In PE there is a whole Psychology topic looking at biopsychology, for example the importance of adrenaline, and aggression in sport. There has also been some Psychology in Business, for example Maslow's hierarchy of needs and how human needs can be met in the workplace.

## What topic have you enjoyed studying most within your A Level studies?

I have enjoyed so many it is hard to narrow it down. I think in the first year, my favourite would have been investigating attachment and how babies generate relationships with their caregiver through conditioning. I found it interesting to see the impact that that attachment has on future relationship building for the child. In the second year, I think I enjoyed the issues and debates topic, with one of the biggest debates being the study of nature versus nurture and how experiences and genetics both heavily influence how your future is generated. I think if I had to choose between the two, I would suggest nature is more influential, but I agree more with the interactionist approach that both nature and nurture affect each other.

## How do you think Psychology will help you with your future career options?

Psychology is an emerging social science that is applicable to any area of life. Knowledge of psychology is so valuable. I was due to study real estate and property at university but changed to Psychology at Nottingham Trent. I am excited to learn much more as it is so diverse. I'm particularly looking forward to finding out more about the psychology of religion, dreams and biopsychology. I think it will give me a better understanding of myself and others. [NG](#)



# Enrichment

## Euonia

With coronavirus restrictions affecting live events for much of the year, the Eunoia Society was unable to run its usual programme of guest speakers. However, the medium of Microsoft Teams provided the opportunity for some lively online discussion, and smaller groups could engage in weekly classroom-based Eunoia activity sessions. In one online session, an 'In Our Time' radio programme on the subject of 'Bergson and Time' provided the stimulus for an extended discussion and debate in which students explored the difference between quantitative and qualitative conceptions of time. The discussion ranged from a reflection on how time became standardised in the nineteenth century to a consideration

of the psychological experience of time and how cultural forms, such as the novel, work to represent this.

Eunoia activity sessions also encouraged students to think more deeply about familiar concepts. In one session, Exham students were encouraged to reflect on how we visualise geographical space and the world that we live in. They enjoyed drawing a map of the world from memory but were then asked to think about why they had drawn it in the way they had. The conventional map of the world was 'defamiliarised' and students found themselves questioning the Eurocentric bias that underlies such maps. This led to an interesting discussion about the relationship between map creation and imperial history – and how our situation within the world shapes our view of it.

Academic enrichment sessions were also offered by departments. The Maths department, for example, set up a Teams discussion with Ben Smith, a former Bloxham student who is working towards his PhD. His perspectives and thoughts proved extremely engaging for our A Level mathematicians and it was great for them to hear about the experience of pursuing the subject beyond undergraduate level. In another enrichment session, the History department brought students together to watch a topical documentary about the inspiring life of the Ruth Bader Ginsberg, who died last year after serving for many years on the Supreme Court of the United States, whilst for Chemistry, Dr David Fox from the Chemistry Department at the University of Warwick gave a talk to the Sixth Form on "Aromaticity". JHM



## EPQ

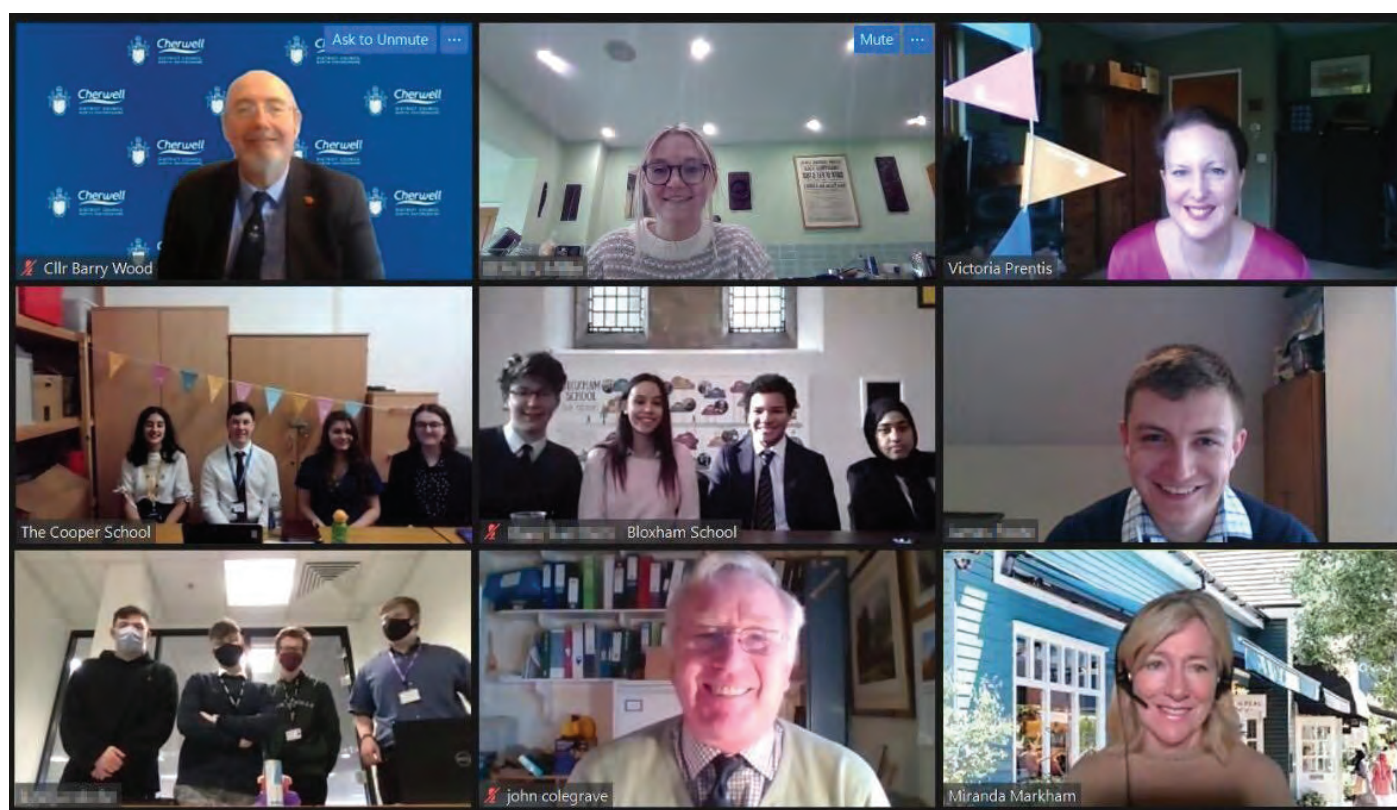
This year's Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) submissions covered a diverse range of topics, presented through essay writing, presentations or artefacts, for example, creative writing. Particular highlights included Mark Davies' presentation on the impact on Rome of the Second Punic War, Izzy Chamberlain's creative writing on

teenage pregnancy and abortion, Jack Phillips' composition to film and Millie Pinder's mini skirt creation from recycled plastic bottles for the topic of the evolution of fashion. Topics also included:

- A comparison of eastern and western medicine culture with reference to ginseng and multivitamins
- A consideration of the ways that foetal development and early years

have an impact on cognitive potential in adult life

- Sustainable fashion: an analysis of vegan, fast and ethical fashion
- What role did sport have in maintaining the British Empire and how did this establish National Identity for countries post-Empire?
- Is Religion More Beneficial or Damaging to Modern Society?



## Public Speaking

We began the debating year by winning the Cherwell Democracy Challenge for the first time. This is a challenging debating competition for sixth-form students hosted by Victoria Prentis MP, and our win was particularly notable as the event was held remotely with various local schools competing online via Zoom. After winning their two preliminary debates, our team, Maria Kononova, Murray Douglas, Muqaddas Ahmed and Isaac Myles, was given only fifteen minutes to prepare for the final debate, opposing the motion that Covid-19 restrictions unreasonably restrict individual civil liberties.

Soon after, several students from Third to Sixth form participated in our first remote Model United Nations. Based in Exham House on a Saturday in November, students represented countries such as Kuwait and Norway. Bloxham delegates were successful in striking down a resolution put forward by the US, thanks largely to Canada, represented by Edmund Baker and Alexander Myles, highlighting the problems with the resolution. It was a strong performance from all delegates with Maria Kononova and Isaac Myles for Kuwait being commended by the judges. In March, the challenge was even greater for our second Model United Nations event, with fourteen Bloxham students participating from home during lockdown. The students represented

Yemen and Oman in committees such as Human Rights, Environment and Health, Economic and Social, and the Middle East, debating current global issues such as the Yemen crisis, freedom of speech and the Hong Kong protests with over 250 students from other schools across the country. Bloxham's Joseph Buckland was highly commended for his contribution to the Environment and Health committee, representing Yemen. Model United Nations provides a great opportunity for students to develop skills such as networking and debating, as well as learning more about real world issues, and it is fantastic that we have been able to participate despite school closures.

Debating continues to grow in popularity, and we have a thriving Exham debating activity, developing the school's public speaking and debating strength for the future. The long-awaited final of the 2020 House competition took place in November – only sixth months overdue. The socially distanced debate was broadcast live to pupils and staff in houses. Ben and George King, representing Seymour, and Joshua Ardron and Charles Penfold for Egerton debated the motion "This House believes that populism is a threat to democracy." With strong arguments on both sides such as how populist leaders such as Hitler have targeted minorities in their rise to power, and contemporary examples of populist leaders who have worked within democracy to achieve goals such as Brexit,

this was our most hotly contested final in recent years, with a fifteen-minute wait for the judges to make their decision. Finally, Egerton were declared the winners, with Charles the best speaker.

## Third Form Public Speaking Competition

Fortunately, we were able to complete the annual public speaking competition in the Great Hall in November 2020. As always, the competition was fierce, with a wonderful range of topics explored, illuminating individual interests and concerns. We had ten students in the final and it was difficult to choose a winner.

This year we had a range of topics, such as: issues affecting the LGBT community in schools, the British education system, the importance of financial education for younger students, issues of child exploitation and child marriage, and a number who explored racial views in today's society. The overall winner was Miriam Bowden who spoke sensitively and passionately on human rights and the Chinese learning / correction camps. What made this year's competition so memorable was not just the care and attention that every student put in at every stage of the process, but also how supportive the whole year group was of each other. CMS



# Business Studies



## CTEC Business Excellence

The Upper Sixth CTEC Business Studies group organised a virtual lecture as part of the organising a business event coursework. Tabitha Cunningham led the team of five to organise a virtual lecture from Alan Jones OBE on Business Excellence. The team had to organise everything from sourcing a speaker to promoting the talk, hosting the event and collecting feedback. Working on this through a year of constant change was challenging as their original plans to host a live event had to be curtailed when the second lockdown was announced. Despite this, the team pulled off an interesting and educational evening for the GCSE and A Level Business and Economics students. Alan talked about what business excellence means in the context of his long and successful career as an accountant and as Managing Director of TNT Express. He showed that you can grow a multinational business whilst without compromising your true values. It was a useful learning experience for the CTEC students most

especially Tabitha who has accepted a place to study Event Management at university in September.

The Lower Sixth CTEC group took part in a virtual Q and A with Dean Bennison the manager of Banbury Pure Gym as part of their Customers and Consumers coursework. They had to investigate how Pure Gym meets the needs of their customers and then produce recommendations on how Pure Gym can improve their customer service. The talk must have been useful – 71% of the group were awarded a Distinction from the external moderator for their assignments.

## Business Speaks Covid

The Business and Economics department welcomed 17 business representatives into school in June as part of the CTEC Business groups "Business Speaks Covid" event.

The GCSE and A Level Business and Economics students all had the opportunity to interview eight business

people and take part in a virtual Q and A to find out more about how businesses have responded to the pandemic. The speakers included parents, Governors and Old Bloxhamists and were from a cross section of industries including retailing, property, medical supplies and hospitality. In their exit survey the speakers were very complimentary to the CTEC students for their organisation, praising them for their professionalism, and to the participating students for their enthusiasm and willingness to learn.

Following their interviews, the A Level and GCSE students worked in groups to produce presentations, podcasts and reports to demonstrate what they had learnt. One surprise from the interviews was that the majority said that in the longer term Covid has impacted their businesses positively. One student observed a common theme of increased productivity as a result of homeworking. Other momentous events of this historic year were also touched on such as the impact of Black Lives Matter on improving employee relations and the rise in costs as a result of the Ever Given's blockage of the Suez canal. [SC](#)

# Future Focus



Future Focus is an event aimed at helping to prepare Lower Sixth Form students for life beyond Bloxham School. The academic timetable was suspended for two days in June for students to take part in an exciting programme of lectures and workshops.

The event began with a highly entertaining and confidence-building talk based on 'How to Write an Excellent Personal Statement and Interview Advice.' Our guest speaker Jane Marshall is the Managing Director of Optimising Futures and she has a wealth of experience working for top universities, including the London School of Economics and Imperial College London. Jane is also the official voice of UCAS and her advice online can be accessed via the UCAS Hub. We were very fortunate to have Jane with us in person and, with the support of their Tutors, Lower Sixth Form students engaged in an exceptionally productive workshop to help kick-start their UCAS Personal Statement.

Other highlights from the event included advice on 'What You Need to Know When Deciding on a Gap Year: Tips & Safety Advice.' Florence Midwood (Culsans Gap Travel) gave a highly engaging presentation and students used their mobile phones to submit votes, which created some interesting and instant poll results. We were also fortunate to have Alex Brown (OB, Wil 11-16) join us, who was quizzed with questions regarding planning a gap year and going to university following a gap year.

In addition to this, students also learnt 'How to Create a Competitive CV and Covering Letter/Email' and were also fortunate to hear from the Student Recruitment Manager at Coventry University about their student finance options in terms of Tuition Fees, Maintenance Loans and the various bursaries and scholarship opportunities available.

Our evening keynote talk from Peter Higgins, 'How to be an Entrepreneur



– Mistakes are Essential', was exceptionally inspirational. Peter shared his story of how he co-founded the multi-national company, Charles Tyrwhitt, whilst also sharing some funny stories about the importance of resilience and learning from our experiences.

We wish our Lower Sixth Form students every success over the summer as they begin to develop their research and to write their own personal statements in preparation for their return in September. [CEE](#)



# Creative Arts

## Art

Bloxham School exhibited a display of over 400 ceramic poppies at Kingham Lodge's sculpture exhibition, originally due to commence on 8th May 2020, to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

A year on and the poppies along with other sculptures were on display from the 1st – 9th May 2021. They were created by pupils from Bloxham Primary Church of England School, Hook Norton School, St. Hugh's Preparatory School, Swanbourne, Winchester House School and Bloxham School.

The poppy workshops were led by Bloxham School's Art teacher Rachel Lehmann and her husband Will Lehmann, one of the potters involved in the production of the 880,000 poppies created for the Tower of London art installation, Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red, in 2014. The poppies are purple in remembrance of animals that served during wartime. The poppies were arranged to create a sculpture at 2/3 scale of a 7.2m wingspan Spitfire, the iconic fighter of the Royal Air Force in World War II.

Bertie Matthew, Director of Art at Bloxham School said "The Art department at Bloxham were excited to have created this ambitious display inspired by the Tower of London memorial. We were delighted to have been able to involve over 150 pupils from local schools in the production of over 400 poppies with a view of helping them to reflect on Remembrance."

The purple poppies from the exhibition were sold at the event and school to raise funds for Help for Heroes and the Royal British Legion.





Grace Broady-Bennett



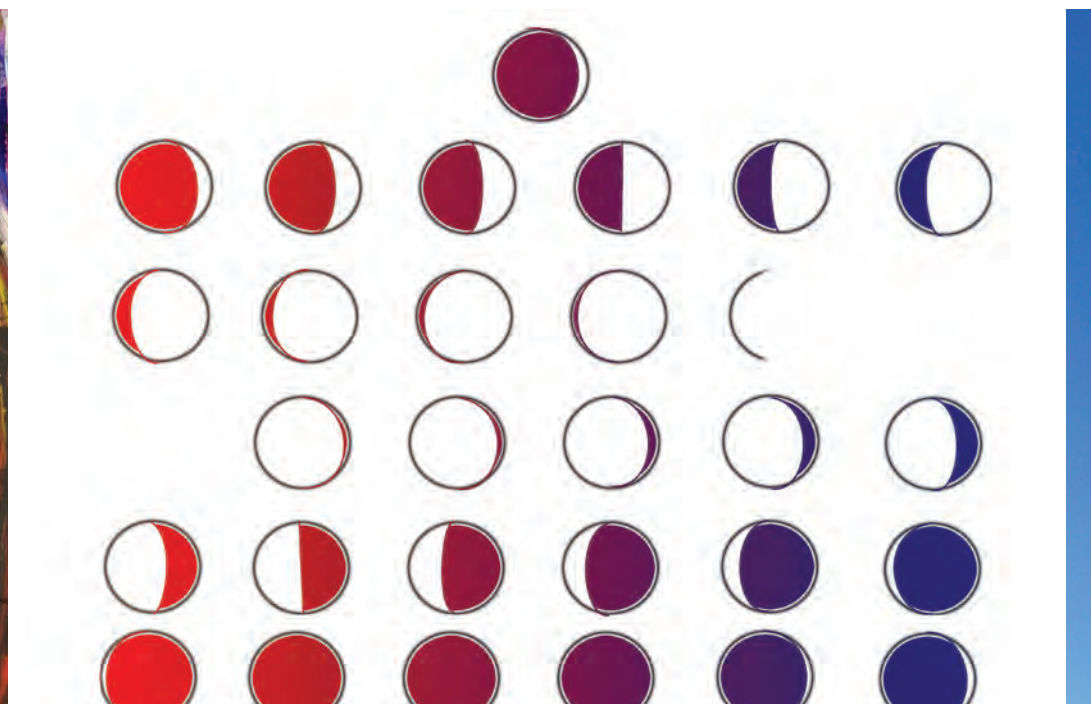
Aidan Kennedy



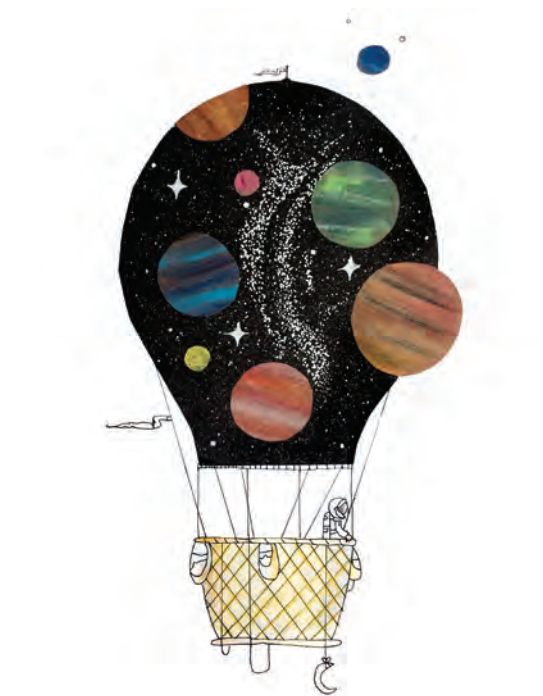
Alexjandro Jimenez Pascual



Annie Maginnis



Bryn Taylor



Freddie Harvey



Hannah Bird



Zoe Affleck

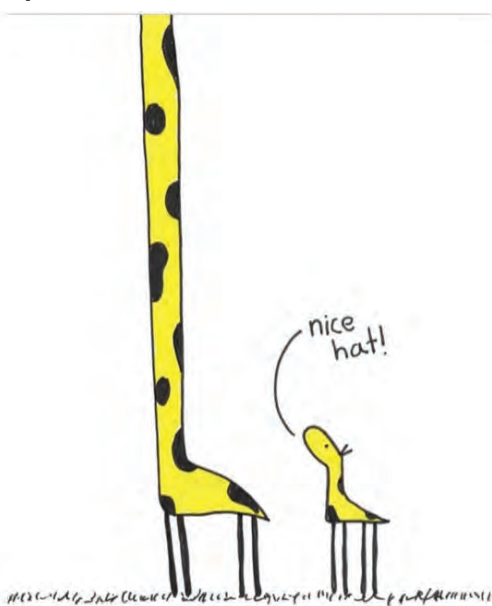




Lydia Lowe



Jenny Jervis



Daniel Mikel



Pia Weaving



Joe Turley



# Music



## Young Musician of the Year

After a great evening of top quality, varied music, adjudicator Gabriella Swallow had to make some very difficult decisions but Teddy Sealey was crowned Bloxham Young Musician of the Year for his totally engaging and polished performance of a piece of Maths Rock on drums.

Huge congratulations to all musicians involved in the whole competition.

Other category winners included:

**Ari Pidgeon, Exham House – Recorder**

Beginner to Grade 3 for her enchanting performance of Merri-go-round

**Henry Powell, Exham House – Drums**  
Grade 4-6 for a stunning performance of Metallica

**Lottie Rymer, Raymond House – Voice**  
Grade 7+ for her beautiful storytelling in 'I'm Still Hurting'



## Music Exams

Over eighteen music exams took place online this year with all passing. Special mention to Max Tyler Grade 8 Singing, Dan Shevket Grade 6 Saxophone, Urssie Levett Grade 6 Singing, Rory Faithfull Grade 5 clarinet, Rose Graffety-Smith Grade 1 Singing who all passed with distinction.

## Christmas Lights

Whilst normality was hard to establish in Michaelmas term, the musicians of Bloxham stood firm (socially distanced of course) to continue choral Christmas celebrations. A selection of carols were performed by the Chapel Choir in Bloxham's Chapel and sounded beautiful when used in the Icarus Trust's online version of their annual carol concert fundraiser.

Pupils across the years came together to recreate Coldplay's classic hit single 'Christmas Lights'. Indeed, this lovely, lyrical melody was only ever intended to be realised as a small a cappella arrangement created by Mr Ramm and Miss Svecova but turned into something slightly larger than anticipated; one choir turned into three: Harmonix, Chapel Choir and Exham Chapel Choir. However, this was not the end. With parts for bass, guitar and piano added, as well as parts for string band and ukuleles. The result was incredible. An unbelievable 85 pupils took part, recording each part separately





and advocating professional standards from everyone.

With the developing size of the project came an equally ambitious vision. The refined task was to create a track that wouldn't look out of place on Spotify and iTunes and that could make some money for the homeless in Banbury and across the country. A charity single requires visual aid and Myles Lamb spent hours creating a film to enhance the record with the final product released on all major music platforms including

Spotify, iTunes and YouTube. Matt Bosworth and Lucia Svecova must be thanked for all their efforts in mixing the vast number of audio tracks and Myles Lamb for his patience and willingness to produce the video. It was a huge team effort that tested new technologies and processes where Bloxham's musicians did themselves proud. [JRKR](#)

## House Music

The intensely competitive House Music Competition took on a slightly different feel this year with a mini-Glastonbury recreated the Headmaster's Lawn. With the theme of Glastonbury Headlines, we were very lucky to have Alex James, bassist with Blur, and award-winning cellist Gabriella Swallow to adjudicate the competition. This was only the second time within the academic year that the whole school community had gathered together, so with such a wonderful, celebratory mood and quality music at its heart, everyone was a winner! Formally, the winners were:

House Music Competition winner:  
[Wilberforce](#)  
 Unison winner: [Exham](#)  
 Ensemble winner: [Merton](#)

## Summer Concert

Our Summer Concert turned out to be a rather emotional event for many reasons. For an active department who usually presents twenty-six concerts every year, June 25th was only our second concert with a live audience. Part of the joy of making music is sharing it with others, so we were delighted to welcome a sixty-five strong audience, some of whom had never been to a Bloxham concert before. The standard of music from the Chapel Choir, Concert Band, Brass Ensemble and Harmonix was excellent, with wonderful solos too from Jack Phillips who played Purcell's Trumpet Sonata in D and Lottie Rymer, who sung 'Defying Gravity' from Wicked. It was a suitable farewell to our Upper Sixth musicians who have been terrific role models for music at Bloxham. I think everyone who was there including those who watched on the live stream, realised what had been missing over the past eighteen months. [AJR](#)



# Drama



## Musical Revue

Our plans for a whole school musical were thwarted by you know what, but that didn't stop us from producing a Revue of contemporary musical numbers with students in Second Form and Fourth to Upper Sixth, all performed in bubbles for a bubbled audience. Now there is a line never included before in *The Bloxhamist*!

The Fourth Form gave a heart-warming performance of 'When I Grow Up' from *Matilda* with solos from Holly Ding, Lily Tyler and Shamilla Muracia demonstrating their clear singing talent, and great ensemble work from Olly Shawcross, Benedict Steers, Finn Camerling, Angelina Stich and Erykah Aguele. Henry White and Millie Whittaker had their first collaboration on 'Agony' from *Into the Woods*, which later returned for the show-stopping 'Get Down' from *Six the Musical*, which also featured very comical performances from Robert Frankland and Izzy Zuydam. 'And You Don't Even Know It' from *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* by Morgan Tinkler was stylish

and impressively bold. 'Sincerely Me' from *Dear Evan Hansen* by Wilberforce Upper Sixth, Christina White, Scarlett Lawson Johnston, Florence Krajewski, Lottie Lee and Tabby Cunningham was an absolute joy – what a team! Lottie Rymer and Millie Pinder created a lovely tone of reflection in 'I'm Still Hurting' from *The Last Five Years*, this was in contrast to Lottie's larger-than-life solo of 'Popular' from *Wicked*. Second Form's Joseph Lamb, Micah Tumilty, Harry James-Bull, Zac O'Dell, Rory Minson, Alfie Dann-Gosbell, Ramsay Strickland-Clark, Edward Skold, Cassia Johnston, Layla Williams, Tabby Hall, Florence Tuttle were the ultimate dynamic ensemble in 'Revolting Children' from *Matilda*, showing what a great future we have for Drama. Their performance was book-ended in great humorous fashion by Mrs Trunchbull played by Bertie Bond. Millie Whittaker and Izzy Zuydam explored the smash-hit *Hamilton*, performing the rap-song style brilliantly – this one included surprise solos from Jack Dunk, Jack Phillips and a certain Mr Brassington from the tech box! Henry White entertained the audience showing the madness of King George from *Hamilton*. Lucy



Finch demonstrated her outstanding quality in 'City of Stars' from *La La Land* in a dazzling performance. The show ended with 'Why We Build A Wall' from *Hadestown* with Robert Frankland in the role of god of the underworld, supported brilliantly by the Sixth Form, in a song satirising the notion of building walls between communities; this song seemed apt given the isolation brought on by lockdown.

The show greatly benefited from the musical direction throughout rehearsals and accompaniment on the evening of James Ramm and Lucia Svecova, and the many hours of technical work Jack Dunk and Jack Phillips gave to the production.

We were delighted to be able to record the production in high quality and to stream it to the school community and with just shy of 800 views, we are so pleased the cast got the (remote) audience they deserved.

## Drama Celebration Evening

The Drama celebration evening drew together work from First to Sixth Form and included LAMDA, GCSE and A Level performances. We were struck by the absolute quality of the performances and the variety of subject matter and tone that the students moved between with confidence.





The evening started with Millie Whittaker's interpretation of Woyzeck through Kneehigh Theatre Company – there was stand-up comedy, puppetry and beautiful singing packed into her highly creative monologue. Angelina Stich, Hannah Marles and Amber Robinson shared their heartfelt GCSE piece exploring the importance of education and equality through Malala's story. Harry James-Bull's performance of Oppenheimer by Tom Morton-Smith reflected on the horrors of the Atomic Bomb in a very mature performance, and A Hundred Words for Snow was a darkly comic exploration of grief performed with such imagination by Layla Williams. There was the adaptation of David Walliams' 'The Midnight Gang' by a talented group of First Formers Lexi Gibbs, Nina Brown, Mimi Raphael, Marcie Smith, Emily Thompson, who will no doubt go on to perform in many productions in the years to come. Likewise, we enjoyed a unique comic farce by Second Form's Joseph Lamb, Alfie Dan-Gosbell, Ramsay Strickland-Clarke, Zac O'Dell and Edward Skold, exploring a crash-landed plane stranded on a desert island. Exham's contribution was completed by Cassia Johnston's beautiful singing of 'She Used To Be Mine' from Waitress the Musical.

In Fourth Form, Thomas Van Hentenryck performed with energy in a compelling and original interpretation of Puck from A Midsummer Night's Dream, and Holly Ding showed maturity beyond her years to capture heartbreak



in Bird by Catherine Chandler. There were moments of absolute joy and real hilarity from Sixth Form students – Annie Cowperthwaite and Izzy Zuydam's wonderful dual of 'manners' from the Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde, Charlie Penfold's fantastic slapstick comedy commanded the audience from Shakespeare's Two Gentleman of Verona. The evening was completed by Henry White, our new Drama Captain, with his highly comical monologue of a teenage holiday maker in France from Ella Hickson's Eight.

## Outstanding LAMDA Results

What an excellent year it has been for LAMDA with an average – across all exams – of 75% Distinction! In the summer of 2020 pupils came back into school to take part in Remote Exams, swiftly followed up by Solo and Paired exams in September, Second Form group pieces in October and exams in May. [SWB](#) and [FM](#)

# Design Technology

It has been a difficult year in D&T without the opportunity for dedicating long periods of time to the manufacture of fantastic projects. In addition with a shift in the exam board goalposts – no manufacturing required – it's been difficult to produce the usual stock of amazing products. However, there has been some great online modelling production and the pupils' motivation for creativity has not dwindled. The idea of a proof of design concept emerged and we saw some great realizations. Here are some examples of the work completed this year:



For Liv Finch's A Level project, she designed and made an Art Deco drinks cabinet for her parents. Her proof of concept was made full sized, and it was produced in response to the need for bespoke furniture for new build homes. The final solution fitted the bill perfectly and Liv's clients were very pleased. They particularly liked that it was based on New York's iconic Art Deco Chrysler Building.



As his A level project, Zac Wilton, designed an environmentally friendly, cricket themed, dog poo bag dispenser and waste disposal system. This was for his local cricket club. The bags emerge from an oversized cricket ball, held on cricket stumps, while the waste is dealt with through biodegradable composting system.



Marcus Von Sydow designed a piece of multi-play equipment for Bloxham's Lower School. It expands to form a 5-a-side football pitch with two goals, a cricket wicket with two sets of stumps and a netball ring. It also includes plenty of bag storage. As his proof of concept, in addition to the CAD drawings, Marcus produced a full sized netball ring too.

The Lower Sixth carried out a study of historical design style and then had to produce a light for a chosen client, incorporating one of those design styles. While studying online, the research, design and development took place, and once access to the workshop was allowed, the manufacturing could be undertaken.



Fourth Form produced clocks which had to include a laminated wooden curve.



Card models were produced at home, while working online and then when the return to School was allowed, access to the workshop enabled realization of the real product.



Henry Wyatt produced this air filtration system as his GCSE project. This proof of concept uses natural plants as a filter as the air passes through. His trials proved very successful. This was made as part of this year's theme of sustainability.

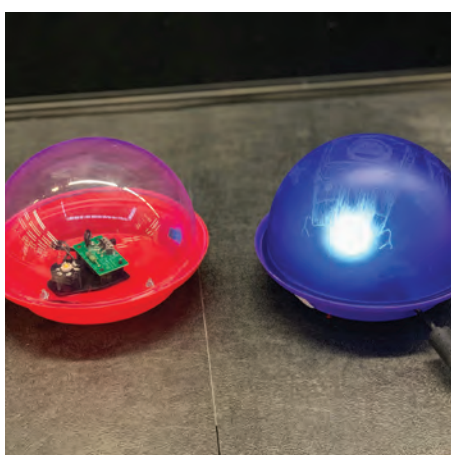


During lockdown, the First Form were not able to produce their normal wooden picture frames so instead they identified the defining aspects of their clients and produced a decoupaged card frame. On return to school, they produced the back in pine and combined the two elements to achieve a pleasing 'favourite things' picture frame.





Not having access to machinery during their time away from school, Second Form modelled their mobile hook system in card and tested them successfully at home. On return to school, they had a mere two weeks to turn out some amazing aluminium final versions, proving their concepts successful. The mobile hook hangs on a door and is strong enough for several items.



When able to gain access to workshop equipment, Third Form have very much enjoyed making their light pods, vacuum forming the basses and dome blowing the tops in acrylic, after adding their own designs on the laser cutter. They completed the electronic wiring and inserted the feet after injection moulding them. **TMS**



## Greenpower Electric Car Club

Our youngest pupils were given the opportunity to construct a Greenpower electric car, developing an interest in engineering and aerodynamics. The project exposes them to a wide range of equipment and resources working in the Raymond Technology Centre with Mr Hollinworth and Mr Broady-Bennett. The pupils have produced graphics, designed and made the bodywork and maintained the car, with the final aim of driving it in the Greenpower IET Formula 24. Unfortunately, due to the disruption to academic life over the last two school years, Bloxham has yet to compete in the Greenpower IET Formula 24 event but this is something we are eagerly excited to participate in next year.

One of the first tasks the pupils have to complete is to make a small bracket. This task familiarises the pupils with several key tools, machinery and building techniques that they will use throughout the project, including the use of self tapping screws, metal bending and the



importance of an engineers square.

The Greenpower team headed to Strawberry Terrace to test drive their electric car. This was a proud and very exciting moment for the entire team. It was fantastic to get the car out and running with the students. They were all eager to give it a go. We have many plans in the future to try out different materials and techniques to make the car lighter and faster.

A huge thank you to Mr Faithfull, our sponsor, and Nic Hollingworth, our technology technician, who has tirelessly researched and worked on the finer detail of the car behind the scenes. We look forward to taking part in a race next year. **RBB**



# Food And Hospitality

The Food department has seen another busy year where classes for all year groups are always registering the full sign. It is fantastic to be so popular and for there to be so many children who enjoy learning about food!

We started the year with screens between kitchens so that children could face one another and for us to cause the least amount of disruption to learning. Nervous looking eyes (you couldn't see their mouths as they were covered up!) trying to understand what I was asking them to do from behind my mask. I lost count of the amount of times I pushed a tasting spoon into a face mask that I had forgotten I still had on, but at least it appeared to amuse the children in the classes!

Food of a high standard was being produced in every lesson and the BTEC hospitality courses were producing some incredible menus for guests to come into class and sit down and enjoy. Large parts of courses were put on pause during Lent's lockdown until we could return to school and get going again.

A huge success in both the 2020 and 2021 lockdown periods was the online Teams Family Feed activity. The department set up Tuesday evenings as the night where parents could leave the



kitchen at home and allow the children to take over the space and responsibility of feeding the household. The salmon and avocado recipe on this page gives an example of one such meal. Elderly neighbours of a pair of boys from the school were treated every week with a meal brought round to them and they took the time to write to me at the school to express their gratitude. Here we see the true Bloxham spirit shining through at such a gloomy time.

The GCSE Fifth Form group produced

dishes for their exams that were simply outstanding and were a huge credit to themselves and I really hope that they earn the qualifications that they so richly deserve!

Although the BTEC Hospitality students were unable to stage the big outside functions that they have done in previous years, they stepped up on a regular basis to staff and run several internal events arranged at the end of term and they were able to put into practice what they had learnt so well in theory. **PGH**

## Family Feed Dish: Seasoned Salmon and spiced avocado

*Serves Four*

Makes for a lovely light lunch or dinner  
and easy to digest after exercise.  
Naturally rich in quality carbohydrates,  
protein and omega 3.

### Ingredients:

**Ingredients:**

- 1 tsp of fennel powder
- 1 tsp of ground coriander
- ½ tsp of chilli powder
- ½ tsp smoked paprika
- 600 -700g of fresh salmon with no skin
- 400g of small new potatoes
- 3 large avocados
- Juice and zest of 2 limes
- 1 small bunch of fresh coriander

4 eggs  
1 tub of Salad cress  
1 bag of rocket leaves  
Olive oil  
Salt and pepper

**Method:**

1. Pre-heat the oven to 150°C.
2. Bring a pan of water to the boil and cook the eggs for eight minutes.
3. Cool the eggs under cold running water and peel.
4. Mix the fennel, ground coriander, chilli, and paprika in a bowl with the salt and pepper and zest of one of the limes. Mix to create a rub.
5. Take the salmon and press both sides into the rub and then place on a non-stick tray.
6. Cook in the oven for 15 minutes.
7. Boil the potatoes in the egg water for 15 minutes or until soft when a knife is pushed into them.

8. Half and remove the stone of the avocados.
9. Remove the flesh into a bowl add the remaining zest and all of the juice of the limes. Mash with a fork.
10. Season with tabasco and salt and chop the fresh coriander and mix.
11. Split the eggs in half and remove the yolk.
12. Grate separately the yolk and the egg white.
13. Half the new potatoes and drizzle with olive oil and ground pepper.
14. When the salmon is cool enough to handle flake into large chunks.
15. Assemble by putting a generous helping of avocado on the base of the bowl, new potatoes on top, flaked salmon next then the rocket and cress is sprinkled over the whole bowl. Finish with the egg white and yolk.



# Outdoor Education





# Duke of Edinburgh



During the October break, seventeen Upper Sixth students and one recent leaver underwent their rescheduled expedition for the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award in the Oxfordshire countryside. With the temporary changes to Duke of Edinburgh expedition rules, students who were due to complete their assessed Gold Expedition back in April did so in the October break.

The rules stipulated there were to be no overnight stays, so rather than the wild terrain of the Lake District the group had to settle for the wilds of rural Oxfordshire.

The expedition took place over four days, the first day was a long 25km walk from Bloxham School to Milcombe via the Baulk path to South Newington onto Nether Worton then Hempton, via Milton back to school. The following day

went from Hook Norton to Whichford, onto Long Compton and back to Hook Norton. Day three started at Church Enstone onto Little then Great Tew, before back to South Newington and Milcombe before arriving back at school. The final day started at school to Broughton via Hobb Hill then onto Lower Tadmerton and Swalcliffe Lea and back to Hook Norton where the debriefing and celebration took place.

Covid rules and regulations had loosened a little by June 2021 when 70 Fourth Form students in ten groups successfully completed their Bronze DofE expedition.

Walking on different routes from Wentnor to Camperley, around and over the beautiful Long Mynd, the young adventurers conquered the wild (and all its surprises). Kind weather on the Sunday saw the groups enjoying

sunshine en route and into camp, only to be met by rain early on Monday morning and cold temps and mist of 9°C on the tops during the day. The groups showed great resilience finishing in such conditions, particularly poignant as it was being 12 months since they were supposed to have completed. Covid and the weather may have tried to dampen their spirits but the Fourth Form more than pulled through!

A further three teams of Sixth Form students were able to complete their four day Gold expedition in the Brecon Beacons. Adapting to severe heat, the teams showed great tenacity and adaptability, rising as early as 5am to start hiking before the worst of the midday heat. On the last night they bivied high up on the mountains, sleeping in the open air to escape the valley heat and see the beautiful sunset and sunrise.

## CCF

Third and Fourth Form out on their CCF day. After undertaking weapon training, the cadets slept out overnight in bashas on Hobb Hill. The following day, all took part in blank firing exercises and learnt about navigation and first aid.





# Summer Outdoor Trips

The Second Form enjoyed a five day residential at Longtown Outdoor Education centre in Herefordshire. The 25 pupils enjoyed a variety of activities from mountain walking and biking, to caving and canoeing. The adventurers also enjoyed paddle boarding, archery and the hi-ropes. They also had fun on an evening orienteering challenge and were thrilled to arrive at their mystery location of McDonalds! Spectacular views were seen throughout the trip, including visiting the edge of Wales and England

placing one foot in each country.

The Third Form trip was unfortunately cut short due to Covid-19, but the group still enjoyed three days of outdoor activities. The trip began with orienteering, followed by a gorge walk on day two and finally fun on the high ropes and paddle boarding.

Additionally, a small number of Bloxham senior students headed to the Scottish Highlands in the surroundings

of Ben Nevis and Glen Coe for seven fun fuelled days of outdoor adventure. The trip began with an overnight sea kayaking expedition camped on a remote secluded island, with pristine white sand in a tepee that had been brought with them in their boats. The following days were then land based, with rock climbing in Glen Nevis and multi-pitch climbing in the majestic surroundings of the Glencoe valley. Further adventures included mountain bikes, mountaineering and scrambling.





SPORT

# Sport





# House Sport 2020-21

The 2020-21 sporting year saw Covid-19 regulations heavily impact the ability to host and attend fixtures. To give the pupils as much match practice as possible, the Saturday sporting programme focused heavily on House Sport and the introduction of a franchise system with boys and girls split across houses and year groups.

## Franchise competitions

Competitors: Bloxham Bears, Bloxham Bulls, Bloxham Eagles, Bloxham Jets, Bloxham Raiders, each with Senior, Junior and Exham teams.

### Overall across sports

1.	Bears	77 points
2.	Raiders	76 points
2.	Bulls	76 points
4.	Jets	67 points
5.	Eagles	66 points

### Hockey (whole school, boys and girls)

1.	Bulls
2.	Bears
3.	Eagles
4.	Raiders
5.	Jets



### Senior Rugby

1.	Jets
2.	Raiders
3.	Bears
4.	Eagles
5.	Bulls



### Junior Rugby

1.	Bears
2.	Raiders
3.	Bulls
4.	Jets
5.	Eagles



### Badminton

1.	Bears
2.	Raiders
3.	Bulls
4.	Jets
5.	Eagles



## Boys' House Sport

	Winner	Runner Up
U14 House Cricket	Merton	Egerton
U15 House Cricket	Crake	Seymour
Senior House Cricket	Seymour	Wilson
Senior B House Cricket	Wilson	Crake
House Tennis	Wilson	Egerton
House Golf	Seymour	Crake
Senior A House Rugby	Wilson	Seymour
Senior B House Rugby	Wilson	Seymour
Junior House Rugby	Crake	Seymour
Inter House Swimming	Crake	Egerton/Merton
Senior House Swimming	Crake	Egerton
Senior B House Swimming	Seymour	Egerton
Senior House Squash	Wilson	Merton
Senior House Badminton	Merton	Wilson
House Hockey	Seymour	Wilson
House Hockey (Plate)	Wilson	Seymour
House Fives jamboree	Seymour	Wilson
House Sailing	Wilson	Willberforce

## Girls' House Sport

	Winner	Runner Up
Senior A House Hockey	Raymond	Stonehill
Senior B House Hockey	Stonehill	
Junior A House Hockey	Raymond	
Junior B House Hockey	Raymond	
Senior A House Netball	Raymond	Stonehill
Senior B House Netball	Raymond	
Senior C House Netball	Wilberforce	
Junior (A and B) House Netball	Stonehill	Raymond
House Families Netball	Raymond Vixens	Raymond Dragons
Senior House Swimming	Raymond	Wilberforce
Junior House Swimming	Raymond	Wilberforce
House Badminton	Raymond	Wilberforce
House Squash	Raymond	Wilberforce



# Rugby

The 2020/21 rugby season was wrecked by Covid; all competitive fixtures against other schools fell by the wayside which was incredibly frustrating for a very keen set of boys, particularly so for the Upper Sixth who would have formed the core of a formidable 1st XV with a group of Lower Sixth players who had enjoyed an unbeaten season the year before. The chance for the school to win a third national trophy in consecutive seasons was lost.

However, Mr Goldsmith reports on the positives to be found in the senior squad's season as follows: "Despite the ravages of Covid, all was not lost. We were still allowed to train in a Covid-secure way, but contact sessions weren't allowed. Instead, we worked on all the other aspects of the game and we hope that this will lead to a generation of fast, free-flowing, offloading rugby players. To maintain the competitive juices, we devised a franchise system where players went into a draft system and were selected by the five senior coaches to represent the Bears, Bulls, Eagles, Jets and Raiders. This touch tournament was then battled out over a three-week period to decide the eventual winners. The boys bought into the process well and a huge amount of benefit was taken from players having to identify space rather than look for contact and the skill set, of the forwards in particular, improved beyond recognition."

The lack of the contact also allowed the Fifth Form to play a full part in senior training for the first time, enabling them to see the levels expected of them in the future along with the patterns of play they would be using next season. This will hopefully put next year's 1st XV in a strong position.

Mr Goldsmith's departure marks the end of an era after seventeen seasons as Director of Rugby. His hallmarks as a coach were his readiness to be flexible in his coaching philosophy and to trust his players to take initiative. These and his readiness to be imaginative in positional thinking mark him out as a very modern rugby coach and helped to produce many outstanding players in the last decade, notably Alfie Barbeary (England Under 20, Wasps), Tom



Stephenson (England Under 20, Saints) and Dan Eckersley (England Under 18, Wasps). Andy led three successful tours to South Africa and pioneered a series of memorable pre-season tours to the seaside, including Newquay, Cardiff, Exeter and Brighton. We look forward to seeing what Mr Lovering and Mr Walker can do in their new roles as Acting Head of Rugby and 1st XV Chief Coach.

Covid limited the playing opportunities of Old Bloxhamists as it did for everyone else. Alfie Barbeary endured a frustrating season plagued by injury, but still managed to receive a call-up to Eddie Jones' England squad and was named the Gallagher Premiership Rugby Player of the Month for December.

Two significant honours were won by two of the school's rugby players. Adam Gaskell, from our Yearlings (Under 14) squad was selected for the Ultimate Rugby Sevens National Academy for 2021/22. The UR7s run an annual scouting programme where coaches visit tournaments across the country, and Adam was scouted whilst playing for his club, Chipping Norton. Mr Lovering, the School's Rugby Professional, commented "Adam continues to impress us in school with his ability and the training standards he sets himself. His natural speed and agility will suit 7's very well. The exposure to this level of rugby will hugely benefit him and we are extremely proud as a school."

Meanwhile, one of our Exham U13 players, Noah Cloete, achieved a notable rugby success at the Midlands final of the Alred Trophy, organised by the School of Kicking. As one of the youngest competitors in a field of 25 players from schools all over the region, Noah who also plays rugby for Towcestrians R.F.C., won the Hang Time challenge. Mr Lovering commented: "Noah is mature beyond his years, and what impresses me is not so much his talent – that is beyond dispute – but his attitude and his readiness to put the time into improving his game. His kicking success is a perfect example of this."



If Covid has done one thing of benefit to rugby – and that is not easy to imagine – it has reminded us of the continuing importance of the sort of individual skills shown by these two young Bloxham players. [SJB](#)



# Girls' Hockey



Falling in the middle of a global pandemic, the girls' hockey season saw a number of challenges. Although we did not get to play a full fixture list, we did manage to get a number of games in and were one of the few schools in the country to be able to play so many.

## 1XI

This year, the side was captained by Lottie Rymer who did a fantastic job at leading the girls through the season despite the uncertainty of the pandemic. Although we now lose a huge number of the team, the four who are staying will play a huge part in next years' programme. A special mention to Lisa Reeker who joined us for the hockey season and was an outstanding player - we are hugely grateful for all you gave to the Bloxham hockey programme.

Sports hockey full colours awarded to: Sophie Tredwell, Muquaddas Ahmed, Lottie Lee, Lottie Rymer, Emma Stephenson and Lily Wood.

## 2XI

A hugely successful season for the 2XI squad who had it particularly

tough due to not being able to have the Fifth Form in their team due to Covid bubbles. They still however managed to get victories against Stowe and Cheltenham and were unfortunate to lose against a very strong Teddies side. Best of luck to all the leavers.

## 3XI

A tough season for the 3rds losing both their games this season however this did not stop them turning up and training with huge enthusiasm each session. Some particularly impressive playlists to be heard coming from the astros on a Wednesday afternoon!

## U16s

Emma McGowan led the side as captain and did a superb job and it is no wonder, she has been called up to join the 1XI pre-season. Our U16s managed to get five fixtures: 1 win, 1 draw and 3 losses. The work ethic will be a huge asset next year when the girls are moved into the 1XI-2XI teams.



## U15s

Captained by Jenna Little and Georgia Sealey, it was another tough hockey season for the U15s. However, they played with grit and determination in the few matches that did manage to go ahead and vast improvements have been made both technically and tactically this season during training. Players of the season was jointly awarded to Jenna Little and Georgia Sealey.

## U14s

One of the most exciting teams to watch this year in both matches and training, the U14s has had a hugely positive season under their coach Mr Rose. Many have already been called up to train in the 1XI development squad. Most improved player was awarded to Milly Brown.





Girls’ Hockey results

U18A Won 3, Lost 3

Denstone	3-1
Cheltenham	4-1
Stowe	1-0
St. Edward’s	3-5
Stowe	3-4
Stowe	1-2

U18B Won 3, Lost 2

Cheltenham	3-0
Stowe	1-0
St. Edward’s	0-3
Stowe	3-2
Stowe	1-5

U18C Lost 2

Stowe	1-3
Stowe	0-1

U16A Won 1, Lost 3, Drew 1

Denstone	1-1
Cheltenham	2-0
Stowe	0-5
Stowe	1-3
Stowe	0-1

15A Lost 2, Drew 1

Denstone College	1-1
Cheltenham College	0-3
Stowe School	0-3

U15B Lost 1

Stowe	0-8
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U14A Won 3

Denstone College	6-2
Cheltenham Ladies’ College	3-0
Stowe	1-0

U14B Won 1

Stowe	1-0
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- 1XI**  
Gemma Ashley  
Zoe Bradley  
Annie Cowperthwaite  
Muqaddas Ahmed  
Lottie Lee  
Lottie Rymer  
Emma Stephenson  
Sophie Tredwell  
Lily Wood  
Lucy Thorogood  
Lisa Reeker  
Leah Ng  
Lucy Jenkins  
Felicity Clark

- U16A**  
Estelle Hubbard  
Lucy Finch  
Hannah Bird  
Elspeth Barr  
Annabel Topley  
Emma McGowan  
Jemima Bond  
Chloe Marçais  
Izzie Franck-Steier  
Lydia Lowe  
Annie Maginnis  
Harriet Ellis  
Holly Brigden

- U18B**  
Isobel Bygate  
Izzy Chamberlain  
Chymme Reynolds  
Tabby Cunningham  
Olivia Finch  
Matti Goosey  
Louisa Hudson  
Jenny Jervis  
Florence Krajewski  
Esme Leckie  
Pippa Little  
Elizabeth Moore  
Millie Pinder  
Christina White  
Jessie Urquhart

- U18C**  
Poppy Darby  
Georgia Nicholson  
Pia Weaving  
Lorelei Allden  
Isabelle Dowson  
Georgie Hart  
Grace Malliagh  
Jamie O'Brien  
Millie Roach  
Vitaliya Shlenskaya  
Jenna Wallace  
Millie Whittaker

- U15A**  
Erykah Aguele  
Luli Alderman  
Lucy Burnham  
Angelina Stich  
Rachel Davies  
Jenna Little  
Flora MacIntosh  
Georgia Sealey  
Shamilla Muracia  
Annette Kamau  
Holly Ding  
Zoe Broom  
Hannah Marles  
Lily Tyler

- U15B**  
Emily Adams  
Ella Cochran  
Ellie Davies  
Imogen Devenny  
Kelly Dixon  
Caitlin Dubber  
Chloe Grattan-Cooper  
Scarlett Mackenzie  
Maddy Precious  
Elizabeth Taylor  
Emily Thorne  
Lottie Heathcote  
Lele Li  
Daniela Gil Aparicio  
Jess Hawkins  
Amelia Naylor  
Kristina Shlenskaya



Exham

Our Exham group have had a very positive season and again were lucky enough to get a handful of matches in. Saturday mornings have been a huge success and it has been great to see so many turning up for training. There are some hugely talented players in this year group and they will become a great asset to Bloxham's hockey programme as they work their way up the school.

Player of the season was awarded to Esme R and most improved: Claudia Moore.

Highlight of the season: fancy dress Christmas tournament! [LS](#)



**U13A Won 1, Lost 1**  
Cheltenham Ladies' College  
0-3  
Kimbolton 6-2

**U13C Won 1, Lost 2**  
Cheltenham Ladies' College  
0-4  
Kimbolton 7-1

**U13D Lost 1**  
Kimbolton 1-2

U14A

Emma Benson  
Molly Bellingham  
Miriam Bowden  
Milly Brown  
Ellie Cassie  
Charlotte Franck-Steier  
Claudia Kilonback  
Tilly Kingsbury  
Ciara Long  
Flora McCullough  
Molly Sanderson  
Martha Simons  
Millie Stamper  
Amelie Tarbit

U14B

Izzy Barratt  
Etain Barry  
Grace Broady-Bennett  
Alice Brooks  
Evie Brown  
Inés De La Corte Nelson  
Zara Hadley  
Kaia Heyring  
Tamsin Houston  
Iona Kirk  
Mathilda Lawson Johnston  
Melissa Loggin  
Teagan Phillips  
Soraya Wicks Montoya  
Eddie Procter  
Sophia Albino

Exham

Esme Rae  
Layla Williams  
Poppy Davidson  
Nina Brown  
Phoebe Simons  
Darcey Buxton  
Hattie Brown  
Holly Martinson  
Emilia Kilonback  
Lexi Gibbs  
Emily Dale  
Poppy Buxton  
Josie Brooks  
Kitty Matthews  
Lucy Davies  
Maya Humphries  
Raphaella Heeley

Ameerah Shah  
Florence Tuttle  
Cassia Johnston  
Amber Dayus  
Rose Grafftey-Smith  
Emily Swanson  
Ari Pidgeon  
Tabby Hall  
Millie Macangus  
Anna McRae  
Claudia Moore  
Eva Dale  
Charlotte Sinclair  
Mimi Raphael  
Marcie Smith  
Mackenzie Volpicella

Boys' Hockey

Unfortunately, the boys' hockey season saw no fixtures for this season due to the impact of the spring Covid-19 lockdown. However, whilst pupils were in lockdown, we created a YouTube channel where pupils could join in live and keep their skills sharp. This was hugely successful and it was great to see so many in the games lessons.

When the pupils returned, the franchise system returned on Saturdays, with the Bloxham Bears, Jets, Bulls, Raiders and Eagles in play. With no fixtures, House Sport also played a huge part in the Saturday programme. House Hockey saw Seymour win the title for the senior competition, whilst Wilson won the plate. [LS](#)







We prepared with as much normality as we could in the Michaelmas term, washing the bibs after every session and playing with modified community rules. With a full fixture card in place, we had pre-season sessions for every age group and were looking forward to the Lent term.

However, come January everything changed with the arrival of lockdown, and all netball sessions moved online. Miss Manning and Miss Paul spent the first week driving around North Oxfordshire delivering netballs to the girls who didn't have them at home! Each year group had one session a week where they could choose the netball activity they wanted to do and one session which we did a session live together. We worked on agility, ball handling, accuracy and kept our fitness going. It was really important to stay connected, and we loved watching the girls play netball in the snow and sunshine, in their living rooms and gardens, with the hope that we would soon get back to school. We were fortunate to be able to access training sessions with Wasps, so every Tuesday evening girls had extra training via Zoom; we were excited by the return of Superleague netball and enjoyed watching matches together online.

The Senior squad also meet up online once a week for training sessions, quizzes and to check in with each other. The group, led by Ellen Strickland - Clark and Liv Finch decided they wanted to do a virtual physical activity together, so we challenged ourselves to run or cycle

1,000k in the first month of lockdown. The girls were amazing and soon our Strava group was full of netballers going out for runs, cycles and swims. Four of the Fourth Form girls walked a marathon in a day and we ended up clocking up over 1,700k in total.

During February, we worked on accuracy and invited everyone to send in a video of themselves doing a trick shot. The entries were amazing – from Fourth Form's Jenna Little's overhead long shot, to First Form's Darcy and Poppy scoring a goal whilst bouncing on their trampoline, to Lower Sixth's Zoe Bradley throwing teabags into a cup and Pippa Little dropping a netball out of the window of the top floor of her house to score a goal straight through the ring!

We returned to school later in March and still unable to play fixtures, we held a House Families tournament, with 15 teams from across the Houses taking part in over 100 matches over two weekends. We even had a team representing all those girls who had been in school over lockdown. First place was claimed by Raymond Vixens, with Raymond Dragons second and Stonehill Stars in third.

Senior House Netball came next with Raymond winning the A competition by some way. The other Houses were really close with Stonehill in second, Wilberforce third and Merton in fourth. Raymond won the B competition and Wilberforce won the Cs.

During the Summer term, the Seniors continued to play netball socially with the girls finding it a good way to keep their fitness up and relax between revision and exams. We were joined for the first time by the Sixth Form boys in our weekly sessions which was brilliant – the training intensity and matchplay was insane! We finished our term with a Girls v Boys match, which was highly contested with the girls coming out winners.

Junior House Netball took place in June with a fabulous afternoon of matches. Stonehill were the outright champions, winning both the A and the B competitions. Raymond were runners up in the As and Bs; the match between them and Stonehill A was very competitive and showcased some quality netball. Wilberforce were third in the As and runners up in the Bs, whilst Merton were fourth.

Finally, a small piece of normality came when we took two teams of Upper Sixth leavers to Stowe for the day and played an afternoon of relaxed and friendly games in the sunshine. Having had no external matches since the previous March, it was great to be able to get out, get the dresses on and play.

I would like to say a big thank you to the Squad Captain Ellen and Vice-Captain Liv for their commitment and effort, both in lockdown and time at school. We look forward to a full season in 2022. **LMM**



# Girls' Tennis

The Summer term presented girls with an opportunity for some form of normality, with a full tennis programme. Unfortunately, the weather had other ideas with block fixtures against Stowe, Wellingborough and Dean Close cancelled; this was particularly frustrating for many of the girls who had missed their weekly fixtures through the various lockdowns.

The 1st and 2nd VI had reliable pairings contesting each of their matches well. Lottie Lee captained the 1st team to close fixtures at Pangbourne and Tudor Hall, with some excellent play on show. Issy Stapleton guided her 2nd team to significant

victories against Pangbourne and Bromsgrove, both notable performances. As I write Esme Leckie's 3rd team stand undefeated with a couple of fixtures remaining. Esme has been well supported by a number of Upper Sixth students. Senior tennis remains in good health, with well over sixty girls opting to play tennis this year.

The U14 and U15 teams have also suffered at the hands of the weather, making their introduction to tennis fixtures difficult. However, both year groups have held their own, improving each week and approaching their games lessons with commitment and interest.

Exham have enjoyed their introduction to tennis fixtures, with many of our Second Form missing out on the experience last summer. We have seen a fantastic number of girls playing fixtures, with notable performances against Tudor Hall, Rencomb and Princethorpe. This years' Exham teams have been our most successful for some years, so the future of Bloxham tennis looks positive.

We have also seen some mixed doubles tennis, which has proven popular. The Mixed A had a highly competitive game with Stowe and a good victory against Princethorpe. [JDW](#)

**Girls U18A**

Lottie Lee  
Lottie Rymer  
Scarlett Lawson Johnston  
Isobel Bygate  
Emma Stephenson  
Lily Wood  
Zoe Bradley  
Leah Ng  
Lucy Thorogood  
Dione Katrantzis  
Jenna Little  
Lydia Lowe

**Girls U18B**

Isobel Stapleton  
Tabitha Harris  
Lydia Lowe  
Jada Newman  
Leah Ng  
Zoe Bradley  
Lucy Thorogood  
Elspeth Barr  
Louisa Hudson  
Emma McGowan  
Harriet Ellis  
Lucy Burnham  
Georgia Sealey  
Sophie Tredwell  
Emma Lawton  
Jenna Wallace  
Annie Cowperthwaite  
Pippa Little  
Lisa Reeker

**Girls U18C**

Sophie Tredwell  
Esme Leckie  
Elspeth Barr  
Lucy Thorogood  
Millie Roach  
Louisa Hudson  
Gemma Ashley  
Emma McGowan  
Annie Maginnis  
Izzie Franck-Steier  
Annabel Topley

**Girls U15A**

Dione Katrantzis  
Georgia Sealey  
Lucy Burnham  
Flora MacIntosh  
Shamilla Muracia  
Emily Thorne  
Angelina Stich  
Lottie Heathcote  
Emily Adams  
Annette Kamau  
Zoe Broom  
Jenna Little  
Holly Ding

**Girls U15B**

Emily Adams  
Emily Thorne  
Zoe Broom  
Annette Kamau  
Hannah Marles  
Elizabeth Taylor  
Flora MacIntosh  
Holly Ding  
Jess Hawkins  
Scarlett Mackenzie  
Ella Cochran  
Kelly Dixon  
Lele Li

**Girls U15C**

Lele Li  
Erykah Ageue  
Scarlett Mackenzie  
Lily Tyler  
Ella Cochran  
Amelia Naylor  
Ellie Davies  
Kelly Dixon  
Imogen Devenny  
Maddy Precious  
Amber Robinson  
Caitlin Dubber  
Phoebe Johnson  
Daniela Gil Aparicio  
Kristina Shlenskaya

**Girls U14A**

Ciara Long  
Claudia Kilonback  
Charlotte Franck-Steier  
Evie Brown  
Mathilda Lawson Johnston  
Zara Hadley  
Martha Simons  
Etain Barry  
Lexie Sherlock  
Kaia Heyring

**Girls U14B**

Edie Procter  
Alice Brooks  
Martha Simons  
Kaia Heyring  
Etain Barry  
Miriam Bowden  
Iona Kirk  
Grace Broadly-Bennett  
Molly Sanderson  
Izzy Barratt  
Sophia Albino  
Katie Tustian  
Raffaella Cook  
Lexie Sherlock

**Girls U14C**

Lexie Sherlock  
Raffaella Cook  
Liberty Harris  
Katie Tustian  
Veva Muguiri Goetsch  
Teagan Phillips  
Melissa Loggin  
Liza Ulyanova  
Inés De La Corte Nelson  
Soraya Wicks Montoya  
Emily Thorn

**Girls U13A**

Eva Dale  
Holly Martinson  
Emilia Kilonback  
Nina Brown  
Florence Tuttle  
Olivia Taylor  
Phoebe Simons  
Esme Rae  
Poppy Davidson  
Amber Dayus  
Maya Humphries

**Girls U13B**

Lexi Gibbs  
Marcie Smith  
Layla Williams  
Phoebe Simons  
Mimi Raphael  
Poppy Davidson  
Maya Humphries  
Amber Dayus  
Tabby Hall  
Olivia Taylor  
Emily Dale

**Girls U13C**

Cassia Johnston  
Raphaella Heeley  
Claudia Moore  
Emily Dale  
Tabby Hall  
Millie Macangus  
Poppy Buxton  
Darcey Buxton  
Ari Pidgeon  
Charlotte Sinclair  
Josie Brooks  
Layla Williams  
Mimi Raphael  
Ameerah Shah  
Lucy Davies  
Emily Swanson  
Kitty Matthews

**Girls U12A**

Phoebe Simons  
Marcie Smith  
Emily Dale  
Hattie Brown  
Lexi Gibbs  
Lucy Davies  
Josie Brooks  
Rose Grafftey-Smith

**Girls U12B**

Poppy Buxton  
Ameerah Shah  
Darcey Buxton  
Kitty Matthews  
Mimi Raphael  
Charlotte Sinclair  
Ari Pidgeon



# Boys' Tennis

This summer has seen a significant growth in boys' tennis, with two teams at U18, two teams at U16 and an U15 team all competing in fixtures. We have reached well over thirty boy tennis players for the first time in many years. This places boys' tennis in a very healthy position for next year, with a number of talented players and unprecedented levels of interest.

Our U18 boys have benefitted from the experience of our first pair, James Peto and Oliver Boardman who have provided strength at the top of the 'A' team. They have been well backed up by Charlie Bygate, Harry Needell, Teddy Sealey and Adam Wales as a regular group. The U18B have also emerged with Max Tyler leading an able group.

As we enter next year, we have a strong U16 group coming through, who have benefitted from a year's coaching, although unfortunately, fixtures have fallen foul of the weather. Finally, the U15 boys' team have made significant progress. Led by Corban Smith and Ben Zuydam, we have seen positive performances, particularly against Bromsgrove. Hector Thomas, Rufus Lawley, Thomas Van Hentenryck and Jason Choi have also enjoyed playing in their first fixtures. [JDW](#)

## Tennis results

**Girls U18A** *Lost 6*

Tudor Hall	2-7
King's High	1-8
Pangbourne	4-5
Bromsgrove	1-8
Wellingborough	4-5
Bradfield	0-9

**Girls U18 B** *Won 3, Lost 3*

Tudor Hall	2-7
King's High	3-6
Pangbourne	7-2
Bromsgrove	6-3
Wellingborough	6-3
Bradfield	0-9

**Girls U18C** *Won 2*

Tudor Hall	6-3
Bromsgrove	5-1

**Girls U15A** *Won 1, Lost 4*

Tudor Hall	6-3
King's High	2-6
Wellingborough	1-7
Bradfield	1-8
Pangbourne	1-3

**Girls U15B** *Lost 3, Drew 2*

Tudor Hall	4-5
King's High	2-3
Bradfield	0-9
Pangbourne	2-2

**Girls U15C** *Lost 1, Drew 1*

King's High	2-2
Bradfield	0-9

**Girls U14A** *Won 2, Lost 4*

Tudor Hall	4-5
King's High	2-5
Bromsgrove	3-6
Wellingborough	5-4
Bradfield	0-9
Pangbourne	5-4

**Girls U14B** *Won 1, Lost 4*

Tudor Hall	4-5
King's High	0-9
Bromsgrove	0-9
Wellingborough	7-2
Bradfield	0-9

**Girls U14C** *Lost 2*

King's High	0-2
Bradfield	0-9

**Girls 13A** *Won 6, Lost 1*

Tudor Hall	1-8
Rendcomb	6-3
Princethorpe	6-1
Wellingborough	5-4
Rendcomb	6-3
Pangbourne	6-3

**Girls U13B** *Won 4, Lost 2*

Tudor Hall	2-7
Rendcomb	7-2
Princethorpe	9-0
Wellingborough	2-7
Rendcomb	5-4
Pangbourne	4-0

**Girls U13C** *Won 1, Lost 2*

Tudor Hall	0-9
Rendcomb	5-7
Rendcomb	4-2

**Girls U12A** *Lost 2*

Wellingborough	1-8
Pangbourne	3-6

**Girls U12B** *Lost 2*

Wellingborough	2-4
Pangbourne	1-8

**Boys U18A** *Won 3, Lost 1*

Pangbourne	9-0
Bromsgrove	2-7
Princethorpe	5-4
Pangbourne	8-1

**Boys U18B** *Lost 1*

Bromsgrove	0-9
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**Boys U15A** *Won 1, Lost 1*

Magdalen College	2-7
Bromsgrove	6-2

**Mixed U18A** *Won 1, Lost 2*

Stowe	Lost 2-7
Princethorpe College	Won 6-2

**Mixed U18B** *Lost 1*

Stowe	Lost 0-9
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**Boys U18A**

Oliver Boardman  
James Peto  
Teddy Sealey  
Harry Needell  
Adam Wales  
Charlie Bygate  
Jack Dunk  
Jamie Angus  
Corban Smith  
Benjamin Zuydam  
Simon Daenen

**Boys U18B**

Max Tyler  
Nicolas Rodriguez Vazquez  
James Fry  
Charlie Yates  
Isaac Parkhouse  
Charlie Bygate

**Boys U15A**

Benjamin Zuydam  
Corban Smith  
Hector Thomas  
Rufus Lawley  
Thomas Van Hentenryck  
Jason Choi

**Mixed U18A**

Lottie Lee (VC)  
Teddy Sealey (C)  
Lottie Rymer  
Harry Needell  
Scarlett Lawson Johnston  
Adam Wales

**Mixed U18B**

Sophie Tredwell  
Nicolas Rodriguez Vazquez  
Charlie Bygate  
Charlie Yates  
Georgie Hart  
Millie Roach



# Cricket



It has been quite a term for cricket and one that saw many firsts for Bloxham. From the 1st XI playing Radley in September to over 100 fixtures organised for 15 different teams, it has been a jam-packed season with plenty to celebrate. Following the trend of 'Bloxham firsts', this season saw us put on fixtures for the 4th XI and, for the first time, a Gentlemen's XI, playing against Rugby and Eton. Girls' cricket also made its return with a 1st XI fixture against Rugby School.

A season that began with weather more akin to monsoon conditions saw several games washed out in May. Mr Batten stated that he had not seen the start to the season quite like it in his time at Bloxham, with the first three weekend block fixtures falling to the rain. In between the gloom and rain, the 1st XI played out a well fought draw with MCC thanks to standout performances from Oscar Hunt with the ball (3-32) and a mature innings from Ben England (68\*), which was full of brilliant cover drives and assured shot selection and really was a pleasure to watch. Both the Junior Colts and Yearlings picked up momentum with strong performances against Stowe. Both played Burford in the County Cup, with the Junior Colts

on their way to the semi-finals, where they would fall just short against St Edward's, and the Yearlings losing the final against as strong an Abingdon side as we have seen in recent years.

A highlight of the senior card followed to close off the half term, with us taking four senior sides to Eton. There was some excellent cricket on show throughout, with Henry Stainton scoring a blistering half century. Block fixtures against Warwick, Bedford and Magdalen were sadly lost to the rain but the 2nd XI did enjoy a five wicket win against a fancied Magdalen side away from home.

The demands of a step up in the fixture card meant some hard lessons had been learned in the first half of term, but then, in true Bloxham fashion, the drive to improve and respond began to bear fruit as several sides turned in some excellent results throughout the year groups. Strong wins against Bedford Modern for the 1sts and a famous win against SOA with runs for captain George King (73) and Callum Ardrone (67\*) were stand outs at the top end and the Yearlings comfortably beat Warwick away from home. Rain again frustrated an always enjoyable block with Dean Close which denied

the 1st XI a run out before the Woodard Festival. The performances that they put in at King's College Taunton however were more than respectable against some of the schools who were at the table in this country. A very winnable game against Worksop College unfortunately evaded us. The outstanding performer of the week was Zac Wilton, impressing with the ball and in the field, and it was a thoroughly enjoyable tour all round.

Returning from the Woodard Festival ruing missed opportunities was short lived, as we were lucky to witness the U13s win the inaugural prep school festival, which featured some highly competitive cricket between Bilton Grange, Swanbourne House, Beachborough and Bloxham. The format allowed for aggressive shot-making and some excellent bowling from all sides. Bloxham and Beachborough met in what was set to be a brilliant showdown and it did not disappoint. Bloxham deciding to bat first, posted 134, orchestrated mostly by a faultless innings from Noah Cloete. Batting with maturity and impeccable shot selection, Noah showcased just what a talent he is, and it was a masterclass well beyond his years. He punished the bad ball



with effortless timing and accelerated at exactly the right times, ending up on 98\*, just short of what would have been a much deserved hundred. In reply, Beachborough got off to a flier, finishing the powerplay on 57-1 with some aggressive batting which showed no fear of the total. Tight bowling from Sammy Dowson in the middle overs helped to restrict the chase to increase the required rate, and ultimately Beachborough fell short by 33 runs. The future of Bloxham cricket is bright and there is every reason to be excited following this much deserved success.

Cricket certainly seems to be in a healthy place and the fact that we have seen five senior sides put out and the development of a Girls' 1st XI is testament to this. Several players were involved in Oxfordshire cricket across all age groups, Zac Wilton's selection for Oxfordshire U18s being a highlight and Noah Cloete impressing with Northamptonshire. Noah also made his 1st XI debut against Wellingborough, one of the youngest debutants in recent memory. He looked absolutely at home with the bat and was outstanding in the field which is a sign of great things to come. Younger brother Fin was another outstanding success, often playing in teams further up the school with an outstanding unbeaten half century, also against Wellingborough.

The Exham side was the outstanding team in the school, recording seven wins and only one loss, with three games abandoned. Notable victories came at Stowe – with a tight bowling display restricting the home side to



88 all out, including a hat trick for Will Renison's leg spin – and Warwick, where despite missing their captain they posted a competitive score of 132 all out from 20 overs, eventually winning by five runs. Mr Harvey was full of praise for Bloxham's fielding and the spirit shown all season by a side which was mostly made up of first form boys.

Mr Ford reports that the Junior Colts worked hard on the weak areas of their game such as consistency of line and length with the ball and being more positive with the bat. Alex Din and James Parr led the attack well and had able assistance from Daniel Affleck and Max O'Dell. As for the Yearlings, Mr De Weymarn and Mr Taylor report that the whole year group showed excellent progression across all aspects of cricket, but in particular fielding and bowling. In the A team, the bowling of Adam Gaskell, George Richards, Murray Scott and Miriam Bowden show excellent signs for the future with all developing good control and

ability to bowl an attacking line and length. In the batting department, Kit Thorogood and Charlie Stapleton showed some promise at the top of the order but must continue to hit straight and choose which ball to attack or defend with more precision if they are going to score big runs.

The season ended with an excellent win for the school against the Old Bloxhamists, with Ben England leading the run chase. This was a fitting way to end, as we say goodbye to a large nucleus of the 1st XI who are all now Old Bloxhamists. With this comes the excitement of a young and talented side for next year that I have every confidence in, as we look to develop Bloxham cricket even further. Seeing so many pupils enjoying cricket and learning the game has been a real highlight of the term. There certainly is a buzz about cricket that prevails throughout the programme, and long may it continue. [GNW](#)

1st XI

James Gurney  
Ben England  
George King  
Oscar Hunt  
Charlie Daniels  
Oliver Brooks  
Sam Kentigern-Fox  
Jonny Wilkinson  
Max Killick  
Zachary Wilton  
Tristan Armitage  
Hugo Wilch  
Archie Armitage  
Alex Maginnis

2nd XI

Jack Higgins  
Callum Ardron  
Samuel Blake  
Stan Deeley  
Ben King  
Leo Mellor  
Oliver Loudon  
Hugo Wilch  
Tom Alderman  
Tristan Armitage  
Ben Eckersley  
Ben Ash  
Adam Mitchell  
Oliver Topley  
Henry Stainton  
George Miley  
Archie Armitage  
Morgan Thomas

3rd XI

Thomas Pringle  
Morgan Thomas  
Henry Stainton  
Teddy Westaway-Christopher  
Hamish Richards  
Adam Mitchell  
Tom Perks  
Charlie Linnell  
Jack Brennan  
Archie Armitage  
Oliver Brooks  
William Benson  
George Miley  
Owen Michael  
Charlie Fellingham  
Harvey Jones  
Harry Nicholls  
Oscar Welham  
Ollie Kettle  
Ben Eckersley  
JoJo Harris  
Marcus Von Sydow

Junior Colts A XI

Marcus Dowson  
Alexander Din  
George Dicks  
James Parr  
Ed Lloyd  
Sam Crowley  
Max O'Dell  
Daniel Affleck  
Jonathan Mitchell  
Thomas Goosey  
Ben Richards  
Charlie McRae  
Harry Barden  
Noah Cloete  
Finley Cloete

Junior Colts B XI

Daniel Affleck  
Sam Crowley  
Max O'Dell  
Benedict Steers  
Callum Toyer  
Ed Hart  
Marcos Dias Scioratto  
Jonathan Mitchell  
Nok Yuen  
Theo Pinnell-Brown  
David Ajisafe  
Finn Camerling  
Ignacio Lizasoain Abia  
Jasper Witney  
George Dicks  
Charlie McRae  
James Parr  
Olly Shawcross  
Harry Barden  
Thomas Goosey  
Maxwell Taylor  
Marcos Sarasa Roncal

Junior Colts C XI

Kit Thorogood  
Jamie Kane  
Thomas Finlay  
Murray Scott  
Dan Shevket  
Zack Miles  
Josh McGowan  
Joel Wyatt  
Felix Rawle  
George Richards  
Tom Ramm





Cricket results

<b>1st XI</b> Won 4 Lost 9 Draw 1	<b>2nd XI</b> Won 2 Lost 2 Tie 1	<b>3rd XI</b> Lost 3	<b>Junior Colts A XI</b> Won 2 Lost 5 Tied 1	<b>Junior Colts B XI</b> Lost 4	<b>Junior Colts C XI</b> Lost 1
<b>Yearlings A XI</b> Won 2 Lost 6 Abandoned 1	<b>Yearlings B XI</b> Won 1 Lost 5	<b>Yearlings C XI</b> Lost 2	<b>U13A XI</b> Won 4 Lost 1 Drawn 1 Abandoned 1	<b>U13B XI</b> Won 1 Lost 2 Drawn 1	<b>Girls' U15A</b> Lost 1

Yearlings A XI

Nick Pemberton  
Murray Scott  
Dan Shevket  
Adam Gaskell  
Jamie Kane  
Joel Wyatt  
Charles Stapleton  
George Richards  
Thomas Finlay  
Felix Rawle  
Miriam Bowden  
Kit Thorogood  
Tom Ramm  
Woody Robinson  
Finley Cloete  
Josh McGowan

Yearlings B XI

Joel Wyatt  
Zara Hadley  
Emma Benson  
Zack Miles  
Josh McGowan  
Oscar Hawkins  
Nick Pemberton  
Oscar Clinton-Green  
Freddie Harvey  
Oliver Welham  
Aidan Kennedy  
Felix Cruickshanks  
Jamie Kane  
Woody Robinson  
Tom Ramm  
Thomas Gaskell  
Zac Leroux  
Toby Roach

Yearlings C XI

George Bygate  
Finn Geraghty  
Samuel Davis  
Ernie Witney  
Ben Morris  
Christian Giles  
Samuel Olah  
Reuben Baston  
Max Clark  
Joseph Evans  
Jay Stammers  
Jack Sheppard  
Zac Leroux  
Will Morris  
Theo Sanders  
Ben Skerry

U13A XI

Noah Cloete  
Finley Cloete  
Junior Denny  
Sammy Dowson  
Dominic Crowley  
Kaspar Heyring  
James Demirtges  
Will Renison  
Charlie Wilson  
Harry Allen  
Oscar Evans-Pollard  
Cameron Clark  
Zeph Nurnberger  
Zac O'Dell  
Harrison Derbyshire

U13B XI

Alex Burt  
Harrison Derbyshire  
Gregory Pool  
Charlie Wilson  
Alex Dahlman  
Harry James-Bull  
Will Whittaker  
Jamie Swanson  
Tommy Henstone  
Henry Powell  
Rory Minson  
Zac O'Dell

Girls' U15A

Emma McGowan  
Annabel Topley  
Lisa Reeker  
Emma Benson  
Miriam Bowden  
Zara Hadley  
Tamsin Houston  
Flora McCullough  
Molly Sanderson  
Amelie Tarbit  
Alice Brooks





Despite the long lockdown this academic year, the Bloxham Riding Squad has had a surprisingly busy and successful season. We managed to maintain a regular training programme whenever allowed at a variety of venues to further develop the skill set of our riders and encourage new combinations to grow together with confidence. The squad has grown in numbers and we also have a keen group of non horse-owning riders who train regularly at Regal Equestrian. As ever we owe a huge debt of thanks to Fran Bird and her son, Old Bloxhamist Tom (Eg 12-20) who is now a 4\* event rider and very capable trainer in his own right. They have developed a cohesive and successful training programme in partnership with other instructors to work on each of our riders' strengths and developing skills.

December saw a successful show jumping outing to Bury Farm. All our riders rode well with successes for Tamsin Houston who came second in a large 90cm class, Chymme Reynolds was also second in the 100cm class and Izzy Barratt fifth on her new pony.

Bloxham's Eventer Challenge series at Aston le Walls was sadly hit by the lockdown, with just the one event in December. This saw another good set of results for our riders: Hattie Brown and Alice Brooks came fourth and fifth respectively in the 80cm class, and we saw a team win in the 90cm with Raffaella Cook coming fifth, Izzy Barratt sixth and Charlotte Franck-Steier ninth on her new ride. The 100cm class was won by Charlotte with sister Izzie Franck-Steier in sixth place. The 110cm class was impressive to watch with Izzie taking the win, closely followed by Angelina Stich in second place and Hannah Bird in third.

During lockdown the NSEA ran a

series of online dressage qualifiers, with riders performing their tests at home in full competition kit and videos being submitted for online judging. Full credit to Raffaella Cook, Evie and Hattie Brown who all put a lot of hard work into their productions, as well as testing their parents videoing skills! The competition was hugely subscribed but the girls performed exceptionally well under unusual circumstances, with Raffaella achieving both eighth and tenth places in her sections.

In April we sent a keen squad to an NSEA Eventer Challenge Qualifier at Dallas Burston with competitors in every class of the day! Our team of Hattie, Tamsin, Raffaella and Millie Stamper rode very well in the 80cm class to achieve team third place and qualify for the NSEA National Eventer Challenge Championships at Hickstead later in the year. Next up were Evie, Tamsin, Raffaella and Millie S who all rode beautifully to fourth place and another Hickstead Championship team qualification. It was great to see the new partnerships blossoming through the day with young horses gaining confidence with their riders' experience. Millie came very close to the optimum time and with just four faults gained sixth place individually. Finally, our 100cm team comprising Charlotte, Issie and Angelina rode superbly to win their class with the school's third Hickstead National Championship qualification of the day! All girls rode exceptionally well with Charlotte taking the class individual win, Issie third and Angelina eighth place.

The culmination of our riding year to date has been the Whitsun Bank Holiday weekend which saw us sending teams of competitors to both the Princethorpe 2 Day Event

and the very exciting NSEA National Eventer Challenge Championships at Hickstead! A huge well done to the team of Raffaella, Tamsin and Millie who achieved fifth place in the 80cm competition against 37 other teams!

Princethorpe as ever provides a unique and formative experience for all riders, being a long format national event comprising Dressage and Show Jumping on day one, with Roads and Tracks, Steeplechase and Cross Country on day two. It is not an event to be taken lightly as much preparation goes into training and horse and rider fitness. Nine of our riders took on the challenge and performed amazingly throughout the event, gaining valuable experience along the way. Our first timers in the 80cm class, Hattie and Lexie Sherlock both rode fantastically around the testing course as did our 90 team of Evie, Izzy and Stella Westaway-Christopher. Our 100 team of Charlotte, Luli Alderman, Angelina and Izzie led from the start and convincingly retained the win and the Princethorpe trophy, with Luli coming first individually, Angelina second, Izzie third and Charlotte fifth!

None of this could happen without the support and dedication of our parents who give much of their time regularly to transport horses to training as well as give up their weekends for competitions. We thank them so much for that and the results are self-evident, not only in the competitive success for the school but just as importantly the team spirit that all our riders have demonstrated throughout the year. It has been a pleasure working with the riding squad this year and we are looking forward to future fun and success for Bloxham riders.

[Berni Newcombe \(Equestrian Administrator\)](#)



# Athletics



2021 was an exciting season that has shown some superb potential in our athletics squad. Pupils steadily improved their performances across multiple events, attended a full block of athletics meetings and recorded some creditable performances against top competitors in the area. Throughout the season, pupils have developed both individually and as a team.

This year Athletics was offered to boys and girls from Third Form to Upper Sixth, with an encouraging uptake. For some pupils this was their first season with Athletics and excellent commitment was exhibited, with 64 pupils representing Bloxham over the season.

The season started with a boys’ meet at Harrow School; the junior, intermediate and senior squads represented the school. This was a successful start, registering multiple wins and performances to match. Poor weather hampered our flow at the start of the season, with an away fixture at Bromsgrove cancelled. Despite this setback, the pupils worked hard in training and strength and conditioning sessions during games periods.

The Bloxham Athletics squad travelled to Rugby School for their first mixed meet. The meet was against a strong field of competitors from Rugby, Stowe, Bromsgrove, Repton and Kings’ Worcester, with Bloxham having some encouraging early wins in the field events. Notable performances included Annie Cowperthwaite placing first in her U20 girls javelin and Millie Whittaker placing first in her U20 shot put category. A comprehensive display by Milly Brown, winning her U15 girls 100m comfortably, placing second in her hurdles event and jumping well in the Long Jump. We experienced further success in the senior age category, with a dominating performance in track events. Simon Daenen won his U20 1500m, Jonny Sealey his U20 400m, and Alex Myles the U20 hurdles. Finally, Sebastian Hughes won the U20 100m against fierce competition, making it two wins from two meets. This was another positive start to the season and fantastic commitment was displayed by all.

Our mixed meet at Bromsgrove School was a terrific opportunity for the athletes to compete amongst a strong field of competitors from Malvern, Magdalen College School, Rugby, King’s Worcester,

Cheltenham, and Bromsgrove. Bloxham experienced early success in the field events, with Annie Cowperthwaite placing second in her U20 girls’ javelin and a strong finish from Pippa Little finishing second in her U20 hurdles. There was another standout performance again by Milly Brown, winning her U15 girls 100m comfortably and placing first in her hurdles event. We found further success in the seniors age category, with Simon Daenen winning his U20 1500m. Younger brother Matthew Daenen matched this with strong performances to win the U17 javelin and shot put. Overall, this was a fantastic day out for the Bloxham Athletics squad.

Our final meet with Stowe was a superb way to round off the season. The format allowed students to compete in two track events, two jumps and two throws. This meant that pupils could practise events outside their main discipline. A brilliant day out for all those involved.

I am looking forward to another successful season and continuing the momentum into next year. [AIGR](#)

**Notable Performances**

<b>Junior</b>	
Sam Davies - 800m	
Milly Brown - 100m, Hurdles	
<b>Intermediate</b>	
Matthew Daenen - Javelin and Shot	
<b>Senior</b>	
Sebastian Hughes - 100m	
Simon Daenen - 1500m	
Annie Cowperthwaite - Javelin	
Millie Whittaker - Shot	
Alex Myles - Hurdles	
Jonny Sealey - 400m	

**Athletics Squad (Mixed)**

David Ajisafe	Inés De La Corte Nelson	Chloe Marçais	Theo Pinnell-Brown	Seb Towler
Molly Bellingham	Peter Elliot	Hannah Marles	Dillon Quaadvlieg	Hamish Turnbull
Edward Brading	Seb Evans	Craig Matsvetu	Lisa Reeker	Liza Ulyanova
Tom Bridge	Olivia Finch	Flora McCullough	Lewis Robinson	Millie Whittaker
Milly Brown	Harry Guzenda	Harry McCullough	Jonny Sealey	Soraya Wicks Montoya
Felicity Clark	Tamsin Houston	Olly McReynolds	Oilly Shawcross	Harry Wood
Annie Cowperthwaite	Sebastian Hughes	Veva Muguiri Goetsch	James Swaby	Lucas Zhang
Matthew Daenen	Will Howells	Alexander Myles	Amelie Tarbit	Izzy Zuydam
Simon Daenen	Lucy Jenkins	Isaac Myles	Bryn Taylor	
Hailie Danson	Pippa Little	Artemas Neate-James	Maxwell Taylor	
Rachel Davies	Tom Lockhart	Galileo Neate-James	Daniel Thorn	
Samuel Davis	Melissa Loggin	Thomas Oliver	Emily Thorn	



# Sailing



We have been delighted to get a full term of sailing. Although there were no fixtures, we made the most of the fine conditions that we were blessed with, most of the time. Much progress was made, in addition to a lot of fun had by all. For the first time, we were able to take a beginners' group of Third Formers, as a Thursday activity choice. They made great progress and were

able to sail unassisted by the end of their short course.

For the most part the weather was perfect, bar one occasion, where there was a spectacular thunderstorm with hailstones with one lightning strike caught on camera.

This year's group was a mix of Fifth

and Sixth Formers with a range of experiences; all did well, making good progress and improving during the term. The term's highlight was the inter-House competition, which consisted of a series of six races. With the expanding School, and now nine houses, working out a programme of races was more difficult. Wilberforce finished second behind the unstoppable Wilson who dominated the competition.

Congratulations to Jake Faithfull and Will Howells on their splendid victory. It was great to see so many parents supporting, on what was a perfect day with sunshine and wind. We were fortunate to be able to run a spectator-friendly course, so the tight action and fine racing was in full view. Things were not always plain sailing and there were a number of capsizes which added to the drama. All in all, a great day was had by all.

I'd like to thank all of the parents, especially Suzanne Faithfull for their help and assistance. I am also grateful to Padre Duncan for his fine safety boat work and also Tildy Paul for her assistance with the Third Form sessions. [TMS](#)

# Squash

We were fortunate that 'Squash as a Curriculum event' was allowed to continue, under certain Covid-19 restrictions, although none stopped the playing of good competitive games. The participants usually arrived at speed, running through the entrance and grabbing whatever rackets and balls they could and then racing around the courts. Squash England have suggested that only 70% of players were likely to return to the game when restrictions were ended, but we have seen the exact opposite with more players wanting to play. Many of the girls and boys celebrated

the game with more effort and better levels of skill, the progress of many is to be applauded, especially after a significant break or two with lockdowns.

We played a mixed girls and boys knockout handicap tournament and the level of excitement and energy was delightful to see with some wonderful smiles and some embarrassed grins during the tournament. We also introduced the players to Racketball as an alternative to Squash, practically the same game; similar rules but with slightly different rackets and bouncier balls. Many thought that this



looked a little easier than squash but as the ball never dies, some grins turned to groans as they chased the ball up and down the court.

There is huge good grace and sportsmanship in both of these games which brings out the best of participants. [Mike Morris](#)





# The Bloxham Community





# Spirituality and Service

The phrase “You don’t know realise how important something is until you don’t have it anymore” could be applied very much to chapel, spirituality, and service this year. Covid lockdowns and restrictions have meant that we were only able to meet once in the whole school year as a complete community when we stood on Main Field on November 11th to remember the fallen. Given the year we have just experienced it was a powerful service, with its powerful symbolism speaking to us of the nature of sacrificial living today.

Otherwise, we have been restricted to shorter year group services in chapel with no singing from the congregation, which we have all really missed, even by those who are sometimes less than enthusiastic about opening their mouths in song. It’s the way voices come together to worship God that brings a sense of unity and togetherness.

Whilst the Eucharist has been celebrated in small groups, we have really missed gathering everyone together around the altar to participate in the drama, liturgy and music of our Lord’s death and resurrection which so feeds our souls and spurs us on in our Christian walk.

Limitations aside, as we have come before God we have been reassured, as well as made to think and reflect about

our lives. As we looked at the ‘Fruit of the Spirit’ during the Michaelmas term, we were particularly confronted by its implications for us as individuals and as a Bloxham community. ‘How to live with wisdom’ in a world of many voices was the theme from the Lent term and during the Summer we turned our

thoughts to how we might seek to live with and build justice in our world.

In a testing and uncertain year for all we have been reminded of where true security and hope comes from and I believe many have grown in that hope.  
DCW



For the safety of pupils and those in the community, reducing the risk of Covid transmission, service activities were unable to take place throughout the school year. However, Bloxham’s dedication to those around them was shown through a variety of House fundraising events, including a marathon run from Wilson and a 96 mile run from Crake. See pages 53 and 61 for more on these events, which raised over £4,000 for charity.





# Staff Leavers



## Katie Collins

Katie Collins joined Bloxham in 2018 from Bromsgrove School, forming a new look PE department. Katie was tasked with assisting in the launch of BTEC Sport, which has been a great success, enhancing the Sixth Form education of a number of Bloxham students. Katie also played her part within sport, leading Hockey, Netball and Tennis teams in her first two years, as well as touring South Africa in 2019. She also led our Talented Athlete Programme for a year, alongside cameo appearances in Duke of Edinburgh, when called upon.

Katie has spent much of this year on maternity leave, having been blessed with the arrival of Sophia in December. She moves to the King's School, Worcester in September to take on a role within their PE department. This will allow Katie to be nearer to home, where she can enjoy time with Meg and Sophia. We wish the Collins family the best of luck as they enter an exciting new phase in their lives. [JDV](#)



## Scott De Weymarn

Scott took over as Assistant Housemaster in Wilson and held the post for just one year. However, his connection with the school goes back a lot longer. Scott, the youngest of three brothers was in Crake as a pupil from 2007 and in his final year in 2011/12 was House Captain. After working in two other schools as a Sports Graduate Assistant, he returned to Bloxham in 2019 and took up a position as Sports Graduate and tutor in Seymour.

Scott has many fine attributes that will be missed at Bloxham; not least the loyalty and sensitivity that he showed towards his tutees. He has been a very popular Assistant Housemaster, and his all-round sporting talents will be missed not only by his pupils but also by the Black Caps and the staff golf team. Scott leaves to pursue a PGCE in PE at Abingdon School. He will make a fine school master and we wish him all the best for the future. [DB](#)



## Andy Goldsmith

Andy Goldsmith arrived at Bloxham in September 2005 to teach Mathematics and succeed John Horton as Director of Rugby after a playing career which saw him win a Blue at Cambridge and play for Bedford at the

dawn of the professional era. He produced a series of strong 1st XV's, but things really changed in 2012, when the introduction of a few key players from local clubs – Caviezel-Cox, Yeats, Ridgway – helped to spark a new era of success and high standards, with seven consecutive 1st XV's with a better than 70% win ratio and eye-catching progress in national competitions, including a semi-final at Allianz Park in 2016 and victory in the National Plate final against Sherborne in 2019. Only Covid-19 denied him the chance to retain the trophy the following year, when another final was reached with a much younger and less heralded side. What distinguished Andy's coaching was his readiness to adapt his coaching style to the particular strengths of the players available. His willingness to give them ownership of their preparation and his favouring of multi-positional players are hallmarks of his coaching which have been frequently commended in the national press, as players such as Alfie Barbeary, Tom Stephenson and Dan Eckersley have blossomed under his stewardship.

Andy has always been keen to be seen as more than simply a sports coach. His Head of Department Miss Merris notes that 'he has taught Exham, GCSE and A Level and has taken top sets onto excellent results with the Additional Maths course.' He has served as a tutor in Seymour for all of his time in Bloxham and has grown into the voice of wisdom on the tutor team. His marriage to Emma in 2013 not only brought Andy a wonderful new family, with Ellie and

Jamie in addition to Will and Matt, but also a wife with a stellar career, and with Emma moving on to the headship of The Dragon School, Andy has decided to follow her to Oxford, taking up a post at St. Edward's. The North Oxford dinner party circuit's gain is undoubtedly Bloxham's loss. [SJB](#)



## Julian Moyle

Julian joined Bloxham from Oakham in September 2013 as an English teacher and as Master of Scholars; he brought with him a wealth of pedagogical experience and a passion for academia. He joined his wife, Emma, in a well-established team, but also at a time when both A Levels and GCSEs were beginning to change (again). I was privileged to take over from Emma in September 2015 and to inherit a warm and collegiate department. Julian welcomed me to the department with a manner that I came to know well over the six years we worked together.

To say that he was valued and appreciated by all that came into contact with him, would be a huge understatement. He was the sort of teacher that got on with his work quietly, professionally and conscientiously. He took his work absolutely seriously, but loved a joke. He seemed to have an encyclopaedic



memory for Emily Dickinson and Liverpool Football Club, both of which he would happily talk about (although not at the same time). His ability to squeeze something new from 'Of Mice and Men' always amazed me. His students' work on 'The Green Knight' was also inspirational! But it was his ability to get the very best from all his students that was truly remarkable.

I appreciated his honesty and integrity; he was someone that others could confide in and was supportive and compassionate. His empathetic nature gave strength to both colleagues and to students. Indeed, I know just how much he was valued by the many tutees he guided through their Bloxham lives, whether in Wilson or, most recently, in Raymond.

He goes onto the next stage of his teaching journey, moving with his family to Rugby School. He takes his genuine love for literature to another hungry group of young people. Alongside his teaching of IGCSE and A Level, he now has the opportunity to deliver an IB curriculum, something I know that he has wanted to return to for years. I know that Rugby will be richer for his presence and for his contagious enthusiasm. I wish him all the best and I am sure that, for him, his destination will make all the difference.

CJS



## Eleanor Russell

Eleanor joined Bloxham from Cheltenham Ladies College in 2005 initially to cover a maternity leave post.

She quickly proved herself indispensable, teaching Geography to A Level, soon adding study skills to her repertoire. She has always put an emphasis on pupils' learning for themselves and claims to have learned so much from her classes. Undeniable is the wonderful relationship she has always had with her classes who have appreciated her calm, enthusiastic and highly prepared approach to lessons.

Eleanor has been a tutor in both Raymond and Exham and particularly values the pastoral care and community at Bloxham. She considers it to be a special, indeed unique, place where people always look out for each other. In return she has consistently gone out of her way to ensure the wellbeing of all pupils. As Head of PSHE (2013-2014), and as the leader of a new Teaching and Learning programme (2018-2019) she worked with drive and imagination to make educational excellence an integral part of the school curriculum and ethos. Likewise, she strived to facilitate a culture within Bloxham School that gave all pupils the opportunity to express their personal opinions and feelings, whilst also encouraging them to listen to and respect the opinions and feelings of others.

Eleanor was an obvious choice in 2015 to take over as the school's Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO), where she has demonstrated her genuine passion for supporting young people with various learning differences. Nobody can have failed to appreciate Eleanor's encyclopaedic knowledge of virtually every pupil in the school.

Eleanor is moving on to Oxford Brookes to complete a Psychology MSc conversion as a first step

towards her aim to qualify as an Educational Psychologist. Her change of direction gives her a welcomed opportunity to live close to her family again and she looks forward to hiking the Jurassic Coast. [NSDP](#)



## Lucia Svecova

Lucia joined us for one of the hardest years in music. With concerts cancelled and music moving online, it has been a very different environment from the one which we are all used to. Fortunately with her technical wizardry, Lucia quickly enabled us to move a number of performances online and played a key role in the successful Coldplay Christmas Lights charity single. She has also been the backbone of the Chapel Choir and Services, Concert Band and oversaw all music exam entries.

As Assistant Housemistress at Park Close, Lucia was quick to forge great relationships with pupils and found time to film and produce an Exham version of 'The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe', whilst also releasing her weekly, eagerly anticipated, Listening for the Weekend, an informative series of suggested music listening. Lucia enlightened me when she used the term 'Oxford guilt', when a person feels bad for not being busy, and she is certainly an example of someone who should not ever be guilty! As a talented conductor, Lucia has been accepted on the prestigious Jette Parker Young Artists Conducting course and will be directing at the Royal Opera House Linbury Studios. [AJR](#)



## Sara Swann

Sara joined the school in 2003 when the Library was housed in what is now the Sixth Form Art Studio. She was appointed to be involved in the planning and designing of the Vallance Library which opened in 2006 and immediately became the heart of the school. In collaboration with teaching colleagues Sara has established a wealth of resources to support the curriculum and developed a life-long love of reading in many pupils by running Book Groups for all ages and inviting a series of authors into school. New books are added to stock every week and the keenest readers know when it is delivery day! Fiction booklists are regularly updated for year groups as well as for subject-specific A Level wider reading.

When the EPQ was introduced to the Sixth Formers, Sara became involved and accompanied groups of students to Warwick, Reading and Oxford Brookes University libraries. She has ensured that our students embark on their higher education with an understanding of how libraries operate and an appreciation of the need for a studious atmosphere. Sara has worked closely with the English Department to organise World Book Day and literature-related events, including a week-long festival which included literary-themed lunches – the most popular being Harry Potter's Christmas dinner!



Sara has been a tutor in Wilberforce since 2004. Many girls have benefitted from her patient and perceptive nature and she has forged strong relationships with girls and their families. Latterly a Sixth Form tutor, her advice and support has been much appreciated, as well as her editing prowess when completing personal statements.

Sara's legacy is a thriving Library, an oasis of calm at the centre of a busy school. I will miss the mugs of Earl Grey and chats. We wish her a long and happy retirement. [AH](#)



## Dan Taylor

I first met Dan at a previous school where he was on a teacher training placement. You could already see back then the natural flair for teaching he possesses and the genuine passion and drive that made him an instant hit with the pupils after just two weeks. I knew very quickly that he was someone with whom I wanted to work in the future. I was consequently extremely delighted when he applied for the vacant chemistry role at Bloxham in 2019 and showed all the attributes at interview that first caught my eye.

Dan's effervescent and incredibly supportive approach to teaching and learning quickly made him an exciting and popular chemistry teacher at Bloxham and a colleague who was always happy to support other teachers with either a friendly ear or share an

excellent idea or resource. He has also been a fantastic Head of Third Form, who knows something special about everyone in his year group.

I recall one of his first Wilson House events, refereeing a five-a-side football tournament, when the boys became somewhat starstruck on finding out about his professional footballer brother. Needless to say there were some great jokes and Wilson boys instantly took to Dan. It can't always be easy to have someone so close to you constantly in the limelight, but I would argue his direct influence on young people has been and will continue to be at least as impactful as his brother, if not more so. Indeed, a previous pupil who is now Head Boy at a former school cites Dan as a driving force for his success.

The cliché of Chilworth House Upper School's gain is Bloxham's loss might in part be true, but Dan will be supporting other young people on their educational journey and I cannot begrudge them that positive experience. I hope they will be as grateful as I have been for all his hard work and passion. I hope to one day work closely with him again. [SF](#)



## Louis Yates

Louis joined Bloxham in 2012 in a year of stellar appointments including Robert Dann, Lisa Manning, Doctor Ruck and David Finch. After initially arriving as a Sports Graduate, Louis went on to start his School Direct Teacher Training in 2013, becoming the Assistant Housemaster

of Seymour in the same year. He became Head of Psychology in 2016 and then Head of Sixth Form in 2017.

Louis coached both boys' and girls' first XI hockey at Bloxham, but arguably his single greatest sporting achievement at Bloxham was after making the transfer across to rugby and securing a victory over Merchant Taylors' with the legendary Colts B rugby team of 2015-16, which would in fact be the only rugby game that team won in their three years together. As a teacher, Louis has always prided himself as being at the cutting edge of technology, and one of the abiding memories of the first lockdown of 2020 was 'The White Lion Weekly'- Louis' very own podcast.

On a personal level, Louis has been a great source of support and strength for me, but most importantly, he is a great source of support for his students and is somebody who will always put them first, and go that extra mile. His Psychology students comment on how meticulously his lessons are planned out, and his willingness to give them one to one help. The guidance and support that he has given his tutees in Crake is second to none, and the affection with which his tutees speak about him is testimony to the relationships that he has been able to build with them. Louis really gets students, but also understands what it means to work at a school like Bloxham. You get back what you put in, and the Seymour House band serenading Louis with Paul Simon's 'Graceland' on his last night as the Seymour Assistant was an apt display of how much he meant to them. Bloxham's loss is very much Lord Wandsworth's gain, and we hopefully look forward to welcoming him back for Old Bloxhamists cricket, where the elusive first 50 may well materialise. [RH](#)

## Staff Changing Roles

### Sam Brassington

Director of Co-Curriculum

### James Ramm

Head of Third Form

### Alex Brown

Marketing and Communications Executive; Wilson Assistant Housemaster

### Mathilda Paul

Sports Administrator & Coach; Stonehill Assistant Housemistress

### Emma Exelby

Head of Sixth Form

## New Staff

### Amanda Bowden

Teacher of Maths

### Anna-Beth Brogan

Park Close Assistant Housemistress; Academic Graduate

### Phoebe Clarke

Teacher of Chemistry

### Joe Hornsby

Director of Drama

### Natalie Long

SENCO

### Sue Russell

Teacher of Geography

### Josh Sissons

Strength and Conditioning Coach

### Freya Stevens

Teacher of Spanish & French (Maternity Cover)

### Gemma Treeby

Head of English; Head of Services

### Tristan Weymes

Graduate Assistant (Music)



# School Captains and Prefects

## School Captains

We are delighted that Will Howells and Lucy Thorogood accepted their nominations to become the School Captains for the 2021-22 academic year. They will be ably assisted by the Prefect Team, School Sacristans and House Captains.

In anticipation of their new roles, Lucy and Will told us what they're most excited to experience. Lucy explained:

"I am looking forward to working with Will, providing positive role models to Bloxham's young people. Continuing from Sophie and George's time as School Captains, I am looking forward to strengthening and building the Bloxham community further as we all move towards a new normal. I hope to help achieve a smooth transition for incoming pupils, as well as current pupils who have not had the opportunity to participate in the full Bloxham experience so far."

Will supported Lucy's sentiments in his own statement, saying:

"After a year of school life being disrupted, I'm excited to ensure the smoothest integration for the new pupils whilst building on the school and house community which has changed over the past year. This will be a challenge I'm sure the new prefect team will be more than up for."



Will Howells



Lucy Thorogood



# House Captains



**Crake**  
Tristan Armitage



**Egerton**  
Edmund Baker



**Exham**  
Holly Martinson and Rowan Tinkler



**Merton**  
Craig Matsvetu



**Raymond**  
Issy Bygate



**Seymour**  
Ben King



**Wilberforce**  
Millie Roach



**Wilson**  
Will Lewis-Jones

# Pastoral Prefects



**Lower School Prefect**  
Josh Ardron and Pippa Little



**Third Form Prefect**  
Annie Cowperthwaite and Henry Sawbridge



**Fourth & Fifth Form Prefect**  
Leah Ng and Alex Myles



**Head of Guests and Tours**  
Stan Deeley and Gemma Ashley



**School Sacristans**  
Zoe Affleck and Charlie Penfold



HOUSE SUMMARIES







## Crake

### Housemaster, Rob Hudson, looks back on his top moments of the past year:

The top moment of the 2020-21 year was undoubtedly the Crake House Charity Run, where 22 Fifth and Sixth Form boys covered the 160 miles from Hull to Banbury over two Sundays in order to raise funds for our House Charity of the Year - Dove House Hospice, who cared for the partner of our former Assistant Housemaster Mr Beavis before her tragic death from cancer shortly before Christmas 2019. It was fantastic to see the boys really come together and push themselves to the limit in order to raise funds for such a fantastic cause. This commitment was perhaps best typified by James Fry and Charlie Bygate who had spent two solid days of mountaineering in Snowdonia, before spending four hours on a train to Hull, and eventually starting their leg of the run at 6am the following morning with less than six hours' sleep. The Upper Sixth made impressive time, covering the 88 miles from Hull to Melton Mowbray in 11 hours. A combined Lower Sixth and Fifth Form team then covered the 74 miles from Melton Mowbray to Banbury the following week; particular highlights of this leg of the run included Jeremy Man's bursts of speed, Tristan Armitage's dinosaur fancy dress and Khem Singh Virk's predominantly 1990s playlist which powered the group along. The event was then finished by the Third and Fourth Form who ran the final five miles from the outskirts of Banbury into Bloxham. At a fundraising level, the run was incredibly successful, raising over £2,000 for Dove House; however, the most precious commodity that our boys have is their time, and their willingness to give up their Sundays means a huge amount, and said much about their character.

Another of our top moments of the year is again charity related. Although unfortunately the annual Crake Charity Dinner was not feasible this year, the Prefect Team had the inspired idea of running the evening remotely. On the Friday evening, 20 students worked for up to four hours, preparing 120 take away curries (ably assisted by Mr Harvey) to be taken home by families on the Saturday night. Ben Skerry, Oliver Welham and Joe Turley all put in an extra long shift, and the event raised £920 for Dove House Hospice. The event did not however finish there with entertaining videos from the Upper Sixth and Third Form streamed to parents. The Upper Sixth's re-interpretation of Hugh Grant's dancing scene from 'Love Actually' got the thumbs up from Martine McCutcheon who sent the house a video message, and the Third Form piece featured an original rap from Joe Evans, with the rest of the year group appearing in support.

The final highlight was the end of term Christmas Party. Although this took the same format as it has done for the last decade with a black tie dinner, speeches from the Housemaster and Senior House Prefects, House Awards and then a quiz, it was incredibly special as it marked a return to a sense of normality, and allowed the house to come together as a true collective body for the first time in the academic year. The speeches were superb and demonstrated a clear understanding of the characters within the house, and a real appreciation of the diverse range of interests, skills and qualities that those within the house possess.

### Fourth Former, Daniel Affleck, reflects on his highlights of 2020-21:

Throughout our year, the Crake Fourth Form have really conquered the House Sport events. At the beginning of the year, we had our House Cricket tournament where the Third and Fourth Form went head-to-head in a series of 10 over cricket matches. Despite the other houses putting up a fight, Crake came out on top with victories against every other house. By having quite a small Fourth Form, we all got our chance to shine in the team. One of the best moments was George Dicks catching a rapid ball from the batsman one handed, but everybody played their part. On top of cricket, the Fourth Form also won the House Rugby later on in the Michaelmas term, winning all our games, including beating Egerton by 4 tries to 1 in the final. Although we didn't play full contact, all the team enjoyed the challenge and showed great skill especially with our handling and speed. Overall, our year for Fourth Form has been great fun!

### House Captain for 2020-21, Oscar Hunt, writes on what he has learnt from his time in Crake:

Throughout my time in Crake, its values of trust, honesty and respect have always stood out for me. Having been brought up through Crake by these morals for over five years, I've come to understand how important it is to have a core set of values you live by for there to be a true sense of community. These key values have made me reflect upon, and at times change the way I try to go about handling certain situations, and I know that I am not alone here. You aren't always going to get everything right and being able to learn lessons and then put these into practice is really important.





# Exham

## Head of Lower School, Jane Cochran, lists her top three house memories from 2020-21:

1. I would say a top House Memory for me would be the return to school for everyone in September 2020. We hadn't seen the Second Form in 5 months! That is a lot of growing time and many by then were clearly towering over little me! For the new First Form, it was about helping them feel part of the House and I was so impressed by the way Second Form helped to welcome them. It felt good to be back. We felt able to put lockdown behind us and enjoy rebuilding our Exham community. Little did we know that the second lockdown was close behind.

2. Although lockdown was hard for everyone – the isolation and need for self-discipline was at times tough. However, my highlight each week was the online assemblies on a Friday afternoon. It was heart-warming to see students' faces, hear their voices, see their pets, videos, photos and catch up with their news. And of course it was always a pleasure to see the Exham tutors too!

3. This is not a positive memory but definitely one which sticks! Mr Sanderson rang me up on 14th February to inform me that Exham was flooded. All hands-on deck...the Cochran family all came to the rescue. The Valentine's flowers and chocolates were put on hold that day!

## A selection of Exham students write below on what they have learnt from their time in the House and what they have enjoyed most in 2020-21:

Since joining Exham I have found it to be a heart-warming place that makes everyone feel at home and welcome. It has something for everyone from cricket nets, basketball hoops to colouring and pool. I have only been in Exham for less than a year and despite missing a term due to lockdown, I have already made so many amazing friends and memories that I hope will stay with me forever. The teachers are all so nice and help you with anything you need help with.

*Emily Dale, First Form*

This year has been a crazy year because we have been in and out of school so much; but even so we have made many good memories. My favourite part of the first term was making friends and getting to know what lessons were like. In the first term there were lots of people to help you navigate your way to lessons and understand how things

work. Unfortunately, in the second term, we were all at home in lockdown. We were still able to have lessons and be in contact with friends. Some good things about lockdown were the variety of activities we were able to do. My favourite was the Family Feed where every Tuesday we made dinner for our families by following an online lesson with Mr Harvey. Since we have been back from lockdown, it has been nice to get back into Exham where there are so many different things to do: board games, pool, ping-pong, colouring and so much more. I have really enjoyed my first year at Bloxham.

*Oliver Miller-Jones, First Form*

I am sad to have to say goodbye to Exham at the end of my Second Form year. Albeit a strange two years, Exham has felt like a home to me. I remember joining Exham and everyone being so worried about making friends, having stricter rules, and there were even people who were scared they wouldn't like the school food! How wrong we were! In my year we were and still are such a tight group of friends. And the food is, as ever, beyond compare!

I would say the best time in my two years at Bloxham, was just after coming out of the second lockdown after not being able to meet up with anyone for so long and finally getting to see all my friends again! After that we were tighter than ever and even through lockdown, we would always call each other through Teams and just have a laugh. It was great how easily we could forget about everything that was going on and just be us! This has shown to me how important friendships are, especially through this lockdown period.

*Micah Tumilty, Exham Head Boy 2020-21*

I think in Exham I have learnt to take every opportunity you find. I know that some people miss out on things that they later go on to regret, often down to peer pressure. I have learnt that even if your friends don't want to do that or think it's a stupid idea, you should still go for it. You might end up embarrassed but you might also end up feeling like you have done well or achieved something and personally, I think it's worth the risk of embarrassment. Related to this, I have also learnt to have my own opinion, I'm not saying you shouldn't listen to other people, but I'm not saying you should do what they say either. More like somewhere in the middle. So, in Exham, I have learnt to take all opportunities.

*Layla Williams, Exham Head Girl 2020-21*





# Egerton

**Housemaster Simon Thompson writes:** It has been said that your hardest times often lead to the greatest moments in your life, and this last year has led to some memorable points in my seven years as Egerton Housemaster that warrant that title.

**The online fun:** With us being stuck at home and without the chance to have our normal Christmas Quiz, it was decided that we would bring the fun to the home instead! A trio of events via Microsoft Teams saw the boys of Egerton and their families have three Friday nights of excitement and entertainment. First was the Great Egerton Bake Off which saw some extremely competitive baking take place. The Wilchs took home first place and some personalised aprons for their Egerton inspired cupcakes. The Big Fat Egerton Quiz was next with Messrs Thompson and Best occupying quiz master roles. The Miles family were victorious after a brilliant music round, and then our final event saw a Ready Steady Cook for Egerton trial which saw the Michelin Star-esque chefs, Callum and Josh, take home the trophy (or gift voucher in this case!) Although on screen, there was a real sense of camaraderie and togetherness, with lots of laughs along the way.

**House Cricket:** Watching the boys enjoy each other's company and having the opportunity to be out in the sunshine during September's House Cricket was another highlight of the year. One particular moment was on Park Close with Egerton batting. Callum Ardron, our star batsman was at the crease and scoring runs at a good pace. In the shape of a good cricketer he was keeping a total of his score, and the team total and was rapidly approaching his fifty as the overs were coming to a close. The last ball was bowled and duly dispatched over the boundary rope for six runs to ensure the team finished on a high total but also that he scored his half-century, to the applause of the crowd! Watching Corban Smith hitting sixes for fun on Second Field was a wonderful sight as well!

**House Day Out:** A 6.30am swim in the school pool is always a good wakeup call and that was the order of play on Egerton's House Day Out. This was all part of the Country Mile to Wembley effort which saw the boys dress in country attire as they completed their triathlon of 20 lengths in the pool, cross-country run and 17.5km on an exercise bike to raise funds for the OddBalls Foundation (for whom we raised around £3,000 from fundraising activities throughout the year). Put into the mix a day out at Drayton Manor for a lovely end of the year where we needed a good bit of fun. The day epitomised all that is good about the house – working for each other and a greater cause, giving things a go, not giving up, and having a smile on their face!

**Lower Sixth Formers, Ed Baker and Adam Mitchell, look back on highlights of 2020-21:** A quintessential aspect of

Egerton House life is our community. Seeing the boys partake in our House Days in a wide breadth of activities was certainly a highlight of mine. The chance to reunite a brotherhood after months apart was tremendous, and several house days throughout the year aided the new boys in their transition to the house. This growth in community was further consolidated by numerous socials such as Mr. T's infamous waffle festivity. The house showed a huge level of commitment throughout inter-house events particularly within the Everest Challenge which saw an array of year groups within Egerton producing the highest output per competitor! Finally, who could forget the House's outstanding effort in inter-house rugby, which saw a stellar effort by Mr. T, who drove to Peterborough to surprise us by being the only House with customized rugby gear! **Ed Baker**

I really enjoyed when we welcomed the Third Form with the House Day taking part in an array of activities such as the Tutor group football on the AstroTurf, or the scavenger hunt laid on by Mr. Best. These were very fun events that we were able to take part in together. Throughout lockdown there was a series of events which I particularly enjoyed: the house quiz which Mr. Best kindly made and the house baking competition. Whilst not personally winning any of these events, they were great to take part in. When arriving back at school for what was the remainder of the Lent term, as a house we took part in House Hockey which was great to be able to be back and playing competitive sport with my friends. Finally, into the Summer term we had House Day and House Music, two very enjoyable days – great fun with all the guys in house! **Adam Mitchell**

**2020/21 House Captain, George Baker, looks back at his time in Egerton:** I think the biggest and most important lesson that I have learnt while in Egerton is the ability to live alongside other people. It may sound simple, but in practice living with fifty other boys is rarely easy. However, I think the fact that almost every Upper Sixth Former has uttered to a Third Former, "we treat you a lot better than the Upper Sixth treated us", or at least something to that effect, would suggest that you do realise that treating others as you would want to be treated is important. I think this also shows the importance of respect.

Ultimately, in order to live co-operatively with other people, you have to be able to trust and respect the people around you. For the most part, I think that this has been the case in Egerton and, as a result, we are often described as a "band of brothers" to reflect this. I think that being in Egerton and at Bloxham has given me the ability to be able to live alongside others and is something which I believe will put me in good stead for university living.





## Merton

### **Rob Dann, Merton's Housemaster, reflects on his first year in post:**

The academic year started with a new name as the old 'Stonehill' became Merton, in a new location with a full cohort of fabulous pupils navigating the completion of building works, and of course the strange feeling of physically being in school. As the Michaelmas term progressed, new routines became second nature, though our 'Tick In' boards required some policing for a while! The term was characterised by one way systems, sanitiser and a sense of isolation as each House needed to keep to within its own bubble.

Sporting highlights included Merton coming a close second in House Golf, which resulted in one of our newest recruits Murray Scott being selected to represent the school, a moment to be proud of. House Rugby saw a battle between houses with touch rugby, whilst in House Hockey, two teams threw themselves into competition. The spirit shown was a worthy accolade even if the final results weren't. Next up was House Badminton and with it Merton's first House trophy. Led by Harry Needell, our resident racquet sports expert, the team won their matches and a new trophy was placed in Merton's lobby.

Lent term saw more disruption, though as we have said many times the stalwart resilience of our pupils was impressive when activities, lessons, assemblies and chapels all became virtual once more.

Summer term, right up until the final day, saw Merton starting to really come together as a community. The doors were opened up to visitors from other Houses, and at 4pm on Wednesdays we started to take advantage of our excellent kitchen with weekly baking activity. We saw a valiant effort in the house sailing competition where the trickiest part for skipper Ocean Nash was just getting the dinghy over the start line. It seems that he will have competition in the future from Callum Tarbit, who on our House Day Out took to the water like a, well, a duck to water. The House Day out was enjoyed by all with a variety of activities culminating in a mass paddle boarding race - I was delighted to see so many pupils being involved.

The crowning glory of the Summer term was House Music. Whilst our Unison Song improved with every practice, it was difficult for Jack Phillips and Sam Hallett to get sufficient rehearsal time with all students available due to study leave and the outgoing Upper Sixth. However, the Ensemble rode over every obstacle! Poor Marcos Dias Scioratto, our drummer, suffered a hand injury 24 hours before the competition, but brave Zoe Broom stepped in, with just one rehearsal before playing

live. Also, Imogen Devenny stepped in vocally with 24 hours to go and played a great role in supporting Sarah Phillips, Emma McGowan and Muqaddas Ahmed.

At the House Day Out, we made the first award of our 'Mertonian of the Year' plaque, named after and presented by a past student Caitlin Chislett, who epitomised the caring spirit and sense of community all our students are encouraged to foster. The award winner was Jack Phillips and very deservedly; our thanks to him for everything he has done for Merton in its first year. Alongside Jack, the House has been ably led by House Captain George Compton-Alway, Muqaddas Ahmed, and Callum Marshall as House Sacristan, and our thanks to all four outgoing Upper Sixth students for their service. George passed on the baton to a virtual Craig Matsvetu at the House Day out, who will be supported by four prefects.

The main reflection on Merton's first year for me is that of pupils coming together, initially in strange surroundings in September and growing together as one body. We shall look forward to September 2021, an attempt to retain our House Music trophy, and building a house culture of which all can be proud.

### **Ocean Nash, Fifth Form looks back on his most enjoyable experiences in Merton this year:**

I have had many great experiences this year where not only have I felt like I have developed positively as a person, but also that I have experienced memorable activities and events with Merton House. One of those experiences is meeting with this year's Third Form. Upon meeting them, I noticed the excitement and positivity they expressed and have continued to show day after day. Their positivity has influenced me and I have a close relationship with pretty much every single one of them. Another brilliant memory was the House Day Out - the sun was shining, people were smiling, and it was nice to have a good day out with the entire house. Being able to spend time with everyone was a very memorable experience. I will have more of these experiences in the future with Merton House and I am excited for what is to come next.

### **George Compton-Alway, 2020-21 House Captain, succinctly summarises his most important lesson learnt over his time at Bloxham:**

During my time in Merton House, I have learnt that whilst everyone is different and relationships between people can be difficult, there are a few important skills and values that will always help. These are to compromise, respect and to understand others - they are the key to maintaining a happy house.





# Raymond

## Housemistress Jude Single and Assistant Housemistress Lyndsey White

**write:** Although we have had many fantastic times in Raymond House this year, we hope that the following three will resonate most soundly with Raymond girls:

**The Christmas House Social:** The Upper Sixth hosted a 'Raymond's Got Talent' night which saw each year group in the house perform and record a theatrical turn. Many congratulations go to the Raymond Fourth Form who won the event with their spectacular dance routine choreographed by Caitlin. There followed a stint at the school's Christmas Market where we were treated to some beautiful live music performed by the Harmonix group, which boasts several members of the Raymond Upper Sixth amongst its number.

**The House afternoon:** This event took place during the Lent term and took the form of a series of arts and crafts activities which were completed in our House families. Each student painted a personal giant Jenga block to add to the House set, received a portrait of themselves made by one of their fellow housemates and helped bring to life a giant colouring in roll. It was truly lovely to be able to spend some quality time together after our recent separation as necessitated by the lockdown at the start of the year.

**All the small things:** In all honestly, the majority of our favourite moments has come from an appreciation of the smaller things around house. Having spent a great deal of time apart from each other, we have learnt to love the smaller or more intimate moments which we have all missed. A lot of these times have been spent around Matron's table making bead bracelets for one another, or in the main common room cooking and baking, or in the middle floor common room playing Mario Kart Races and Just Dance competitions amongst ourselves. Happy days.

**Annabel Topley and Izzie Franck-Steier, Fifth Form, recount their most enjoyable experiences this year in Raymond:** It has been lovely to regain normality. The Michaelmas term saw the return of the House Hockey cup to its rightful home in the Raymond trophy cabinet. Outstanding performances from Annie Cowperthwaite and Sophie Tredwell helped Raymond regain their team spirit and take the first and most definitely not last sporting win of the year. During the Lent term, the Raymond spirit was upheld during the second lockdown through a series of wonderful quizzes, competitions and socials run by Housemistress Miss Single and her team of Upper Sixth Prefects. Throughout the year

we have had socials to celebrate success and encourage a sense of community across the years. Finally, the new Raymond kitchen got an exciting amount of use providing us with baked goods round the clock.

Overall, we have had a brilliant year in Raymond and cannot wait to return in September and welcome new girls to join the strong Raymond community. We especially thank Miss Single and Millie Pinder for a wonderful time.

**Becca Johnson, Third Form, writes about her favourite part of being in Raymond, the socials:** One of my favourites was the Third Form social run by students in the Raymond Lower Sixth. We played games, made jewellery, and then ended the evening with a chocolate fondue and music. The event gave everyone in the Third Form an opportunity to get to know the older girls much better. Now, instead of just saying hello as we walk past each other in the corridor we properly stop and talk to each other which is really special.

I have also enjoyed my time spent at school over the weekends; many of my most favourite memories involve pastimes and events from this time, for example the regular MasterChef competitions held on a Saturday night. Events like this have been especially helpful to me in getting to know students from the other houses.

Finally, I would say that I have most enjoyed the smaller, everyday activities, like playing with the frisbee or playing swing ball in the Raymond garden. In short, my time in Raymond this year has made me feel like I have a second home.

**Millie Pinder, Raymond's House Captain for 2020/21, looks back on her time in Raymond:** When I leave, I will definitely take with me many important life skills which I have learned along the way, but for me, perhaps one of the most important truths I have discovered has been the value of compassion. I have learnt the importance of trying always to be understanding and mindful of each and every persons' wishes and needs no matter what the context or issue. My experiences have also brought home to me the importance of taking the time to really get to know the people around you.

It has been amazing and inspiring to have known and been a part of all Raymond's various successes over the past five years and I am going to miss my Raymond family when I leave very much; without a doubt my experiences in Raymond have helped shape me into the person I want to be and have become.





## Seymour

### **Matt Bull, Seymour Housemaster, notes his most memorable moments of 2020-21:**

1. Winning the House Cricket Final in an epic game against a strong Wilson team.

I missed the first part of the game, as I was sat in a leadership meeting, ironically discussing the value of extra-curricular activities to the life of a boarding school. As I walked through the gate, I was confronted with hundreds of people, all sat around enthralled by a nail-biting match which was reaching its conclusion. It is always great to win and I am sure the boys will remember the game and how it was won more clearly than I can. However, what I do remember vividly as I was stood on the far side of the boundary as the match ended, was a sense that finally, after such a difficult few months, of being back to some sort of normal. I have always loved school sport, but until that moment, I did not realise how much or how important it was to the community feel of Bloxham.

### 2. Charity Leg Waxing

Before we broke up for Christmas, some of our Lower Sixth came up with a charity fundraiser for the Teenage Cancer Trust. A number of them and the resident house staff agreed to getting their legs waxed, in return for donations. The money soon started to flow in and thanks to Cedar Therapy, who kindly donated the wax and waxers, we were able to set a date of the last day of term. As part of a final push to drum up business, Mr Buckland agreed to have his rather hairy legs done, if the fundraising went over £2,500, which it did pretty quickly after his announcement. It was a painful few hours for many, but tremendous fun and the rest of the day was spent comparing notes on how smooth our legs felt, which was a first!

Overall, from the year's fundraising activities Seymour raised £2,650 for the Teenage Cancer Trust and £1,565 for Restart Rugby.

### 3. The last three days of the Summer Term

After such a difficult 16 months, to be able to have an action packed end to the year was a wonderful experience for all. The Sixth Form ball was a brilliant event, with the silent disco seeing Max Tyler and Stan Deeley go head to head on the decks. The following day, the whole school was back together for the House Shout; the first time since November and the second time since March 2020. Although we did not win, I was so proud of the boys for the way in which they came together and their efforts were a reflection of just how much the house has bonded this year.

Our House Day was a tremendous (if not stressful) success. We managed to lose about 15 boys on bikes, had at least one fall off, seriously upset the school's health and safety manager, swam a moat, and raised loads of money. Most importantly of all though, it

was another opportunity to have the house together, and special mention must go to our Third Form, who got stuck into every part of the day.

### **Charlie Stapleton, Third Form and Ben King, Lower Sixth, reflect on the past year and their favourite moments:**

A standout experience to me was from the first weekend of the year, when we did Seymour Sees More. We were split into groups of around 10 and given an old-fashioned disposable camera. We were then given a set of challenges to complete, and then had to capture the best one-off photo we could of our efforts. This helped me integrate into the house by being put with people from all year groups, and it's great to see our photos up all over the house.

I had heard lots about the Seymour Christmas social and it was not a disappointment. My highlights were the sing-along carols and the Upper Sixth Video – which was a brilliant skit on the now infamous Seymour "Milking Incident". **Charlie Stapleton**

I thoroughly enjoyed House Day, where we completed the 'Great British Challenge' as a way of showing support for Old Seymourian and former Northampton Saint Tom Stephenson, who has recently performed the herculean task of completing five marathons in five days for Restart Rugby, the official charity of The Rugby Players Association.

The challenge involved all the boys in the house coming together to cumulatively complete three iconic endurance challenges. Between us we had to climb, cycle and swim the respective distances of the Three Peaks, John O'Groats to Lands' End and the English Channel, in the course of 5 hours. All three events were great fun, but getting to swim around Broughton Castle moat, was something I will remember for a very long time. **Ben King**

### **Patrick McNamara, outgoing House Captain (20-21) writes on the biggest lessons learnt from his time at Bloxham:**

The biggest lesson I have learnt from being a part of Seymour House, is that the success in your life at school, and beyond, is governed by not only you, but by the people with whom you surround yourself. In a boarding house environment, there are many different personalities and I have learnt to get along with everyone. Surrounding myself with those who not only care for my wellbeing, but also listen to what I have to say, has allowed me to feel welcomed and supported throughout my time at Bloxham. I have created many relationships with staff and students and the skill that I have learnt to be essential in all these friendships and relationships, is the ability to listen to others. This is such a valuable skill that I will be able to take forward into any environment.





# Stonehill

## **Mrs Woodward reflects on Stonehill's first year as Bloxham's new girls' boarding house:**

In September, 21 intrepid girls, along with myself, Miss Paul, Matron Karen and Mrs Skevington, set off on an adventure to discover what it takes to establish a brand new boarding house at Bloxham. We very quickly developed a lovely community in Stonehill and a strong sense of identity. Reflecting on the year, I thought I'd share the three most important things to help establish a community:

1. Cake. It feels like not one day went past that Matron didn't baked us some delight. The delicious smells waft as you walk in the house. Cake means the girls stop and talk to us in Matron's kitchen and share their highlights and also their struggles. We have also put on our (now famous) termly afternoon teas for the girls, allowing conversations and games to flow across the year groups.
2. Glitter. With only 21 students, I have been infinitely proud of every House competition we have entered this year. Highlights have included winning the Junior A and B Netball, but regardless of results, the girls are covered head to toe in teal glitter. Every single one of them are proud to wear our colour and pull their weight in whatever competition they are in.
3. People. You can't build a community without good people. The students in Stonehill have been amazing. They have followed the mantra of 'Give it a Go' and thrown themselves into everything we have put on for them and every challenge faced, including a lockdown. They all know each other incredibly well and are proud to represent the House we have built together. The staff who have supported me have also been brilliant at going along with my mad ideas!

## **Zoe Bradley, incoming House Captain for 2021-22, looks back on the last year:**

This past year has brought so many highs for Stonehill and already so many memories have been made. Although it has been difficult because of Covid, what's been lovely to see is how the bonds between everyone in the house have grown stronger, building a home away from home environment and family with our smaller sized community.

I know my experience in house wouldn't be the same without Mrs Woodward, Ms Paul, Mrs Skevington and Matron (and honorary Stonehill member Mr Ramm) and I'm sure all the girls would agree with me. Being a part of a new house has given us individually the opportunity to really make it our own and set the values that we stand for. House Music would be my highlight of the year as it had the whole house working together as one and was all around such a fun experience. We look forward to the new faces that will be joining us, filling the house completely with every year group and bringing some new friends for Rodney and Eric our much-loved house dogs!

**Molly Bellingham, Third Form, writes about her first year at Bloxham in Stonehill House:** When I was told that I was going to be in Stonehill I was really excited but slightly nervous because I was starting a new school, in a brand new house, with a different community to get used to. My first week in Stonehill went by so quickly and it automatically felt like a second home. As it is smaller than the other houses I got to know everyone in house very easily and we quickly became a tight community.

One of my favourite things we did as a house this year was at the end of the Summer term when we travelled to Oxford for our House Day Out. First, we went to Oxfam to put together some very funny outfits for a fashion show and then we went on a picnic river cruise down the Thames. We all had so much fun and we all waved to everyone that went past. It was great to be out together as a house for the day. Another of my favourite things we do as a house is when we all get dressed up with glitter and face paint for all of the house competitions. When we all come together, I am so proud to be a part of Stonehill.





## Wilberforce

**Sara Lafford, Wilberforce Housemistress, began her role as Wilberforce Housemistress in September 2020 and recalls her top moments from an eventful first year:**

Our first House Day in September is particularly memorable. The spirit of Wilberforce was in its element and so lovely for me to see for the first time; cupcakes, fun, laughter and an amazing display of prowess and skill in an inter-house Football Tournament. Oh and Miss Manning's face when Daniela called her about the "fire of the kitchen"!

The inaugural Bloxham Dog Show was brilliant! The girls loved participating and seeing all kinds of pets including sheep and Vita and Kristina's snake. Miss Manning did an amazing job of not only having the vision but also compiling a wonderfully entertaining evening. Mrs Skevington and Spitfire thoroughly deserved to be the outright winners! I hope that it enters the real calendar!

Lastly, I will always remember the togetherness and joy, right after lockdown, when nobody thought it could happen! Claire Evans', one of our tutors, enthusiasm for the mission was infectious and in a stab at re-establishing our wonderful community after lockdown, the Upper Sixth taught the Jerusalem dance to their family groups for House Netball. They said it really helped them to bond for the event and the outcome was impressive and quite polished after only a day! We still have an ambition to flash mob with Hannah or Angelina's horses, so look out!

**Wilberforce pupils look back on the last year and recall their most enjoyable Wilberforce experiences:**

Despite lockdown disrupting most of our lent term, we have found this year one of the best. Some of the highlights for us have been Miss Manning's Friday night quizzes, a certain elf on the shelf, our post November mock fifth form quiz social, and mass-producing cheese toasties at every opportunity in the Fifth Form kitchen. We're really looking forward to making new memories in Sixth Form next year! *Holly Brigden and Jemima Bond, Fifth Form*

Perhaps one of the most enjoyable experiences in the house was House Hockey. It felt like there was a sense of geniality and a striving for one shared goal.

Everyone was covered in purple paint and around us were hung handmade signs; there were even blow-up purple dinosaurs as mascots!

*Flora Macintosh, Fourth Form*

This year in Wilberforce has been amazing. It has been so easy to make good friends as we all spend so much time together. At the start of the year when I first joined Wilberforce, everyone was so welcoming. It has been great getting to know all the tutors, Matron, Sarah, and Miss Lafford who all helped me to settle in so quickly. It was so much fun to take part in House Hockey at the start of the year and House Netball later in the year. Even though we didn't win, it was great to do something as a whole house. *Iona Kirk, Third Form*

This year has been amazing in my new boarding house, Wilberforce. I have loved the friendships, the tutor times, the love of everyone in the house. It has shown me how loyal, kind and fun everyone in Wilberforce is. I have enjoyed this year so much and I am so excited for the next year to begin. Thank you to Miss Lafford, my tutor, Miss Manning and matron Sarah for everything you do! And thank you Rumble for being the cutest little puppy ever!! This has been a great opportunity to make new friends and I have especially enjoyed hearing Spanish all the time from my friends from overseas. *Grace Broady-Bennett, Third Form*

**2020-21 House Captain, Tabby Cunningham, reflects on the biggest lessons learnt from her time in Wilberforce:**

I think the biggest lesson I have learnt is independence and the feeling of this increasing through each year. Once in Upper Sixth, with more responsibility you have the opportunity to manage your own schedule. This has meant that in the future, I will have the experience to be independent and not feel reliant on someone to guide me through tasks. This is something I am grateful that Wilberforce has helped me achieve and develop.





## Wilson

### David Bowden looks back at his first year as Wilson's Housemaster and recalls his most memorable moments: I

am so proud of all of those who competed in the Wilson House half marathon run for the charity, Mind. It was such a massive achievement for all the boys, whether marshalling, running or donating. To raise over £2,000 for such a deserving charity was a fantastic success.

March saw the Wilson House concert, which although it was limited to Wilson boys as audience members, the event had an excellent atmosphere with all boys involved in some capacity.

I think the Wilson boys and I will also always remember the egg trebuchet flinging and catching competition. Perhaps it will become an annual competition?

### A selection of Wilson pupils comment on their highlights of

**2020-21:** The Wilson half marathon allowed the house to come together and support a charity chosen by us students. It was also a way for the house to push their limits and really come into our own, bonding as a house. As a new student in Wilson, it was great to take part in with everyone pushing themselves over the finish line. It was overall just an amazing experience and definitely one of my highlights for this year.

I tried to think of one house sporting event to top the others but for me they were all equal in the way the pulled the house together to win as many trophies as possible. I personally enjoyed the hockey with a tight final between us and Seymour. They all allowed me to integrate myself into the house and tighten friendships through a tough competitive environment hence why they are one of my highlights. Wilson is a great supportive house that allows people of any skill to just go out and have fun in a sporting atmosphere no matter what talent they may have. **Leo Mellor, Lower Sixth**

In Wilson this year, we've adapted as a house really well to get around the issues with Covid. We managed to host a concert to the rest of the house with anyone playing who wanted to, along with some amusing year group performances of songs like 'Mr Brightside', 'Call Me Maybe' and 'Cooler Than Me'. It was really relaxed which made for an even more enjoyable experience. Afterwards, we got kebab takeaway to share which was really good! **Ollly Shawcross, Fourth Form**

**Fourth Form**

Although this year has been tough as we haven't been at school, in Wilson we have found ways of getting the house together and having a laugh. This ranged from cricket at the start of the school year with all the new Third formers to running 10km for charity, all of which I have enjoyed thoroughly. We have also enjoyed movie nights which Mr Bowden who would order everyone Dominos and then put a movie on in the TV room. Overall, I think this year has been great and Mr Bowden has settled into the house well. **Max O'Dell, Fourth Form**

**Fourth Form**

### 2020/21 House Captain Jack Dunk reflects on his time in

**Wilson:** Being in Wilson from Third Form to Sixth Form has taught me a number of important lessons that I will take on throughout the rest of my life. The first one is the importance of family. Wilson has always felt to me as a safe and friendly place and that has taught me to respect everyone no matter what year they are in. This has also taught me to be kind and considerate of others which I strongly feel I have taken on during my time as a Wilson boy. Overall, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in Wilson and that is mainly down to the life-long friends I have made and will keep with me forever.



# The Old Bloxhamists

## Old Bloxhamist Society Committee

### President

Revd Canon Laurence F P Gunner

### Vice-Presidents

David K Exham, Nigel A Halfpenny,  
Mark E Allbrook, Roger L Stein  
and the Headmaster

### Chairman (and Auditor)

Jolyon Griffiths (Ry 74-79)

### Honorary Secretary

Andrew W Nagele (Ry 75-80)

### Resident Secretary

Simon J Batten

### Committee

Ian R Charles (Wf 70-75)  
John E Badger (Eg 64-69)  
Richard I Thompson (Ry 76-81)  
Annabel K Furley (PC/Ry 94-96)  
Ian J Turton (Ry 83-88)  
Tom P W Gurney (Wn 07-12)  
Nick Taylor (Wn 83-87)

### Alumni and Development Officer

Annabel Gulliver (Ry 12-17)

All news, suggestions and queries  
are welcomed from all members of  
the OB Society.

## Keep your details up to date

If your contact details have recently changed, please send an email to let us know so that we can keep your details up to date securely on our OB database. If you do not receive our electronic newsletter and communications and would like to be added to our mailing list, please share your email address with us.

## Looking to reconnect with old friends?

If you are looking to contact an old friend or member of staff, please get in touch. We regularly help OBs re-connect with each other and could help you to do the same. Please bear in mind that due to data protection rules, we will always seek the other party's permission before passing on any details.

## Contact Us

The Old Bloxhamist Community continues to thrive as we engage with former pupils, 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.

### The Alumni and Development Office

Email: [oldbloxhamists@bloxhamschool.com](mailto:oldbloxhamists@bloxhamschool.com)

Tel: 01295 232040

 Like our Facebook page: *Old Bloxhamists*

 Follow us on Twitter: *@OldBloxhamists*

 Join our LinkedIn group: *The Old Bloxhamist Society*



# Event Roundup

## Old Bloxhamist Golf



The OB Golf society meet twice throughout the year, and players of all ages and handicaps are welcome to participate. If you would like to attend a golf meet, please get in touch with the Development Office.

### Spring Meet – 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020

The OB golfers met at Tadmarton Heath Golf Club where the course had recovered well from the very dry summer last year. The day saw captain Simon Smith (Wf 71-76) victorious with a very creditable 36 points. His consistency saw off several players including Nick Reynolds (Wn 78-82), John Brown (Wn 82-86) and Richard Beard (Ry 72-76) who all got off to fliers until the heavy rain set in to frustrate them.

### RESULTS

- 1 Simon Smith, 36 points
- 2= John Nason (Wf 56-59), 31 points
- 2= Ian Cooper (Wf 70-75), 31 points
- 2= Dick Tysoe (Eg 67-71), 31 points

It's always good to see new visitors to our OBGs events and this event welcomed Dick Jones (Wn 66-71), school captain in 1971. ♥

### Autumn Meet – 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

The Autumn meet took place at Northamptonshire County Golf Club. Despite a bit of rain during the round, it was great to play at a club with links to Bloxham – Eddie Coker (Cr 35-37) who has his own trophy at the club and was a previous Organiser of the OB events about 60 years ago.

Everyday life has been anything but normal in 2020, and there was nothing normal about the quality of Carl Norton's (Wf 71-74) play at The Northamptonshire either – he amassed a mighty total of 41 points on an Open Qualifying course and one he was playing for the very first time – a terrific performance and worthy of the stature of the Humphries Trophy. ♥

### RESULTS

- 1 Carl Norton, 41 points
- 2= Peter Murray-White (Wf 64-69), 34 points
- 2= Simon Smith, 34 points

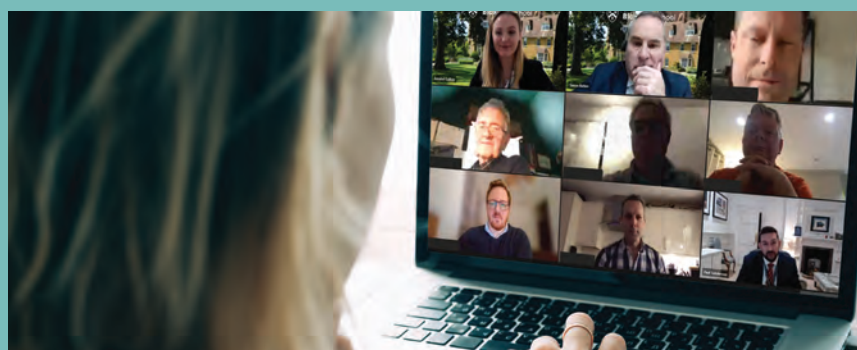
### Spring Meet – 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021

The Spring Meeting was held at Tadmarton Heath on Thursday 8th July after the original day in May was washed out. Twenty-five golfers, a record turnout in recent times, included for the first time Finlay Smith (Wn 10-15), Charlie Gulliver (Sy 10-15), Ed Simpson (Wf 88-93) and Matthew Robinson (Sy 91-96). Wet weather recently meant higher rough with the course playing harder than usual and many lost balls, but thankfully the rain

stayed away. Despite the conditions, there were good scores from the straighter hitters including Nick Reynolds (Wn 78-82), Harry Rymer (Cr 10-15) and the runaway winner Dick Jones (Wn 66-71) with a magnificent 41 points, taking home the trophy for the first time. We were pleased to see Bill Deeley (Ry 83-88) and his father Mike (Wn 52-56) who presented the prizes and the Greenway Trophy to the winner. ♥

### RESULTS

- 1 Dick Jones, 41 points
  - 2= Nick Reynolds, 36 points
  - 2= Harry Rymer, 36 points
  - 4 Simon Smith, 34 points
  - 5 John Williams, 32 points (Wf 64-69)
- Our thanks go to Simon for the reports.



## Old Bloxhamists go Virtual!

In such an eventful year, we have faced many challenges to our usual events programme. As such, we have not had the opportunities to meet as an Old Bloxhamist community with our usual array of social, sporting and careers networking events on hold.

However, earlier in the year, 80 Old Bloxhamists enjoyed the chance to reconnect virtually as we heard from Resident Secretary and history teacher Simon Batten, in his presentation *A Shining Light: Bloxham Through the Ages*.

Drawing upon his work as the author of the school history, and utilising the rich resources of the Old Bloxhamists' photographic archive, Simon explored the school's original mission, as set out by Philip Reginald Egerton in 1860, and discussed the extent to which



Bloxham had been able to weather various challenges during its history, including disease, war and financial pressures. He concluded that, though a very different school in many ways to Egerton's original model, Bloxham continues to stay loyal to the Founder's vision while adapting to change 161 years later.

*If you would like to watch a recording of the event, please get in touch by emailing [oldbloxhamists@bloxhamschool.com](mailto:oldbloxhamists@bloxhamschool.com)*



# From the Archives:

## *A look back over Bloxham's associations with the Royal Family*

Following a number of significant events that have happened this year involving the Royal Family, we have dived into the archives to explore times when Bloxham was paid a visit by a member of the Royal Family.

### **The school orchestra plays for H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, at Broughton Castle, June 1898**

The School's links with the Royal Family date back to June 1898, when the Director of Music, Dr Heinrich Hain, was invited to take the school orchestra to play before HRH Edward, Prince of Wales, who was staying with Lord and Lady Algernon Gordon-Lennox, at Broughton Castle. At the end of the programme, the Prince expressed a wish to meet Dr Hain. Speaking in fluent German, he told him 'what a charming orchestra it was, what very pretty pieces had been selected, and what pleasure it had given him to listen to the music.'

### **The visit of H.M. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, 20th July 1960, to mark the School's Centenary**



Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother visited Bloxham School as part of its Centenary celebrations in July 1960. Robert Galletly (Eg 58-62), one of the pupils present that day, recalls, 'It was a beautiful sunny day. Her bright red helicopter came in to land on the



Firsts' cricket pitch, and a red carpet had been laid and rolled out leading to the quad.' She was greeted by the clapping and waving of visitors lining the wall in Brickle Lane and the cinder track near the School Shop (now the Sixth Form Art Studio). After the Chairman of the School Council and Reginald Thompson (the Headmaster) had been presented to Her Majesty by the Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, she walked to the quadrangle to inspect the C.C.F.'s Guard of Honour drawn up near the Memorial Gateway. This done, she was presented with a bouquet by the youngest boy in the School, R. M. S. Lester (Wn 60-64), and proceeded to the Chapel and then the Liddon Library, on her way to the Headmaster's study for tea with the School Prefects.

Meanwhile the crowds had moved across to the Headmaster's lawn in anticipation of Her Majesty's reappearance. Impatience was rife. 'When will she come?' and 'Is she never coming?' were the exclamations of one small sister of a member of the School. But at length the Queen Mother emerged to meet members of the school community, among whom it was pleasant to see the previous Headmaster, Mr. Dewey. On her way towards the side of the Great Hall,

near which she helped to plant an 'Acer Goldsworth Purple' tree, Her Majesty talked with several boys about their cameras and photography after the planting ceremony with Mr. Arthur Neale, the Head Gardener. She then proceeded to the Science Block, where she was received by the Senior Science Master, Mr. Grocock, at the entrance.

After visiting the new laboratories, she returned to the helicopter through the small gate by the pavilion. The carpet was lined with rows of cheering boys and again Her Majesty paused from time to time to speak to them, while cameras clicked incessantly. Shortly before she reached the helicopter, the Captain of the School, D. R. Ledger, stepped forward to present Her Majesty with a large box of chocolates, tied with the School Colours, the gift of the boys. After a whispered conversation with the Headmaster, she allowed him to announce that she had requested an extension of the summer holidays by three days.

### **The Visit of H.R.H. Princess Anne to Bloxham School, 16th October 1986**

The school was visited by Princess Anne in October 1986 to open the new Dewey Sports Centre, built after an ambitious Appeal and a lengthy planning process.

Other than a momentary panic over the whereabouts of the Princess's bag, which had been left in the Royal car, the day proceeded without a hitch, thanks to a lengthy dress rehearsal a few days before and the meticulous planning of the Head of Science, Felix Francis (Staff 82-91), who later recalled: 'The sky was clear and the sun shone brilliantly. All the months of planning were over. The marquees were up, the red carpet was down, the car park was roped off and the crowd roped in. Security





arrangements had been checked - twice; paths had been relaid; roads swept; paintwork re-glossed; lawns cut; turf laid; and food prepared. We awaited the arrival of twelve hundred guests: parents; boys, past and present; Governors; friends of the School; staff; and, of course, our Guest of Honour.'

Shortly before two o'clock the scene was set: parents, Governors, staff and guests in position outside the Dewey Centre; pupils as a welcome tunnel by the Main Gate; the Headmaster in the Inner Quad; hockey teams on the field; climbers on the wall; cricketers in the nets; residents of Barley Close sitting outside their homes on garden chairs with cups of tea - everyone ready. Half an hour behind schedule at a quarter to three, the Royal car swept through the Main Gate, past the lines of applauding pupils, to the welcoming party outside the Great Hall. Having arrived in the heart of the School to be greeted by the Headmaster, Michael Vallance, and the Chairman of Governors, Frank Defty, the Princess and party made their way to the Dewey Centre alongside a game of hockey on Main Field. Residents of the village had gathered on Brickle Lane and Barley Close to welcome the Princess to Bloxham. Her Royal Highness moved slowly down the road, stopping frequently to accept the many gifts of flowers which were offered, or to talk to the children from the village primary school who had waited in the sunshine to greet her. Eventually, she arrived at the Dewey Sports Centre to great applause. Outside the building she met, among others: Mrs. Griselda Parrington, widow of former Bursar Gerald Parrington, who had done much

to ensure that the sports centre was financed and built; Mr. Craig Nicholl, parent, old-boy and Chairman of the Appeal to raise the funds for the Dewey Centre, and Mr. John Fiori, retired Housemaster and Appeal Director.

Her Royal Highness was then invited to unveil a plaque to commemorate the opening of the Dewey Centre. The Princess was presented with a bouquet by Charlotte Moir (Sy/SH 85-87), a school prefect, and shown round the Dewey Sports Centre by Ian George (Staff 83-88), Director of P.E. and Stewart Mackay (Wn 82-87), School Captain. She was particularly interested in both the climbing wall and the fitness room, where she took the opportunity to talk at length to those using the machines. After about twenty-five minutes inside the building Her Royal Highness re-emerged into the sunshine. She made her way slowly towards the Ridgeway Field, stopping again to talk to the many boys and girls lining her route. Our Guest of Honour lifted off in the scarlet helicopter bound for Gatcombe Park and a well-earned rest after her official visits in the Banbury area, while the school's guests adjourned to a marquee on Wilberforce Lawn for tea. Felix Francis recalled: 'I don't remember what I said to anyone at the tea, but I remember what the Headmaster said to me. "Felix", he said, "we will go on enjoying this day for a long time to come." How right he was; I'm still enjoying it now!'

Our thanks go to Felix for his recollections.

## H.M. Queen Elizabeth Presents a trophy to Bloxham School, June 1995

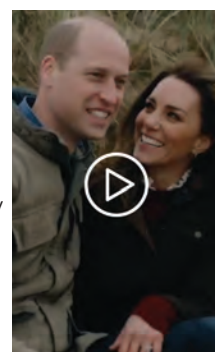


1994  
Her Majesty The Queen presenting Ted Tuthill with the Millfield Schools' Polo Trophy at Smith's Lawn.

The school's sole contact with a reigning monarch came in June 1995, when Her Majesty the Queen presented the Millfield Schools Polo Trophy to Ted Tuthill (Wf 90-95), the captain of the Bloxham team, at Smith's Lawn, Windsor, following their 2-0 victory over Harrow. They had already beaten Marlborough and Cheltenham on their way to the final. Their triumph was cheered on by a large and enthusiastic crowd, including a coach-load of Bloxham supporters.

## Will Warr (Cr 01-08) and the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge

As part of the 10th Wedding Anniversary of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, OB Will Warr produced the special video they released to mark the day which can be viewed on their Twitter account.



Will started his film-making career during his time at Bloxham, and now runs a film production company based in London called Detail Films. He has previously worked with the school on various projects, including the filming for our 20 years of girls at Bloxham celebration. 🟢



# The Egerton Society

*The Legacy Club for Bloxham School*

## A Bloxham Legacy

Much has changed since Philip Reginald Egerton founded Bloxham School in 1860, but in a number of important ways it has remained true to its roots. It is still avowedly unpretentious, it is less concerned with image than substance and sees the value of tradition without being held back by it. It focuses on preparing pupils for the 'business of life' and in working with, and for the benefit of others. These founding values and characteristics will, no doubt, help the School to thrive for generations to come.

## The Egerton Society

In 2010, on the 150th anniversary of the School's foundation, the Egerton Society was established by Peter Barwell (Wf 45-53) to support Bloxham's bursary programme through legacy giving. Its goal is to build a significant endowment fund to provide long-term bursary support for those pupils who would not otherwise be able to attend the School. Members can, however, leave gifts for other purposes too. By leaving legacy gifts, members will help the School to thrive for many

years to come and ensure that future generations of Bloxhamists can benefit from all that the School has to offer.

*"Being chosen for a bursary was an incredible privilege and it gave me the opportunity to spend some of the most happy, well-balanced, and motivated years of my life at Bloxham school."*

*Joe Cooper (Sy 05-10)*

Since its foundation, the Society has grown and now has over 50 members who have regularly enjoyed annual lunches and special gatherings. The next lunch will take place in October 2021, hosted by Chairman, Michael Deeley (Wn 52-56).

We are, and will remain incredibly grateful to all our Egerton Society members for their support of this very special cause as well as to all those who have left gifts for the School over the years. Every gift will make a significant difference to Bloxham pupils and the School both now and in the future.

*If you are interested in joining the Egerton Society, we would be delighted*

*to hear from you. Please contact the Bloxham Development Office for a confidential conversation.*

**Email:** [development@bloxhamschool.com](mailto:development@bloxhamschool.com)

**Tel:** 01295 232040



*"The bursary allowed me to stay at Bloxham during such a crucial time in growing up, providing me with both the personal and academic skills to pursue a career in science. I don't think I would be the person I am today without it."*

*Rose Smith (Ry 13-17)*





# Old Bloxhamist Q&A

*Geoffrey Ellacott (Cr 38-41)*



At 97 years of age, Geoffrey Ellacott was one of our oldest Old Bloxhamists and provides a fascinating insight into life at school in the 1930s and 40s, and beyond. He joined Bloxham before the start of The Second World War in 1938 and after leaving in 1941, joined the Light Metals Control of the Ministry of Aircraft Production for one year. Five years with the Royal Artillery followed, during which time he was posted to North Africa, Italy, Egypt, Palestine and Transjordan. Returning home, Geoffrey qualified as a Chartered Accountant and started Ellacotts LLP in 1953. Forty years later in 1993, he stepped away to enjoy retired life in Bloxham with his wife, Rosamund, to whom he was married for 23 years.

Before this edition of the Bloxhamist went to print, we were deeply sorry to learn that Geoffrey Ellacott passed away in early April 2021, and his wife Rosamund soon after. Our thoughts and prayers during this time are with Geoffrey's family who are happy for us to publish this interview in his memory. As you will read in the page below, Geoffrey was a proud Old Bloxhamist who spent a great deal of his time giving back to others and pursuing the things he loved. He was a much-loved member of the Bloxham community who will be sorely missed by all.

## **Describe your most memorable time at Bloxham School?**

I was at school during the war and although I liked it at the time, especially Maths, I was looking forward to leaving. It was a very difficult time with rations, air raids and the blackouts, and with war time labour shortages, pupils were made to work - I remember having to pull a truck around. In fact, my family only lived in Banbury, but I boarded, as both Mr Armitage (Headmaster 1925-1940) and my father forbade me to travel back home after the blackout as it was unsafe.

## **Is there one thing that your time at Bloxham taught you?**

From my time at Bloxham, I learnt never bother to panic! This has been a great thing to remember throughout my life. It got me through the war and it's a useful tool for keeping calm.

## **What advice would you give to students for success in life after Bloxham?**

Keep your head down and get qualified.

## **What does being a member of The Egerton Society mean to you?**

I was one of the very first members of the school's legacy association. The society does an awful lot of good; joining

is an excellent thing to do and by leaving money to the School in my Will, I will leave a lasting legacy and financially help young people for the future.

## **What has been your greatest professional achievement?**

After the war I decided not to go to university as I wanted to earn money. Training to become a chartered accountant, I worked for a firm in Leamington Spa for £1 a week. I studied every evening after work, except on Thursdays when I had a full day studying. I became articled in 1947 to 1951. Once qualified, I founded Ellacotts, which today is one of the largest accountancy firms in the area. I started it just from two rooms and no staff, in an office on Pepper Alley in Banbury.

## **If you could learn a new skill, what would it be?**

If my strength allowed, I would cheerfully love to start bell ringing again. I first started bell ringing at the age of 84 and volunteered on Sunday mornings and at weddings and such like at St Mary's Church in Bloxham. However, this church has some of the heaviest bells in the country, even though I rang the lightest bell, the treble, it is far too heavy for me today. The tower captain in Bloxham is Alan Griffin, who was the physics master at the school.

## **What is your greatest passion in life?**

Cars! Throughout my life I have had 34 cars; 11 Jaguars, a couple of Saabs, MGBs and many others. My first car was a Bullnose Morris Cowley. My mother paid £7.50 for it in 1934 and on returning from the war it was given to me. I got £55 for it after the war. I couldn't say which was one my favourite, however I currently enjoy my BMW 1 Series Sport, or perhaps the HRG 1500 CC was the one.

## **Who would you invite to your dream lunch party?**

The late Sir Stirling Moss - he was an almost unbeatable racing driver and would provide excellent company and recount great stories of his races and the motor racing lifestyle.

## **Who or what has been most inspirational to you in your life?**

The Church. I'm a churchgoer and have always taken great inspiration and comfort in my faith. I have always liked to help and give back; I was a Church Treasurer in Banbury and in Bodicote and also the Deddington Deanery Treasurer for over 50 years.

## **What's the best piece of advice you have received?**

The answer probably is: 'Shut up!'





# A Reflection from the School Chaplain, Duncan Weaver

"Can I pray for you and your family in the chapel service Padre?" was the question that came from a Sixth Form pupil, upon hearing that my father had died a few days earlier. Of course, I said "Yes," and he inserted a short prayer into the intercessions that he was leading in chapel that evening. That small gesture epitomised for me something of the importance of this place and this Bloxham community. It spoke to me of many things not least of a caring interest in each other as we seek to support and uphold one another in the difficulties and trials of life and of the importance of community. It reminded me that we learn from each other whatever our age, and that we can bring all our lives, the sorrows, and uncertainties as well as our joys and achievements before a loving and gracious heavenly Father.

I think our founder would be delighted to have heard that little story because, although from a different era entirely, those characteristics were what I believe he was seeking to build when he established this school all those years ago. Some people would maybe question whether those values were still relevant today and would particularly question our practice of regular weekly worship for all. However, I think what the pandemic has shown us is that these are indeed treasures and are as

important today as they were 161 years ago.

Lockdown has profoundly reminded us that we need each other. We were made by God to live in relationships with each other, and that includes a physical relationship of presence, closeness, and touch. That we need to be together in places that inspire us, that lift our souls, and where we can raise our voices together in song and in prayer. Where we together can reflect on the word of life and partake in the physical sacraments that speak to us in times such as this of pain, confusion, and death but also of life and hope.

I think lockdown has also shattered the unspoken concept that life can be a smooth ride and there may be the odd bump but if you are intelligent and hard working there will be no big cracks and certainly no landslides in the road. It has made us realise that landslides do occur, and that we need something very deep at our core if we are going to react and respond appropriately and even flourish as people when such things happen. I hope that we are equipping pupils and staff to have that something deep at their centre, a spirituality that is robust and strong and that permeates all our lives. Something that grows and deepens and that radiates outwards to others in service. I have sought to develop that

spirituality and that faith amongst this community over the last four years. To show that this God who we worship in chapel is not confined to that place alone but is present and interested in every aspect of our lives including the drama stage, the house night in, the PE lesson, the CCF night exercise, the DoE expedition, and the sailing club. To use a sailing analogy, that the wind of God's Spirit blows everywhere. We have an opportunity to feel and know that wind, to see where it might take us as well as be challenged that sometimes we might be sailing too close to the wind and lose its power and strength.

In a few months I will leave this place, this community, this lovely chapel, and I will do so with many happy memories and much thanks to God. I will particularly miss the richness of worshipping together as a whole school community and having the privilege of bringing that community before God's word and sacrament. I will hand on to another the baton of faith, worship and service that was started by The Reverend Egerton all those years ago. Which I am sure will continue to flourish in this community, and I hope flourish in the lives of many who have had the privilege of being part of Bloxham however long ago. May we all continue to shine with the True Light. ♥ DCW June 21



# Old Bloxhamist Cricket



## The Cricket Pavilion

The Bloxham School Cricket Pavilion has been a multi-functional room over the years, whether as a sixth form centre, classrooms, or the school bar. Following the clock tower's recent restoration - our thanks go to OB Andrew Nagele (Ry 75-80) for this support - we have also had the opportunity to turn our attention to the interior of the building and restore the room to its original purpose. The Cricket Pavilion was reopened on 3rd July at the Old Bloxhamist vs The School XI Cricket Match (traditionally the Founderstide match). Our thanks go to those Old Bloxhamists who kindly donated towards this project.



Jolyon Griffiths (Ry 74-79), Simon Batten and Matt Bull at the opening of the Pavilion.

After a particularly rainy morning, it was uncertain whether the day would go ahead. However, we were soon blessed with glorious sunshine for the rest of the day, and Old Bloxhamists, school cricketers, staff and parents came together for an enjoyable game of cricket to round off the term.



### RESULT:

Lost: Old Bloxhamists 165-5 (40 Overs)  
Bloxham 166-6 (34 Overs)

## Cricket Festival 2021 Report

On Friday 9th July we welcomed back the SOA for our longest running fixture. The SOA, captained by Banbury's Dave Eaton batted consistently and despite some tight bowling (Rymer 10.1- 3-37-3) were able to declare at 210 for five off 43.1 overs. The highlight of their innings being an all run four which started off life as a single, followed by a buzzer (overthrow) at the bowler's end, followed by a further buzzer at the wicket keeper's end with a final buzzer

to the bowler's end which all left the Banbury batsman Ed Phillips calling for oxygen. In reply, the OBs were cruising at 150 for three and needing under four an over when our batsmen started giving the SOA fielders catching practice. We subsided to 179 for eight, needing 32 to win with the SOA firmly in the box seat. An enterprising 39 not out by Charlie Cox (Wn 06-11) ably supported by Bill Deeley (Ry 83-88) at number ten (4 not out) saw the OBs home by two wickets with eleven balls to spare.



Brothers Scott De Weymarn (Cr 07-12), Craig De Weymarn (Cr 95-00) and Iain De Weymarn (Cr 92-97) at the OB vs School 1st XI match.

On Sunday the Oxford Downs returned to Bloxham for the first time in two years. The Downs batted well to reach 85 for two (Slatter st Wilkinson b Tice for 60) when a collapse of Old Bloxhamist proportions set in to 105 for nine. Sadly the OBs could not grab the final wicket and Watts made an unbeaten fifty at nine to allow the Downs to set a competitive target of 162 for nine declared. The OBs also started well reaching 101 for 2 with Olly Tice (Cr 10-13) making 47 and Toby Staveley Parker (LS/Cr 11-19) 45, whence a true OB collapse set in finishing the job started on Friday. The OBs subsided to 141 all out, losing by twenty runs and leaving over four overs unused.

Two good games, great opposition and the genial bonhomie that OB cricket is all about. Our thanks to Annabel Gulliver and Simon Batten for their stewardship and the School for hosting. Bring on 2022!

Our thanks go to Jolyon Griffiths (Ry 74-79) for the report.



# Thanks for the memories

*A Look back over Mark Skevington's years as Wilson House Master 2004-2020*



Jacqui and Mark Skevington

Mark Skevington is one of the longest serving members of Bloxham's staff, joining in 1985 as Head of Design and Technology. Mark, known to many as Skev, was at the helm of Wilson as Housemaster for sixteen years, stepping down in the summer of 2020.



Being at Bloxham for over thirty years has meant that Mark has seen many changes across the school, including the growth of pupil numbers, the change

from single sex to co-educational and many a change across the buildings on-site. "The RTC was a tractor shed when I first arrived, then in 1997 it was opened as a Design Technology building". Mark recalls evening trips down to the pub and the JOC, the Sixth Form bar which hosted many an evening of fun.

*"In my first few years at Bloxham, I thought it was compulsory for teachers to go to the pub in the evenings!"*

Mark has devoted his time to teaching Design Technology, but also spent ten years as Head of Hockey and enjoys running the sailing club and OB sailing events. After spending some time as the Assistant Housemaster in Crake, Mark then moved over to Wilson, where he became Housemaster. In 2018,

Mark married Jacqui White, and praises Jacqui for all her help and support in the later Wilson years which made his job that little bit easier.

Amongst many, some of Mark's favourite memories were those of House events that demonstrated the true comradery of the Wilson boys. The House Music competition, or 'House Shout' as it has been known, was always a particular highlight. To Mark, it was the best competition because he felt that the boys bought into the competition so much during his time, particularly when they learnt that the key to a successful unison from a boys' house was to perform a rap. He recalls that although the singing may not have always been the most pleasant, he felt very proud sitting and watching the whole house get involved and work together.





Mark and Richard Hobley (Staff 10-19)

Mark also enjoyed the other house events. He instigated the Wilson yellow rose, which can be seen on the uniform of Wilson boys at events such as Founderstide. Mark credits Wilson's long standing matron Julie Moon for helping to instill this tradition and is thankful for her unwavering support.



Life as a Housemaster is never easy, whether dealing with testing behaviour or a mountain of reports to write. Mark says that "although reports were time consuming, there were huge positives in that I got to know every boy really well, taking the time to write about their individual experience in the boarding house and giving them feedback".

*"The best part of being a Housemaster was witnessing the boys succeeding in their personal endeavours, no matter how big or small. Those moments where they realized their full potential were the most rewarding to me."*

The Champagne Moment trophy will always stick out as being a particularly special award within the house. This trophy was a small statue of William Webb Ellis, given to Mark by his father, that was presented to a boy each year for a considerable achievement.

It would be different to a sporting or academic prize: something quirky and unexpected.



The ethos Mark wanted to instill in Wilson was kindness, competitiveness and passion about success in the house. Loyalty is a huge factor that makes up a Wilson boy. Everyone was equal in Wilson, no matter their year group. Mark is always delighted to see old Wilson boys when they return for Old Bloxhamist events.

*"It always amazes me how easily the memories come flooding back when I see old boys; the highs and lows of their individual Bloxham journey."*

Some never leave Wilson, or so goes the tale. Ghost stories are always prevalent in boarding houses, and this is certainly the case for Wilson as one of Bloxham's older boarding houses. A story that has been passed down the Wilson generations tells of a ghost allegedly leaving a trail of lavender scent wherever it goes. Perhaps it is the ghost

of an old Matron who continues to look after Wilson boys?

Although Mark remains a Head of Department and a tutor in Merton House, looking back over his time in Wilson, he reflects upon the thing he will miss the most about being a Housemaster: "There are so many things I will miss, but I think just sitting and chatting with the boys in the common rooms and being present and part of the big Wilson family is the main thing. A cup of tea and a sandwich while the boys come in and out of the house in the evenings."



Bloxham would like to thank Mark for all he has done for Wilson and all of the pupils under his care. During his stewardship, Mark has cared for over 300 boys and their families. Many young people owe a huge debt of gratitude to him for his compassion and support. ♥







# The Evolution of the White Lion

In September 2019, we celebrated 25 years since the opening of Exham House, Bloxham's Lower School.

The White Lion was originally a pub in the High Street, one of ten which the village could boast at one time. It first opened its doors in 1846 and was originally owned by the Brackley brewers Horscraft & Norris, although by the late 1980s when it closed, it was in the hands of Banks's Brewery. The school bought the White Lion in 1991; David Exham liked to recall that his first two acts as Headmaster were to buy a chapel (the Wesley) and a pub. It served as the home of the Lower School from September 1994. Four years later, a magnificent chalet-style extension enabled it to cope with the ever-expanding numbers in the Lower School. There it remained until the Lower School, now called Exham House, moved up to the former Palmer hospital building and the White Lion was re-purposed.

In November 2019, the front of the White Lion building re-opened as a Café.

The café provides a wonderful link between the wider Bloxham village community and the School, and now has a number of regulars who walk down for their morning coffee enjoying the chance to chat to Bloxham School staff.

Joining on to the back of the Sixth Form Centre, the café is a great chance to encourage older pupils to work independently but with the option of getting a drink while they do so, to prepare them for a university environment or future independent working.

The White Lion can be accessed via the door on the High Street and is open from 9am to 5pm Monday-Saturday. It is a lovely space for OBs to catch up with each other so pop in, grab a coffee and have a look around! 🍷





# Old Bloxhamist News



**John Catton** (Wn 46-51), **Peter Wood** (Wn 44-51), **Mark Thomas** (Cr 43-49) and **Rev'd Peter Ettrick CF** (Wf 24-31) were featured in the special 75th Anniversary of VJ Day edition of the King's African Rifles' Journal, *RHINO LINK*. The King's African Rifles Association has about 370 members world-wide, and the journal is a central part of the association. John Catton and his wife Sue also celebrated their 60th Diamond Wedding Anniversary in 2020 and received a card and good wishes from HM The Queen.

**Ben Cook** (Wn 10-17) has been awarded the CEP (Course Endorsement Programme) Student Design Award, which is supported by the Chartered Society of Designers and is awarded to the student who has demonstrated exceptional work throughout their course. This was shortly after Ben achieved First Class Honours with 96% overall in his degree in Product Design at Sheffield Hallam University. He looks forward to a career in Industrial Design and his work and portfolio can be found on Instagram @bencookstudio and online at [www.bencookstudio.com](http://www.bencookstudio.com)



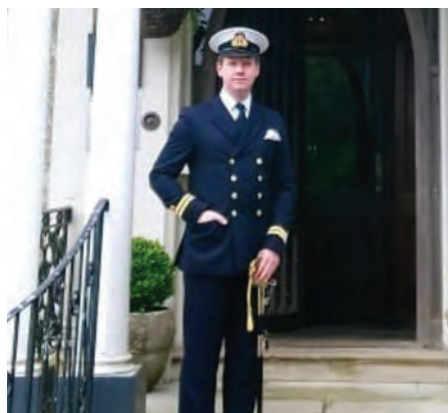
**Rachel Humphriss (née Stoddart)** (SH/Ry 87-89) has recently been appointed Head of Audiology for Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust.

After working in Birmingham, Cambridge and then Bristol as a Clinical Scientist in Audiology (which included clinical work, lecturing at the University and obtaining a PhD), Rachel became Head of Children's Audiology for Bath

and West Wiltshire in 2017. Her new role, which began in December, is based at the John Radcliffe Hospital and Rachel writes that it is great to be back in Oxfordshire again!



**Oliver-Rupert Pelendrides** (Wn 08-13), following his first complement assignment as an Officer of the Watch on the aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth earlier this year, has been assigned as First Lieutenant (Second-in-Command) of offshore patrol vessel HMS Medway.



**Dudley Hughes** (Cr 59-64) writes that after teaching for over 30 years in Rhodesia, Ethiopia, USA and UK, he is now retired and has recently become Chair of the Nene Education Trust of seven schools in Northamptonshire.

**Tom Stephenson** (Sy 07-10) ran five marathons in 5 days to raise money for Restart Rugby, beginning at Franklin's Gardens and completing his final run at Twickenham Stadium on the 16th May. Tom managed to raise over £25,000 for Restart - a charity that provides financial and practical support to rugby players following injury. Tom also came into the school to talk to Seymour House about his experiences and sporting challenges.



**Owen Maginnis** (LS/Wn 11-18) has won the award for the "Best Intern" at the PRCA Internships and Apprenticeships Awards 2021, during his placement year as an Intern at Liquid PR.



**Roland Swift** (Sy 12-17) was commissioned into The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on 9th April and is now on the 15-week Platoon Commanders Battle Course in Brecon. Later this summer, he will move to his battalion and take command of an infantry platoon. Roland and his fellow members of the Somme Company raised over £5,000 earlier this year, by running 42km – a representation of the 420,000 British Forces casualties sustained during the Battle of the Somme – in aid of Blesma, the Limbless Veterans Charity.

**Nigel Watkinson** (Wf 58-63) writes that he has been living in Canada since 1976 after being recruited by Royal Insurance. Starting out in Toronto, he then moved to Vancouver in 1991. He has been self-employed as a certified financial planner and investment advisor since 1995, but is mostly retired, allowing him to pursue his passion and play golf year-round. He welcomes any Old Bloxhamist living in the area to get in touch if they want a game.



**Simon Johnson** (Wn 91-93) has been appointed Master of Music at Westminster Cathedral, starting in September this year. He has been the Organist and Assistant Director of Music at St. Paul's Cathedral since 2008, during which time he has played at all the national events that have taken place, including the Diamond Jubilee of HM The Queen and the funeral of Baroness Thatcher.

**Charlotte Adams (née Pile)** (LS/Wf 01-08) was back competing on her horse after the birth of her son Harry in February 2020. Charlotte came 2nd in a one-day event at the Swalcliffe Park equestrian horse trials and has also recently come in 10th place at Waverton in the Cotswold Cup on her horse Jackamo.



**Kyle White** (LS/Wn 07-14) represented Scotland hockey and in May this year scored the winning goal against the Welsh hockey team while playing them in Cardiff.



**Robert West** (Wn 64-69) writes with an update that after graduating with a BA Hons Degree in Geography in 1973, he spent 14 years working in the Civil Service Research Councils. He then

moved into the commercial world as a Management and L&D Consultant, and on from there he became an International Development Consultant in Dhaka, working with clients such as Coca-Cola, Barclays and Tesco. The next few years took Robert to Eritrea, Saudi Arabia, and Zambia. Now living in Somerset with his wife Vivien, he enjoys spending time with his nine children and grandchildren, whilst also running a blues band, and welcomes any OBs to get in contact if they so wish.

**Brigitte Whitehead** (Staff 99-16) was recently elected as President of Kellogg College's Middle Common Room (MCR). Currently studying for a Doctor of Philosophy in Architectural History at Oxford University, Brigitte was elected in June this year. Brigitte has also recently been nominated to become a Fellow of the RSA (Royal Society of Arts). ♥



## Engagements

Congratulations to **Millie East-Nuttall** (Ry 10-15) and Harry Luckett on their engagement. The wedding is planned to go ahead in 2022 near Millie's family home in Warwickshire.



Congratulations to **Jonathan Cooper** (Eg 07-12) and Jemima Morrow who were engaged on 6 December 2020. They are to be married next year on the Isle of Man. ♥

## Marriages

**Matthew Cooper** (Eg 07-12) to Anna Kenchington on 30 May 2021. The wedding was attended by Old Bloxhamists Jon Cooper (Eg 07-12) as the best man and Nick Cooper (Eg 07-13) and Scott De Weymarn (Cr 07-12) as ushers.



**Nicholas Cooper** (LS/Eg 07-13) to Katie Fowler on 7 July 2021. OBs in attendance included his brothers Jon Cooper (Eg 07-12), Matt Cooper (Eg 07-12), and friends Will Richards (Wn 08-13) and Jess Barr (LS/ Wf 06-13).

**Matthew Pigott** (Wn 05-07) to Nikki Griggs on 5th June 2021 in the school chapel. The wedding was attended by Matthew's two brothers Ed Pigott (Wn 07-09) and Sam Pigott (Wn 11-13), and his Father Nick Pigott (Staff 1990-present). Matthew and Nikki were married by the School Chaplain, Duncan Weaver.





**Louis Yates** (Staff 12-21) to Emma Hammond at St Mary's, Bampton, and afterwards at Caswell House, Brize Norton, on 22nd July 2021. The wedding was attended by a great many members of the Bloxham staff past and present, including the Best Man Brett Richmond (Staff 12-17). ♥



## Births

To **Katie Leyland** (Ry 05-09), a daughter, Lily Grace, who was born on 6th June at 9.54pm, weighing 7lbs and 5oz. ♥



# Old Bloxhamist Obituaries

*We are sorry to report the names of Old Bloxhamists below who have passed away this year. Our deepest condolences, thoughts and prayers are with their families.*

**Andrew Anderson** (Cr 42-48). Andy passed away on 16th December 2019 at 90 years of age. He was captain of the 1947 1st XI unbeaten rugby team and will be greatly missed by friends and family.

**Charles Armour** (Staff 46-48) passed away in Autumn 2018 in Chesham, Bucks. Charles was thrilled to be mentioned in "The History of Bloxham School" by Brian Smith, and remembers Bloxham as a friendly and pastoral school. He has especially fond memories of EJ "Sam" Khan who helped a new master integrate into the School. He was also for some time Head of the BBC's Schools Broadcasting on the Radio.

**Richard Atterbury** (Cr 56-59). Dick was a most excellent second row forward in the loose. I remember him in the Colts rugby team, that had Tom Lomas

and David Beaty, who later played for Northampton and had an England trial. Dick was a Dairy Farmer and was Vice Chairman of the school Young Farmers Club, whose president was D. G. Londen, Housemaster of Wilberforce. Dick cared for his wife, who suffers with Parkinsons for 15 years – also running the farm. Thank you to Howard Colegrave O.B. for news of Dick's passing, on January 22nd 2021.

**Richard Balding** (Cr 58-63). Richard was one of ten new boys who joined Crake House in the very cold January of 1958. During his early days at the school he was selected by Director of Music, John E Gardiner, to sing in the Chapel Choir. He remained in the choir throughout his time at Bloxham and afterwards continued to be regularly in touch with JEG until his death. Richard's interest in music prompted him to learn to play the clarinet, although later he was to prefer playing his saxophone. He taught himself to play the guitar and was versatile on a wide number of different instruments. His singing ability was never better demonstrated than when he took part in the school's production of a Gilbert and Sullivan opera. Richard was a keen marksman and represented the school on several occasions at the annual schools competition at Bisley. He

also represented the school in athletics competitions where his main event was the Pole Vault. He performed this at the Public Schools Championships at White City and often retold the story of his journey there complete with pole - on the underground. Quite a feat! On leaving Bloxham, Richard joined the ICI Paints Division at Slough under their management training scheme. He took digs in Windsor which was convenient for continuing a number of his school friendships. While in Windsor he joined the TA as well as establishing his own band which performed at local venues. In search of a more fulfilling career he joined the marketing department of Chesebrough Ponds. At this time he undertook an Open University degree course which enabled him to join his preferred profession and become a school master. He became Head of Science and a Housemaster at Summerfields prep school in Oxford. He wrote a number of science text books which were well received. While teaching Richard was for many years the science co-ordinator for the Independent Association of Prep Schools in England. Following his retirement he became an IAPS inspector. He also found time while teaching to continue with music and he formed a "big band" to play at



social gatherings. It was in 1989 that he provided the live music at the Bloxham Founderstide Ball. Always keen to keep in touch with old friends he co organised a private dinner in 2008 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of arriving at Bloxham. Five members of Crake House 1957/58 intake attended and enjoyed reminiscing together. Richard died unexpectedly in May 2021 after a short illness. He will be greatly missed by his wife, Deborah, and many friends.



**Edward Benfield** (Cr 44-46). Edward Benfield died peacefully in hospital on 5 December 2020 aged 91. He remembered his days at Bloxham School with much fondness especially playing 1st XI Cricket and time spent with the young Farmers Club. His wife, Rosalind and children Victoria, Gregory & Charles will miss him greatly.

**Stephen Borthwick** (Staff 74-80). Stephen passed away on 15th December 2020. After joining the school as Head of Physics in 1977, Stephen went on to be a tutor in Wilson and later went on to become Headmaster of Aldenham School and Epsom College. He then enjoyed retirement with his wife Glynis in the Wye Valley.

**Carol Brooks** (Staff 86-03). Carol Brooks passed away on 26th April 2021. A greatly respected English teacher and tutor, latterly in Raymond House, Carol was a key figure in the development of co-education, the International Unit and the Lower School at Bloxham. She produced the very first Lower School play, performed at Founderstide in 1995, and went on to give several generations of Bloxhamists their first taste of drama at the school. As Andrew Whiffin, a colleague in the English department, recalls, 'we all have fond memories of diminutive actors dressed in cornflakes boxes built by Carol and Peter, being robots'.

As the school's first EFL teacher, her characteristic thoroughness and professionalism helped overseas pupils to get the most from their time at Bloxham. Another colleague, Nikky Shergold, remembers Carol as 'a bright mind and a brilliant tutor'.



**Alan Bullwinkle** (Wf 34-39), who died on 12th October 2019 at the age of 98, was always a great supporter of his old school, of which he was School Captain in 1939. One of his greatest contributions was his endowment of the Bullwinkle Prize, which helped many Bloxhamists to travel on worthwhile projects in the summer holidays. We are indebted to Alan's son, Richard Bullwinkle (Wf 61-66), and daughter, Catie Whiteley, for their assistance in writing this obituary.



Alan enjoyed a distinguished school career, serving as House Captain of Wilberforce and School Captain in 1939. He captained the 1st XV and played for the 1st XI in cricket, but his finest

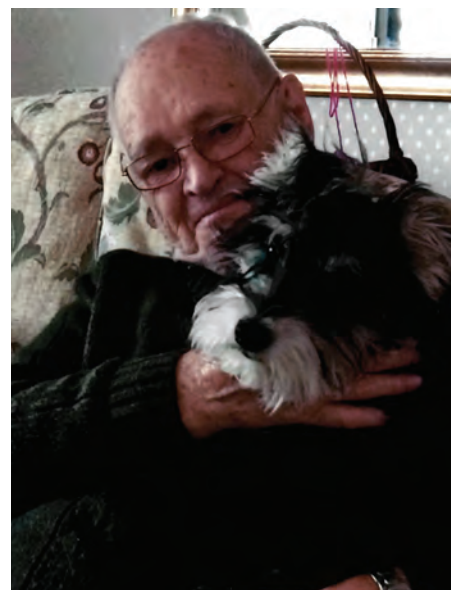
moments probably came in athletics, a sport in which he would go on to represent Oxford University. After Bloxham he went to Queen's College to read history and completed a war degree, managing to become engaged to Margaret before he was sent abroad to the Gold Coast to join the troops in West Africa, but his ship was torpedoed off Free Town. Rescued after several days in a lifeboat, he eventually landed in Accra in a surfboat. He was promptly made A.D.C. to the Governor and was in the Gold Coast on V.E. day. He spent 21 years there as a District Commissioner, and after the Gold Coast gained independence and became Ghana he remained for two years to help with the transition period.

On his return to the UK he was made Head of the Planning Team for the new Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge, to which he dedicated the rest of his working life. He was always a great supporter of his local community in the villages of Great Shelford and Stapleford. A strong member of the church and the choir, he loved performing in Gilbert and Sullivan opera, something which began at Bloxham. He was also a keen historian and enjoyed research into family and local history. His love of gardening led to a number of verges near his house being covered by a plethora of colourful flowers. As his daughter Catie concludes, 'His was a life well lived. He will leave an enormous hole in all our lives.'

**Earl Carr** (Wf 44-49)

21.09.31-12.05.20

Earl Carr known to most as 'Bill' sadly passed away on 12th May 2020 after contracting COVID-19.





In Bill's early years he was educated at Bloxham School, then carried out national service. Following that he undertook many business ventures. Later in his life Bill and his wife Jo emigrated to New Zealand and on his return several years later sought nothing more than to be associated with The Old Bloxhamist community, attending several dinners and events and loved meeting with old friends from Bloxham.

Towards the end of Bill's life, due to dementia, he was not able to attend further events but continued to talk with passion about his days at Bloxham.

**Jim Davidson** (Ry 80-85) RIP.

**Geoffrey Ellacott** (Cr 38-41), Geoffrey Ellacott, who attended Bloxham School during the war, has died aged 97.



Geoffrey was born in Leeds in 1923, but moved to Banbury in 1933, attending Magdalen College School, Brackley and St Louis School, Banbury before joining Bloxham School in 1938. Geoffrey was a member of Crake House. He spent one year as a day boy and two years as a boarder despite living down the road in Banbury. His father and the Headmaster felt he should not be travelling to and from school in the dark during the war. In 1941, after leaving Bloxham School, Geoffrey joined the 35th Signal training Regiment, Royal Artillery as a gunner, before transferring to the newly formed 655 Air Observation Post Squadron. After the war, during which he served in Italy and the Middle East, he embarked on a career as a chartered accountant. In 1953 he set up his own business,

which became Ellacott Stranks and Co. 10 years later. Geoffrey retired from the firm, since renamed Ellacotts, in December 1993, shortly after the death of his first wife, Jean. In 1997, Geoffrey married his second wife Rosamund. The couple moved back to live in Bloxham in 2004.

**Michael Fenton** (Wn 45-47). Michael has passed away aged 85.

**William Garland** (Wn 55-60)  
14th January 1942 - 1st April 2021  
William came to Bloxham in 1955 from Arden House Prep School in Henley in Arden in Warwickshire. He enjoyed his five years at Bloxham and made many friends. Although not particularly academic he made his mark in other areas and by 1960 he was a School Prefect, Captain of the Second XV (and also capped for several games with the First XV) and CSM of the Bloxham School CCF.



He was a key member of the backstage crew supporting the school's fine tradition of annual Shakespeare Plays and also served as Editor of The Bloxhamist. The highlight of his Bloxham career came in the summer of 1960 when, as a school prefect, he entertained Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother to tea when she visited the school to celebrate the Centenary. After leaving Bloxham William entered the construction industry, obtaining a degree in Civil Engineering and Membership of The Institution of Civil Engineers. In 1969 he set up his own construction company, which in the next thirty years grew into a major regional and national group enterprise, specialising in Design and Construction Services to industry and commerce,

backed up by a substantial property portfolio. As Chairman of the group he was also active for many years with the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and the Building Employers Confederation and as a representative of West Midlands industry generally. In his spare time William was a knowledgeable collector of fine antique furniture, clocks and paintings and also amassed a major collection of fine scale and tinplate railway models, which formed part of a lifelong fascination with all things to do with the golden age of steam.

William married Carol in 1966 and they were the proud parents of Simon, Edward and Catherine and grandparents to six grandchildren.

**Alan Whitely Grosart** (Wn 40-44). Alan Whiteley Grosart recently died aged 94 - he attended Bloxham during the Second World War having been sent there as an alternative to evacuation when his native city of Coventry was bombed. He left aged 18 to be conscripted into the Royal Marines and on to Birmingham University aged 21 to study dentistry.

**Roger Hammerton** (Wf 39-42). Roger was born in 1925 in Nuneaton, Warwickshire. After leaving Bloxham he joined the Royal Signal Corp where he served in Austria, Italy and the Isle of Man during the Second World War. After being demobbed, he studied for his Chartered Accountancy. In those days you paid for the privilege of working for an accountancy firm. For the main part of his working life, Roger was employed at the Coal Board headquarters Finance Department in Mansfield. Following a short illness Roger died peacefully on 5th April 2020, leaving behind his wife Margaret to whom he has been married for 68 years. He also had 4 children and 5 grandchildren.

**Lynn Hellberg** (Wf 52-55). Lynn passed away on 20th September 2020 aged 83. At school, he was an accomplished cross-country runner and went on to live an active life; playing tennis, skiing and generally travelling. In his later years, Lynn and his wife enjoyed sailing their yacht along the west coast of France. Lynn was adored by his family and friends and he will be sorely missed by them. Our thanks go to Ted Byron (Wf 50-55) for the news of Lynn's passing.

**Douglas Higgins** (Staff 64-70) was born in 1934 and has passed away following an operation on 17 April 2021. At



Bloxham he ran the Athletics with great efficiency and coached the Colts Cricket XI and was attached to Wilberforce House. He also organised visits by pupils to local people, long before the advent of Community Service. His former colleague Alan Griffin is uniquely placed to pay tribute to him.

'Doug Higgins and I joined Westminster Abbey Choir School in May 1947 when it reopened after the war. Our first big service was the present Queen's wedding in November 1947. Doug was popular at school and a brilliant cricketer. He became Senior Chorister in 1950. When he left he went across the road to Westminster School. I followed him there when I left the Choir School. He went back and taught at the Choir School (and so did I). Doug married the School's Assistant Matron, Phyllida Rook, and was married in Westminster Abbey.

When Doug left the Choir School, he moved to Bloxham and it was because of Doug that I became a teacher at Bloxham. Doug and Phyllida and their three children moved to Faringdon, Oxfordshire where he taught at a prep school.'

**Molly Johnson** (Egerton Society Member) wife of Colin Johnson (Cr 49-52) passed away on 8th December 2020.

**Andrew Johnson** (Wn 62-66) After a battle with illness, Andrew passed away on 7th October 2020.

**Sheila Jones** (Egerton Society Member) wife of Michael Jones (Wn 42-47) passed away on 30th July 2020.

**Timothy Lockhart** (Wf 73-78) died peaceably on November 16th 2017, after suffering from MS. Tim was a senior charge nurse in the Accident

and Emergency department in University Hospital of Wales (known at The Heath) for many years. He was also a leading figure in Amnesty International in Wales, including its treasurer for a number of years. He was also on the committee for the Welsh section of Liberty Human Rights organisation.

**David Maddocks** (Cr 48-52). David passed away on 19th October 2020. He leaves his wife, two sons and daughter along with two grandchildren. David (Joe) Maddocks attended Bloxham School between 1948-1952 and enjoyed his time in the 1st XV Rugby team of 1951.



**Ann Murray** (Staff 71-10). Ann Murray passed away aged 90 on 26th January 2021. Known to many OBs, Ann was a member of the school's catering team for 39 years. Ann was a member of the school's catering team for 39 years and retired in 2010.

**Paul Snow** (Wf 40-47). Paul passed away on 22nd August 2020.

**Robert Stevens** (Cr 54-59). Robert passed away on 31st July 2020. A tribute to him in the Leamington Spa Courier said that Robert is remembered fondly by those who knew him and will be greatly missed. Robert is survived

by his brother David, his sons Peter and Michael and his two grandchildren Corin and Tilly.

**Michael Tewson** (Wf 42-46). Michael passed away on 1st April 2020 after contracting COVID-19.

**John Turney** (Wn 77-81). JT as he was known by to many friends passed away in October 2020 after a short illness which he fought with courage and dignity.



He loved country life, agriculture, had a passion for old farm & plant machinery and motorcycles. A sense of adventure took him motorcycling in the Himalayas, Nepal and riding the sand dunes in Morocco. He is deeply missed by his family, his many friends & work colleagues at P.A.Turney Ltd.

**Sam Wadland** (Wf 44-50). Sam passed away earlier this year following some time with poor health. He was a well-respected local farmer and will be missed. Many thanks to Jim Graham (Wf 41-45) for the news of Sam's passing.



# 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
The Revd M.G. PRICE, MA, MPhil	Exeter College, Oxford	Deputy Head (Staffing and Operations); Theology	1999
Mrs J.H. SKEVINGTON, BEd	Moray House, Edinburgh	Assistant Head (Student Welfare and Pastoral Care); School DSL	1998
Mr M.D. BULL, BSc	Leeds Metropolitan University	Deputy Head (Boarding and External Communications); Seymour Housemaster	2015
Mr S.J. BATTEN, MA	Jesus College, Oxford	OB Society Resident Secretary; History	1985
Mr T.M. SKEVINGTON, BEd	Shoreditch College, London	Head of D&T	1985
Mr N. St J.D. PIGOTT, BA	University of Reading	Head of Geography	1990
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
Miss A. HICKLING, BA	Coventry Polytechnic	Head of Textiles	2002
Mrs R. LEHMANN, BA	Swansea Metropolitan University	Art	2003
Dr C.E. EVANS, MSc, PhD	University of Liverpool	Head of Careers; Geography	2004
Mrs S.K. HEATHCOTE, RGN	The Royal London Hospital	Park Close Housemistress; Girls' Games	2004
Ms C.M. McCAFFREY, MA	University of Glasgow	Modern Foreign Languages	2005
Dr D.M.M. HERRING, BTh, PhD	University of Sheffield	Head of Theology; University Admissions Tutor	2009
Mr R.S. DANN, BA, DipM	University of Coventry	Merton Housemaster; 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	Head of Data Tracking and Examinations; Physics; Chemistry	2012
Mr S.D.A. THOMPSON, BA	University of Southampton	Egerton Housemaster; Geography	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	Director of Music	2015
Mr C.J. SAUNDERS, BA	University of Keele	Lead Practitioner of Teaching and Learning; 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
Mr A.J. GRAY, BSc	University of Reading	Director of IT and Digital Strategy; Head of Computing	2016
Dr N.D.P. HOLLINWORTH, MSc, PhD	University of Reading	Computer Science; DT Technician	2016
Mrs C.M. SUMMERS, MA	Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge	Second in English	2016
Mrs J.A. COCHRAN, BA	Wolverhampton Polytechnic	Head of Lower School; Modern Foreign Languages	2016
Miss E. LESU, BA, MA	University of Warwick	Modern Foreign Languages	2016
Dr K.A. PERERA	University of London	Head of Biology	2016
Mr J.R. RAMM, BA	University of York	Music; Geography; Head of Third Form	2016
Miss J.C. SINGLE, BA	University of Loughborough	Raymond Housemistress; Drama	2017
Revd D.C. WEAVER, BTh, MTh, MLitt	University of St. Andrews	Chaplain	2017
Mr G.N. WEBBER, BSc	University of Exeter	Biology	2017
Miss J.L.H. MERRIS, MSc	University of Warwick	Head of Mathematics	2017
Mr P.G. HARVEY, Cert PCE	Warwick University	Head of Food and Nutrition	2018
Mr J.D. WALKER, BA	University of Central Lancashire	Director of Sport	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
Mr S.W. BRASSINGTON, BA, MA	University of Warwick	Director of Co-Curricular; Drama	2018
Ms C.E.R. POTTER, BA	The Open University	EAL	2018
Mrs S.J. CLITHEROE, BA	The John Moores University of Liverpool	Head of Economics and Business	2019
Mrs U.T. LILEY, MSc	University of Birmingham	Computing	2019
Mr R.S. LOWERING, BSc	University of South Wales	Seymour Assistant Housemaster; Rugby Professional	2019
Mr C.N.A. PORTER, MSC, ASCC	Cardiff Metropolitan University	Crake Assistant Housemaster; Strength and Conditioning Coach	2019
Mr J.P. RICHARDSON, BSc	University of Gloucestershire	Head of Physics	2019
Miss M. PAUL		Stonehill Assistant Housemistress; Sports Administrator	2019
Ms A. KAZEM, MA	Cambridge University	Director of Teaching and Learning; Modern Foreign Languages	2019
Dr H. WILKS, BSc, PhD	Bristol University	Chemistry; Head of Third Form	2019
Mrs C.M. BRIDGE, BSc	University of Nottingham	Mathematics	2020
Mr D.R. BOWDEN, BA	Roehampton University	Wilson Housemaster; History	2020
Mr F. BEVANS BROWN, BA	De Montfort University	Business and Economics	2020
Mrs E.J. EXELBY, BA, MA	Anglian Ruskin University	English	2020
Miss S. LAFFORD, BSc	Bristol University	Wilberforce Housemistress; Biology	2020
Mr A. ROSE, BSc	University of Birmingham	Egerton Assistant Housemaster; PE	2020
Miss L.A. SMITH, BSc, MSc	Loughborough University	Head of Hockey	2020
Mr D. BARBER, BA	University of Wales	Head of Outdoor Education	2020
Mrs E. BATE, BSc	University of Reading	Psychology; Biology	2020
Mr B.J. FORD, BSc	University of Leeds	PE	2020
Mrs N. GUZENDA, BA	Nene College	Psychology	2020
Mrs S.C. HAMILTON, BA	University of Nottingham	Drama	2020
Mrs C. LINTON, BSc	Edinburgh University	Physics	2020
Mrs K.M. SOLIE, MA	University of Minnesota	Art	2020
Miss L. WHITE, BSc	Loughborough University	Raymond Assistant Housemistress; Hockey Professional	2020
Mrs A. BOWDEN, MEd	University of Buckingham	Mathematics	2021
Miss A.B. BROGAN, BA	University of Bristol	Park Close Assistant Housemistress; Academic Graduate	2021
Miss P.A. CLARKE, MSc	St. Mary's University, London	Chemistry; Merton Assistant Housemistress	2021
Mr J. HORNSBY, BA	Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts	Head of Drama	2021
Mrs N.C. LONG, BSc	University of Portsmouth	Special Needs Co-ordinator	2021
Ms S.C. RUSSELL, MA	University of Buckingham	Geography; Business	2021
Miss G. TREEBY, MSc	University of Reading	Head of English; Head of Services	2021
Mr J. SISSONS, BSc, MSc	University of Middlesex	Strength and Conditioning Coach	2021
Miss F. STEVENS, BSc	University of Southampton	Spanish; French	2021
Mr T.D. WEYMES BA	University of Oxford	Graduate Assistant (Music)	2021



