

# Blackwater Lent Term 2019



There is always so much to pack into the Lent term, which has made for a productive, satisfying and somewhat tiring few months! Above you can see a selection of photos of the Blackwater girls involved in College life. These include Flo, Mimi and Chelsea in the final of the Young musicians' competition; Bella, Lily, Becca, Charlotte, Amelia, Saffy and Megan at the regional fives tournament; Lizzie and Honey receiving their Gold DofE certificates; Amelia taking 1st place in the 90cm jump equestrian event; Imo in the play Hedda Gabler; Sasha in the regional heat of ARTiculation; and Olivia and Abby at a debating competition. This newsletter will give you a flavour of some of the house events that have taken place alongside the College routine.



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success!



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# International Womens' Day 2019



The Blackwater girls were at the forefront of celebrating and recognising this significant day. They hosted the banner on which countless members of the College community including pupils, teachers and governors wrote what made them proud of the women in our community and many of them took part in a video montage celebrating women.

## WOMEN AT THE HELM

Milly and Maisie have been nominated for the Young Achievers award for their outstanding efforts and influence on the Young Enterprise team. Maddie and the rest of team 'Unum' have invested hours into their jewellery company, with impressive success on a number of levels. Here they are at one of the parent / teacher meetings, selling their wares:



# Inter House Events

There was a great deal of success in the inter-house sporting events this term, which saw Blackwater finishing the term in first place for the overall house sports competition. The girls won first place in both squash and netball and second place in the first house swimming competition in the new swimming pool in the Winn building. The girls showed great team spirit in all events and it was lovely to see so many of their friends on the sidelines giving them support and to have the excuse for celebrations afterwards!



Junior and Senior netball teams who both finished in 1st place



The squash victors (minus Elo)



House swimming supporters

# House Revue

Our able comperes Liv and Lizzie hosted an evening of entertainment for Blackwater family and friends. Our audience were treated to solo performances from Cerys, Jane, Poppy and Bella and some Irish dancing from Abi, as well as year group performances including dances from the year 9s, 10s and 12s and videos from the year 11s and 13s. Over £500 was raised through the raffle for The Chaseley Trust.



## A CAPELLA

The a capella group pulled off a beautiful rendition of *Angel* at the inter-house competition in the final week of term. They were unfortunate not to place and will be back fighting next year!



## YEAR 9 CEILIDH



## YEAR 11 POST MOCK DINNER



# Work hard, play hard



## Tech issues



This term there has been a big push on creating a consciousness of online behaviour. This has included Headmaster's assemblies and a prefects' chapel with the slogan "If you wouldn't say it in real life, don't say it online". We have a "Speak out" culture at the College and encourage pupils not to be bystanders to unacceptable behaviours. This might be by addressing it face on or by reporting it to you or their teachers. Please do push this message at home too so that we can ensure that the values that we are all trying to instil in our teenagers are also mirrored online.

On the subject of technology, I came across a poignant video created by the HMC and Digital Awareness UK (<https://youtu.be/i9uydDEez3c>) which I wanted to share with you. It deals with tech addiction, an all too prevalent issue in our society. It is certainly food for thought and I am sure that we could all gain something from reflecting on its message.

### Top tech tips:

- Keep mobile devices out of bedrooms at night. A communal family charging station can help train this habit. A BBC survey found that 1/10 teenagers admitted to checking their phones at least 10 times per night!
- Some house rules regarding devices that are applicable to the whole family will help establish boundaries and encourage conversation.
- If your daughter speaks to you about inappropriate behaviour online then encourage her to screenshot anything that can be used to hold the perpetrator to account. Many teenagers like to use snapchat and the difficulty with this app is that photos disappear after a short while and the sender is notified if a screenshot is taken of an image. A way around this is to take a photo using a separate device.
- It is worth remembering that all our year 9 and 10 boarders hand their phones and iPads in at night. This info might allow you to do the same without feeling like the bad guy!
- Many of our pupils don't wear a watch and so use their phones to check the time. A basic watch would allow them to leave phones at home/in their lockable drawer/in their bags while allowing them to stay organised and punctual.
- Most teenagers argue that the reason they need their phone in their room at night is because they use it as an alarm clock. Do them a favour and get them an old fashioned alarm clock!

## Key information for next term

Term starts on Wednesday 24 April. Girls can have access to Blackwater on Tuesday 23 between 8am and 8pm to drop off their belongings.

Monday 6 April is a bank holiday and forms part of our Exeat (Sunday and Monday).

Study Leave starts for year 11 on Monday 13 May.

Study Leave starts for year 13 on Saturday 18 May.

*Throughout study leave all fixtures must be fulfilled and pupils that choose to come into school must attend all of their school commitments (meals and chapel) in their uniform. Study leave forms will be sent home closer to the time.*

*All pupils are expected back for prize giving and sports day on Friday 28 June and Speech Day on Saturday 29 June.*

18/5 Grandparents' visit and reception (Eastbournian Society)

Half term starts on Friday 24 May at 4.15pm. Lessons resume on Monday 3 June. 24/5

Year 9 options meeting for parents and pupils 5pm.

Week beginning 10/6 Internal exams for years 9, 10 and 12.

Term ends after Speech Day on Saturday 29 June.

### Uniform

- As we move into the warmer weather, please ensure that your daughter wears a neutral colour bra/ vest so that this is not seen through her shirt.
- There are a handful of girls who are wearing skirts that are too short. Both kilts and suit skirts should sit on the kneecap. The holidays present the perfect opportunity to purchase a new better fitting **one**. Any girl returning to school with an unsuitable skirt will be asked to purchase a new one in the school shop. Gill will arrange for the charge to be put on the school bill.
- As per my email a few weeks ago, the College uniform rules state that all pupils should be travelling to and from school in their full uniform - among other reasons to avoid items being left at home. There are too many instances of blazers or ties or shoes being left at home. Please ensure that your daughter has everything she needs for the school day.