Sport Relief 2012

On an exceptionally sunny day, Friday 23rd March saw the majority of The Blue School’s staff and students participating in many events across the school to raise money for Sports Relief.

Many took to the school field to run, walk or even crawl the Sport Relief Mile. Of course many students had come up with their own interpretation on how this should be done, including three legged races, piggy backs, lots of fabulous fancy dress and outfits and even Miss Cox, Head of Y8, strumming her ukulele as she made her way around the mile long course.

We also held a Mufti Day to help raise money for Sport Relief and many students and staff were eager to get involved raising money through a variety of sponsored activities.

The money raised is used by Comic Relief to help people living incredibly tough lives, both at home in the UK and across the world's poorest countries. It goes a long way too. From transforming the lives of people in the UK's most disadvantaged communities, or those living with poor mental or physical health, to protecting street children and providing life-saving healthcare abroad. And all that's just for starters.

We would like to thank everyone who got involved and participated, we should all be very proud as we managed to raise just over a whopping, record breaking, £3860.
The PE Department, in particular Miss Castle, spearheaded the Sport Relief campaign this year and galvanised the whole school into action. They set the school a challenge—to raise £2,500—which was more than exceeded. Their forfeit was to spend the whole day on Monday 26th March running in a relay around the school fields. The seven-strong department spent from 8.45-3.20 running and ran a massive 53 miles (76 laps of the fields) during the course of the day. They ran the final lap together, cheered on by very excited Y7 students.
London Galleries Trip

The Blue School art department got their cultural fix for the weekend on a gallery shuttle stop in the big smoke. We travelled in style catching the London Paddington train from Castle Cary with our overnight bags ready to hit the gallery streets running. London proved its inspirational reputation for the Friday visits with The National and National Portrait Gallery offering both a familiar taste of masters and some refreshing new additions, though the highlight of the day certainly evolved to be the young new fresh unseen artists on show at the Saatchi, now located off the well heeled Kings Road, Sloane Square. The work we saw there was really inspiring as we could relate to the processes and themes as well as being the way in which the artists worked.

Isa Genzken

Kinder Filmen I

Mirror, metal, adhesive tape, magazine and book pages, stamps acrylic, lacquer, spray paint.

280 x 100 cm each panel

(Wall Installation of Four Parts)

We checked into the glamorous South Kensington Youth Hostel with basic but comfortable accommodation with a huge girly room and a more bijou suite for the guys! The evening was a date with Tate Modern taking advantage of the late opening times. Then back to feed at Nando’s, which seemed to be a great deal for tired legs and inspired people.
Cork Street beckoned early Saturday morning so with an energising full English breakfast inside us we set off in the drizzle. The tube proved to be the undoing of the best laid plans and tested our directional homing devices to the maximum, though students equipped with smart phones outsmarted all the circle line tube works and we all made successful rendezvous at the street of gold for galleries. Much to our delight, a New Bond Street gallery had the most gorgeous Dale Chihuly exhibition showing which we indulged in before snaffling the Cork Street treasures. Chihuly is widely regarded as the most exciting and spectacular artist working in contemporary glass and this show certainly dazzled. A real treat to stumble upon.

Chihuly Mille Fiori

Finally for the afternoon we tube rode our way to London’s East End for a treasure hunt of Galleries and shops which certainly didn’t disappoint, the retro vintage eclectic mix of culture, art and cool was enough to keep our eyes peeled for the afternoon as well as sampling some spicy aromatic food that Brick Lane is so famous for. Brick Lane is also home to the art student’s heaven which is Atlantis Art Supplies, a warehouse of everything and anything artistic from sketchbooks to easels and unimaginable in between. With some supplies stocking therapy we made our way back to Paddington for the train home, with plans for very lazy Sunday’s the next day.
Will McCarthy Y12 Art Student wrote some snippet commentary feedback on the whole experience:

Freedom was great; being able to go off in pairs and see what we wanted to see was fantastic. Meant we didn’t need to hang around in exhibitions we didn’t like and could do things that no one else wanted to do.

Cork Street was incredible; all the galleries were really welcoming and saw far more interesting pieces than were in Tate, NPG etc. Saatchi was the best ‘big’ gallery. It was great to see successful contemporary artists.

Brick Lane didn’t have many galleries but the whole experience was incredibly inspiring and the street art was really impressive.

Nandos was pretty incredible too.

Mrs Weare
Head of Art
Notes from the BSC

The last two terms have been very busy and productive with several great new teams forming, and the rest of the BSC teams working hard and ever more visitors coming to The Blue to find out what is going on (and leaving inspired!) Last term a group of ‘High Officials’ from the Hong Kong government came to visit the Blue as they are very interested in establishing the student leadership approach pioneered at The Blue and now operating in no less than 84 schools nationally (www.learningtolead.org.uk). They were very impressed and moved by our students presentations to them.

BSC students with Hong Kong Government officials

It is only possible to write about a selection of the activities the teams are engaged in. These are student led and self elected teams.
Back in the autumn, **The Orchard Team** harvested the bumper crop from the **School Orchard** and, working with Charlie Chambers and his students, pressed and pasteurised gallons of delicious apple juice!

The orchard has been planted by successive Y7 tutor groups over the last 9 years (over 80 trees). The current Y7 were joined by Michael Eavis a few weeks ago. He planted the very first tree and joined in planting the last in this orchard. Where next?

A hardy Michael Eavis with the Future Trees Team
The Zashirye Link Team, who are progressing the first link with a school in Belarus near Chernobyl, have helped organise the delivery of three laptop computers to Zashirye School and are currently organising a fashion show on the 29th June.

**Appeal For Host Families**

Each year, **The Children of Chernobyl Trust** arrange for a group of children from Belarus to come to the UK for four weeks. They are hosted by families in the area. This makes it possible for them to come, feel safe and have a wonderful experience and a range of activities are arranged for them during their stay. Last year, for example, students from the BSC Zashirye Link Team took them on a trip to Longleat and they spent a day in our Art Department creating the most wonderful pieces.

Please consider hosting a visitor!

The dates are: Wednesday 27 June to Wednesday 25 July.

Please contact: Rosie Price on 01458 446294

Neil Mantell

Thank you
Y7 have been learning about castles in History over the last few weeks, they have learnt how castles have changed over time from the Motte and Bailey to the concentric castle. The history department runs the model competition annually and students have a couple of weeks to organise their models.

On the 25th February in the History department Motte and Bailey Castles of all shapes and sizes were steadily arriving. We had castles that ranged from those that could fit into a box to those that could only just fit through the doors! They were made out of a wide range of resources from cakes, chocolate, wood, sweets to Paper Mache and even one was made out of vegetables.

Lunch time arrived and Mr Pearson as well as the History department were on hand to judge. The competition was stiff, so many students had participated and the entries were all of a very high standard. We decided to give a range of prizes as the categories were so different, these ranged from accuracy – edible. The winner for the most accurate castle due to the Motte and the fantastic wooden Keep was Jordan Parkin.

Y7 have impressed the History Department this year not only with the number of entries but also with the imagination that they showed in their models. Well done to everyone that participated.

Miss Perkins
Head of History

‘Woorderful’ Winners At Wilder Woods

Congratulations to the following students who have recently been presented with their John Muir Discovery Awards in recognition of their Awareness and Responsibility for Wild Places:

Callum McKenna, Y9
Josh Shorland, Y9
James Dixon, Y8
Ashleigh Royce, Y8
Nurisse Burgess, Y7
Courtney Cox, Y7
Tom Nicholson, Y7

All the students have been participating, every Tuesday, in Forest School at Hallr Woods West Charlton.

Mrs Mellish, Team Leader for Learning Support, who has organised the activity in conjunction with the Central Somerset Outdoor Learning Partnership, said the students were being introduced to a range of skills that developed a basic awareness of Woodland Management. This included planning, maintenance and felling of trees, conservation tasks and participating safely with tools.

“The students are really thriving in this small, nurturing environment which is increasing their self-esteem and confidence as well as improving their collaborative and social skills. It has been a real pleasure to see them thrive,” added Mrs Mellish.

Tom, Josh and Callum are shown how to use tools safely during Forest School under the watchful eye of Deb Millar, one of the tutors at Forest School.

K Mellish
SENCo
‘For The Love Of It’

January saw the Department’s Fourth Exhibition in our re-styled Milton Gallery and high profile Exhibition Rooms (Mr Hopkin’s and Mr Jackson’s Offices). ‘For The Love Of It’ earned its reckless title for its collection of outrageously beautiful, ambitious, thought provoking work from our A Level and GCSE Students.

We are incredibly lucky to have creative departments filled with dedicated, hardworking students who love what they do and do what they love. We were also delighted to share the limelight with Drama, Dance, Textiles, Food Technology and The Blue Lounge Radio in our collaborative showcase.

Here are a few comments received from the evening:

‘I think all the work is of a very high standard – well done!’
‘excellent evening, excellent food, excellent idea!’
‘stunning level of work and very diverse’
‘excellent exhibition – some real talent on show’
‘great effort by students and staff, a London Gallery would be proud to show art of this standard’
‘Macbeth was excellent’
‘the food was lush!’
‘We came for Macbeth but were also so impressed with the quality of the whole evening. A super showcase of art, food, drama and music! Thank you.’
‘a very exciting show – many congratulations to all the exhibitors’
Y9 Battlefields Trip

On a very cold Friday morning, 40 Y9 students and 5 staff gathered at Milton turning circle at 6.45am ready for the visit to the First World War Battlefields of Ypres and the Somme. Everyone was there on time, and we waved Wells goodbye as the sun was slowly rising in the sky. The feeling amongst the students was of excitement as they headed off for a foreign adventure.

The trip to Dover, apart from the odd bout of potential travel sickness, off-set by the sitting on newspaper trick, was uneventful. We arrived at Dover in good time, only to find that despite the calm seas, the ferry was running 45 minutes late. When we eventually boarded the students set off to explore, and came into contact with the 3 other schools that would be sharing the Chateau in Rue with us. After arriving in Calais at 4.15pm we set off on the hour long journey to Rue. The students were now quite excited at the prospect of what lay ahead. After settling into the accommodation, and having dinner, the students participated in a quiz before the real work started. On the first evening we set the scene for the next few days by getting the students to annotate a number of sources and WW1 poems.

Saturday dawned cold and bright, but there had been a flutter of snow overnight. The students set off for Ypres at 8.20am, and as we neared the Belgian border, the amount of snow lying around increased. By the time we reached our first destination of Essex Farm cemetery it was to find it lying under a blanket of snow. The students spent some time here investigating the key features of Commonwealth War Graves, and also the front line dressing stations as used by Captain John McCrae during 1915. It was here that McCrae was inspired to write ‘In Flanders Fields’, from where the symbol of the poppy was adopted by the Royal British Legion as a mark of commemoration.

From Essex Farm we moved onto Langemarck German Cemetery, a scene which never fails to make students draw comparisons between the treatment of British and German soldiers who died in the First World War. It was near here that Harry Patch served during his time in Belgium. Students then visited the Hooge Crater cemetery, and museum, and it was here that we laid our first poppy wreath of the trip. We had discovered the grave of Harry Mogg, a former ‘Boy from the Blue’ who had died during the Great War. Larry Phimister and Sam Harris laid a poppy wreath here to remember his sacrifice, and those of the other ‘boys’ from Wells and the surrounding area that lost their lives in this conflict.
After visiting Sanctuary Wood Museum, the students then moved onto Tyne Cot Cemetery, the largest Commonwealth Graves cemetery in the world. The 12,500 graves here contrasted sharply with the over 40,000 German soldiers buried in the considerably smaller Langemarck cemetery. At Tyne Cot the students undertook an exercise looking at particular graves, and focusing on what they felt the scene and area conveyed to them. This work was to prove invaluable in the preparation of their final piece of written work. After Tyne Cot the students had some free time in Ypres, before we participated in the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate. This takes place every day at 8pm, and this year the poppy wreath was laid by Alice Meen and Bea de Quidt. Despite the cold the girls wore only their school uniform in a mark of respect to those that had fallen on the Ypres Salient.

The Sunday morning was even colder, and this time we had more than a fluttering of snow. As we made our way down to the Somme we followed in the tracks of the snow plough along the auto route. However, by the time we reached the museum at Albert, the snow had disappeared. The students were given a talk about weapons of the Great War at Albert and Tori Thompson dressed up as a British Tommy from the Great War to show the different equipment that the soldiers had to carry. We then visited the museum, which is based in the tunnels that sit below Albert itself. The golden Madonna on the church in Albert was an important symbol during the Great War as, although this was hit by shelling, the Madonna never fell. It was said that if she fell from the church then France would be lost.

After the museum, the students visited a number of key sites, including the Devonshire trench; Lochnager crater site; Pozieres cemetery; the tank memorial, and finally Thiepval. It was at Thiepval that the final wreath of the trip was laid by Georgina Burns and William McCudden-Hughes. This site commemorates those British and South African troops who lost their lives on the Somme between 1914 and March 1918, but for whom no body was ever identified. There are over 73,000 names on this memorial. Those who lost their lives after March 1918 are commemorated on the walls surrounding Pozieres cemetery, and there are over 14,500 names here which have no body.
On the Sunday evening the students started to write their final piece based on all the experiences of the trip so far. The pieces that are being written will be put into a final presentation booklet which will be handed out during the presentation evening, which will be held at the end of March.

The final activity of the trip was the French questionnaire that the students undertook at Cite Europe outside Calais on the Monday morning. Students were split into small groups to interview shoppers in French on their shopping habits, and whether they had ever been to England. They also had to record their answers in French in their booklets. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to put their learning of French into action, and they all managed to get some great results (as well as many crepes!).

Finally, on the way home a number of prizes (Mr Men books - in French of course!) were handed out to students who had impressed on the trip. These included Ruben Paddick, Larry Phimister, Lena Moule, Bethany Husband, Eloise Nelson, Emma Jevons, Mr Rowe and Mr Crumb! We all finally returned home to Wells at 7.30pm on the Monday evening.

We can honestly say that the students impressed us hugely with their attitudes towards the tasks set, and their thoughtfulness and enthusiasm during the trip. We look forward now to the presentation evening where the results of their writing can be shared with a wider audience. Thanks to everyone involved in the trip for making it such a success.

Dr Jamieson, 9 February 2012.

Millfield Maths Competition

On Wednesday 21 March I took seven students to Millfield School to compete in the Maths competition that they run each year. The students competed as a team of four and a second team of three; unfortunately their fourth member was unable to be present. The competition combines mathematical, communications and teamwork skills and offered students another way to express and develop their enjoyment of mathematics. After three hours of testing problem solving and in the face of stiff competition it was announced that there was a tie for second place: the Millfield A team and the Blue School B team had tied on 151 points. After a significant pause the winning team was announced – The Blue School A team!!!

It was a very successful evening, and a bonus of winning first and second place capped the enjoyment they had all had throughout the evening. The students accepted their certificates and thanked their hosts, Millfield School. It was a great evening, very well organised and will doubtless stick in the memory of those students that competed.

Well done to Isabel Cooley, Anna Williams, Simon Bevan, Ben Tindal, Joe Pillinger, Luke Lyons and Henry Mansfield.

Mr Dixon

Public Speaking Competition

On the Evening of Wednesday 29 February our team at the Public Speaking Competition did brilliantly. Although we didn’t go through, we were very tough competition for the team that did.

Emma Jevons certainly made us very proud when she won the medal for ‘Best Speaker’ of the competition. Please congratulate her if you see her, it is an amazing achievement!

Miss Bennett

English
Cross Country
After a successful Mendip Cross Country Championships, a number of Blue School students were selected to represent the area in the County Cross Country Championships at Millfield.

On Saturday 21st January, a cold blustery day, all the athletes ran well and did themselves and the school proud.

Our congratulations go to Aoife Thorogood 13EC, Esme Sheridan 12TP, Ruby Kelly (12BX), Sam Harding (12EW), James Williams (9RA), Megan Rusca (9MW), Alex Williams (7JG) and Tom Syddall (7DE).

A number of these students will represent the County in the South West Cross Country Championships and for the older runners in the National Championships which will take place at Ilton in Somerset this year.

Good luck to those Athletes!
Mr Dixon

Biathlon
On Sunday 22nd January a small number of our students went to Bath for the Semi Finals of the National Biathlon Championships. The standard of competition was very high but the three competitors from the Blue School: Alex (7JG) and James Williams (9RA) and Ross Long (10PP), who entered for the first time, ran and swam very well but unfortunately missed out on qualifying for the Nationals. With the semi-finals taking place over the next few weeks they may well qualify by dint of their times.

Well done to all three of these athletes who all performed very well, hopefully we will have a few more students entering and getting to this stage in the future years.

Mr Dixon

Y12 – Civil rights Conference Wednesday 19 March
As part of the civil rights unit in Y12 we take AS students to a highly useful revision conference in London. This covers key aspects of the course and is well timed – coming up to the summer examinations. Eleven students from Y12 participated; the lecture topics included: living conditions, Martin Luther King, opposition and black power. The students were all engaged and took some fantastic notes that should help them gain greater context for the civil rights unit. Lots of students have said how useful this conference is and how it has helped them in starting their revision. The students also had the opportunity to have lunch in Camden, before heading back for more discussion about civil rights, from experts in the field.

Miss Perkins
Head of History
6TH FORM BTEC SPORT TRIPS

Making the most of an excellent sporting year, the level 3 BTEC sport students, together with Miss Castle and Mrs Holland, made the journey north to Birmingham and the NIA to sample some of the best sporting events that athletes across the globe could muster.

The first trip back in November was to watch the Trampolining and Tumbling World Championships. On the day of our visit we were privileged to see both the men and the women compete not only for the World title but for the final few places left at the 2012 Olympic Games. We were able to watch athlete after athlete spinning and twisting through the air in the most amazing of gravity defying routines, many of which contained triple and double somersaults linked scarily one after the other. It was an awe-inspiring sight made even more knuckle-biting as on a couple of occasions the performer did not manage to land on the trampoline.

At the time we watched the event, the students were preparing for their own in-house competition and seeing such talent displayed before them only served to galvanise efforts further and displace some of the nerves for such a key event. Just like the World Championships themselves, our event was won by the pre-competition favourite (Sam Edwards) although perhaps without the panache of the Chinese men that ran out eventual world Champions in 1st and 2nd spot.

Our second venture to the West Midlands was for the Yonex All England Open Badminton Championships and once again we were treated to an amazing display of athleticism and determination. I had never seen high level badminton and it was one of the most amazing live sporting events that I have been lucky enough to see.

It was a phenomenally quick and dynamic game that once again left you pretty much speechless. All the best badminton players in the world were there and matches were fiercely contested events with many going to three games.

As a result of some extended games earlier in the day we did not get a chance to see our favourite player Nathan Robertson but we did see several epic games involving the Brits, the highlight of which was watching Chris Adcock and Imogen Bankier beat Indonesian rivals in a three game thriller. They eventually went on to the final where unfortunately they got beaten.

Badminton proved to be great spectator sport and it was a fantastic opportunity for the students to see such amazing performances live, especially as they had watched many of the badminton greats via You Tube when studying the sport as part of their practical sport unit earlier in the year.

Mrs Holland
The Blue School Amnesty International Group recently organised, promoted and delivered a very exciting lunch hour full of dodgeball expertise. Fifty Y13 students took on the ultra competitive staff hoping to become victorious. The crowd was enormous, all paying for the privilege to watch the staff have a ball thrown at them! After a highly competitive and fast first game the sixth form defeated the staff comfortably who immediately challenged them to a rematch. This time the staff won (just) meaning a 1-1 draw overall.

The event raised over £200 for Amnesty International and was clearly enjoyed by all. Thank you to the staff and Year 13 students for giving up their time to take part. Well done to the Amnesty International group who have raised a lot of money for the charity over the last two years. We wish the Year 13 students involved the best of luck for their exams and future.
Football Tournament - Learning Support

Two teams from The Blue School have been entered in the Somerset Football Association Ltd – Inclusive School League Festival which takes place at Buckler’s Mead School in Yeovil on Wednesday 28 March, Wednesday 18 April and Wednesday 16 May 2012.


Newly signed team manager Harry Redknapp, aka Mrs Mellish, and head coaches Steven Gerrard, aka Mr Higgins and Mr Crumb, pseudonym to be decided, said the students would be having a number of team building sessions between the matches to help the students bond and hone their skills.

‘The students are looking forward to the tournament which we hope will attract schools throughout Somerset,’ added Mrs Mellish. “It is an exciting opportunity for everyone involved and gives the students the chance to show off their skills!”

Results will be posted in the next newsletter!

K Mellish

SENCo
We warmly invite you to our annual West Country

GAP YEAR FAIRS 2012

Bournemouth: Canford School, Wimborne, Monday 25 June, 4 - 6.30pm
Bath: Prior Park College, Tuesday 26 June, 4 - 6.30pm
Bristol: Bristol Grammar School, Wednesday 27 June, 4 - 6.30pm
Exeter: Exeter University, Thursday 28 June, 4 - 6.30pm

Who we are and what we offer:

Since 1998 Gap Year Fairs, a voluntary organisation, has provided free impartial information and advice for post-16 students on taking a gap year or shorter periods of overseas volunteering and career experience. We monitor the gap year market. We invite and recommend only those organisations which offer an educational experience through ethical, value-for-money projects.

We regularly visit schools and colleges in the West Country, giving gap year talks and attending careers and higher education events and parents evenings. The focus is on:

The potential benefits of a well-spent gap year
A sense of achievement and ‘giving something back’
A chance for young people to reconsider their plans for the future
Skills & experiences that universities and employers are looking for
Better long-term employment prospects
Fun and new friends

Some suggestions for gap year projects:

Teach English in a school in rural Malawi? Live under canvas on a wildlife project in Tanzania? Work in an orphanage with HIV-infected children in South America? Build clean water systems for remote villages in NW Thailand? Work alongside doctors in rural India? Build primary school classrooms for African villages? Do scientific research while trekking in jungles or arctic wildernesses? Study Art History in Venice? Get professional paid work with major UK companies? Play, coach, be coached in your chosen sport in Australia? Work abroad at children’s camps and activity centres? Become a ski or watersports instructor?

Admission free, no need to book, everybody welcome.

For further information and for free impartial information and advice:
telephone (01225) 316593 or e-mail gapyearfairs.lockhart@virgin.net
Tesco for School

Tesco for Schools and Clubs is a long running and very successful scheme that last year gave over 440,000 pieces of equipment worth over £9.3m to schools and clubs around the country.

Last year, with your support, a massive 21,000 vouchers were collected by The Blue School. These vouchers were converted to some much needed items, including:

- a DVD player
- 2 cameras
- 4 video cameras
- whiteboards
- Stationery supplies and mousemats

This year's scheme is underway with vouchers being issued by Tesco stores until May 2012.

We would welcome your support to try and beat last year's figure. A collection box for the vouchers is located in Reception.

Thank you!

Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop will be closed from Thursday 29th March and will re-open on Saturday 14th April, 10am—12.30pm.

Diary Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 16 April</td>
<td>Return to school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 27 April</td>
<td>MUFTI DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 17 May</td>
<td>Y8 Parents evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 24 May</td>
<td>Y7 Parents evening</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wishing you all a Happy Easter!
from all of us at The Blue