

# hoc age

Autumn 2011

## a note from the head

I am delighted to be writing my first *welcome* to the Hoc Age newsletter. It was a great pleasure to be able to attend this term's Art Exhibition and Open Day. I was hugely impressed with the artwork on display and the atmosphere at Open Day. It was obvious to see how proud the pupils are of their school. Elspeth and I were touched by the warm welcome we received from staff, parents, pupils and former pupils and look forward to meeting more of you in the New Year.

*Kevin Riley*



## farewell

I have immensely enjoyed my time at BGS, indeed it has been a great privilege to be Headmaster of this wonderful school. There is much I shall miss including fantastic colleagues both teaching and non-teaching but above all it will be the boys and girls. There cannot be a more rewarding career than one which involves you with the brightest and most enthusiastic young people.

I am so lucky to have the year as High Sheriff to follow; it will be exciting and hopefully provide me with further opportunities to promote BGS and Bradford.

*Stephen Davidson*

## lord mayor's parade

BGS was delighted to lead the Lord Mayor's Parade and support its former pupil, David Wootton, as he became the Lord Mayor of the City of London. David attended BGS between 1960 and 1969 and was Deputy Head Boy and Captain of Boats. After studying Classics at Cambridge University, he became an international corporate lawyer and is a Partner with Allen and Overy. David's theme for the parade was Fit for Life. The School float followed this theme and incorporated rowing and the Olympics.

David began a lifelong love of rowing during his time at BGS and it will be the London 2012 Olympics during his term of office. The School's senior rowers, some of whom are the current world record holders, rowed on the back of the float throughout the parade. Former pupils taking part included Richard Nerurkar MBE. Richard won the English National Cross-Country Championship three times and twice finished in the top twenty in the World Cross-Country Championships. He still holds the British record for 10 miles of 46:02, set in October 1993. Boris Rankov led Oxford to victory in the Boat Race six times between 1978 and 1983, this led to the *Rankov Rule* preventing him from taking part again.



The evening before the parade David invited the whole school party, including former pupil and Olympic Gold medal winner Adrian Moorhouse OBE, to Mansion House for drinks with his immediate family and friends. The pupils were a credit to the School and their families throughout the weekend. During the parade the thirty-three pupils, four members of staff and six former pupils received a fantastic response from the media and the 600,000+ crowd.



## junior school assemblies

The Junior School has had a number of excellent assemblies this year. They started with an assembly by Mrs Morris and J6M on New Beginnings, to welcome new pupils to the School.

Miss Howes and J5H held an assembly on School Rules, discussing all aspects of school life and why rules are required.

An assembly introducing a Health and Safety competition by Barry Thorne, the School's Health and Safety Officer, was given in September, and from it followed a full PSHCE programme where Barry spoke to all classes in turn, informing them of safety in school and at home.

The assembly by J5N took place on Challenges featuring those who succeed against all the odds and keep aiming high.

J4W did an assembly with Mrs Watts on New Horizons. This suggested children look into the future, set targets, and go for it and finished with the phrase if you aim for the moon and miss you are still among the stars.

The Bradford and Bingley tag rugby club, the Bees, gave an assembly encouraging pupils not only to join their club but to get out and get active.

Miss Anna Brown's Saxophone assembly encouraged pupils to take up the instrument.

Miss Clucas presented an assembly on the Junior School's links with Kenya. The pupils saw pictures and mini clips from two different children's homes showing a thank you message for the gifts they had received.

Paul Smales, the DT teacher with hidden talents, gave a whole school woodwind assembly. He played Flute, Piccolo, Alto Flute, Oboe, Alto Sax, Soprano Sax, Tenor Sax, Baritone Sax, Alto Clarinet, Bass Clarinet and a B flat Clarinet. The assembly came to a wonderful finale when he played *I've got rhythm* using all of the instruments in turn.

These assemblies were in addition to the Headmaster's assembly, held each Friday, when good work and behaviour awards are given. A book is kept in reception listing the pupils' good deeds for parents to see.



## open day

Open Day is always a special day in the School calendar. Every aspect of the School community comes together to welcome visitors to BGS, quite often for the first time. It was wonderful to see last year's magnificent record attendance numbers almost matched. There were many overwhelming comments regarding the activities, the facilities and the pupils and staff on the day. Clock House had so many guests wanting to look round that current parents had to step in and help with tours. A big thank you to all involved.

## south pole

At the beginning of December, current parent Professor Adam Carey took part in an expedition to the South Pole. Adam has very generously offered to raise funds for the Stephen Davidson Bursary Fund. If you would like to sponsor Adam for this amazing challenge and read more about why he chose the Bursary Fund at Bradford Grammar School, please visit <http://www.justgiving.com/Adam-Carey>. Once at the South Pole Adam will raise the Bradford Grammar Junior School flag. Adam is pictured with the Junior School flag at the North Pole.



After over fifteen successful years as Headmaster of Bradford Grammar School Stephen Davidson is retiring.

During that time, the School has flourished – becoming fully co-educational, enjoying exceptional results in public examinations, and developing the highest-quality learning and sporting facilities that are the envy of the independent school sector. It is a tribute to good stewardship that all of this has been achieved with the School remaining debt free.

Under Stephen's leadership, the School has gone from strength to strength. Probably closest to his heart, however, is the pride he feels in the School's means-tested Bursary Fund which enables around one hundred and twenty boys and girls to benefit each year from studying at Bradford Grammar School. The scheme provides financial assistance to girls and boys who pass the entrance examination but whose parents require some assistance in respect of the fees.

Stephen is passionate about the Fund and the opportunities it provides for families who might not otherwise be able to afford to send their children to the School as well as the social diversity that it brings to the School community.

Stephen has marked his retirement by creating an additional Bursary that will help young boys and girls benefit from coming to this remarkable school. It is a testament to his headship that this fund has now exceeded £100,000, a huge thank you to all who have donated. The fund will remain open until the 31 January 2012 for further contributions.

For further information on how to make a donation please e-mail Marie Sugden, Marketing & Development Manager, at [marie@bradfordgrammar.com](mailto:marie@bradfordgrammar.com)

We wish Stephen and Carol a long and healthy retirement, and wish them well for the year ahead as High Sheriff of West Yorkshire.

# music

The Senior Orchestra was honoured to be invited to play at the official opening of composite can group, Weidenhammer's new £10m site in Bradford. Construction of the 11,000sqm site finished in July and was officially opened by the Lord Mayor of Bradford and by Joachim Baron von Marschall, an official from the German Embassy in London.

This year's Christmas Concert was a wonderful, festive evening and was made all the more special with a few extra items for Stephen Davidson, as he attended his last concert as Headmaster of BGS. Each of the School's ensembles entertained the Price Hall audience with a huge range of music including challenging pieces such as the Concert Band's *Riverdance* and the Choral Scholars' performance of John Tavener's *The Lamb*.



# interfaith forum

On a windswept autumn day, a group of Bradford Grammar School pupils set out to visit the Shree Lakshmi Narayan Hindu Temple and the Guru Gobind Singh Gurdwara.

Arriving at the Mandir, they were met by Mrs Seema Bhutoo of the Interfaith Education Centre. Having washed their hands (a customary procedure in the Mandir and Gurdwara) they were led through the picturesque arched doorways to the main prayer hall. The pupils were taken aback by the great beauty of the alabaster prayer stage, home to many idols of gods and adorned in garlands of fragrant jasmine and bellflowers. The clean, crisp air accompanied by the chiming of the bell made the ambience of the room one of peace and tranquillity. After an interesting talk by Seema, they were given the chance to explore the hall and activities of the Mandir. One such activity was the habitual washing of the Lord Shiva's Idol, followed by the handing out of Prasad (food that has been accepted and blessed by the Lord) which consisted of fruit and sweets.

On entering the Gurdwara, after taking off shoes, washing hands and covering heads with handkerchiefs, the pupils were met by the Vice-President of the Gurdwara committee. They had an interesting tour including the vast hall where many of the ceremonies and prayers are conducted. This was a fascinating experience and the trip gave a real insight into the wider picture of these two major religions.

# organ scholarship

Henry Websdale started as Organ Scholar at Bradford Cathedral in September 2011, having spent a year studying Piano and Bassoon at Leeds College of Music with Yorkshire Young Musicians.

Henry studies the organ with Edward Scott and passed his grade 8 with Distinction in early 2011. He is taking an ABRSM performance diploma in December and is hoping to take an Associateship Diploma for the Royal College of Organists in the summer of 2012. Henry played at various Bradford Organists Association recitals



throughout the year and took part in a master class with Gordon Stewart, alongside students from the RNCM, as part of the West Yorkshire organ day. Henry had great success at this year's Wharfedale Music Festival, winning the Senior and Advanced Organ categories and being awarded the public recital at Christ Church, Skipton in May 2012. In February 2011, Henry visited King's College, Cambridge, to play the organ for Stephen Cleobury, the Director of Music. Henry has singing lessons with James Griffet and has sung in performances of Durufle's *Requiem*, Handel's *Messiah*, Haydn's *Harmoniema* and also Haydn's *Insanae et Vanae Curae* with Cantores, *Olicanne*.

# secret santa

Bradford Grammar School pupils from all year groups have made a fantastic effort to support the Bradford Junior Chamber of Commerce, Secret Santa Appeal. For the ninth year running pupils, with help from Mrs Smales, have raised enough money to purchase an astonishing two hundred and sixty-four gifts which will be distributed to underprivileged children in West Yorkshire.



# barnardos young carers

Bradford Grammar School is running a joint project with Barnardos to help support young carers in their learning. Eleven Sixth Form pupils have volunteered for the project and are undergoing training by Barnardos to enable them to become mentors to the Young Carers. Courses held at Barnardos training centre and e-learning include Child Protection and Equality and Diversity. These skills and knowledge will help the pupils become better mentors as well as helping them in their future careers.

Following the Christmas break it is hoped that a number of young carers and staff from Barnardos will attend BGS one evening each week to obtain help and support in their academic studies and to help prepare them for future examinations. Peer group support will hopefully help and encourage the pupils, who have lost time in their studies, and eventually improve their academic record.

The Netball Parents' Association has also forged links with Barnardos Young Carers and raised money at the Christmas Fair to donate to this scheme. A group of young carers visited BGS the evening before the Christmas Fair to meet Santa in his grotto and take part in activities such as having their faces painted by Santa's Elves.

# classics italy trip

This year's Junior Classics trip to the Bay of Naples began with an afternoon in the Naples Archaeological Museum, exploring their collections of Roman paintings, statues and mosaics, before driving on to the hotel in Piano di Sorrento. Warm sunshine on this first day gave way to some spectacular stormy weather on the following one, and the disappointing news that the top of Vesuvius was closed to visitors because of high winds. Although the tour of Herculaneum was a wet one, with thunder and lightning making it quite exciting at times, the rain had cleared by the time the group reached the magnificent imperial villa at Oplontis. The last day of the trip was blessed with good weather again. This was spent at Pompeii, exploring the amphitheatre, theatre, forum and various shops and houses. Pupils had the chance to see the setting of their First Year *Cambridge Latin Course* stories first hand, and to wander around the streets where Caecilius once walked. The final evening was spent eating pizzas and ice creams in Sorrento, before flying home the next morning.



# sailing

Hector Simpson began sailing at the age of five, in a thirty year old dinghy called a Topper whilst holidaying in Northumberland, attached to his father by rope. He enjoyed the challenge of mastering the boat on the sea in all weathers. Hector has now outgrown his Topper and has moved on to a bigger dinghy called a Laser. The Royal Yachting Association (RYA) has an Olympic pyramidal programme starting with the most basic level called the Zone Squad. Hector sailed three qualifying regattas and was one of ten children who were successfully selected for the North Zone. The next level of the pyramid was National Squad and after completing numerous regattas all over the country, he was successful at the age of fourteen to be one of ten in the country to be selected. This led to attending many regattas and winter training weekends based in the south of England. The RYA, as well as offering first-class coaching, gives nutritional support and asks sport physiotherapists to educate the sailors in the importance of core stability and aerobic and anaerobic exercise. Fitness is paramount and Hector supplements his sailing with sessions in the school gym, cycling and running. He also sails regularly at his home club, Grimshaw Reservoir. The hard work has paid off and he is now in the Youth Squad, which is one level down from the Olympic Development Squad.



# battlefields

During the October half term GCSE History students made the annual trip to the battlefields of the Somme, the tunnels and trenches at Vimy Ridge and the preserved trenches at Ypres. These visits, coupled with periods of study, enhanced their learning and understanding of World War History. The party also saw the vast cemeteries which added to the moving and thought provoking experience.



# hockey

In the recent Bradford Schools' Tournament the U13 A & B squads played some fantastic hockey. The U13B team were a creditable third place after winning two games, losing two and drawing one. The U13A team took the winning title and were unbeaten in all matches with some convincing score lines.

The U12 teams are becoming a force to be reckoned with. Score lines in recent weeks have included 10-0 against St Bede's, Manchester, and 12-0 against Ashville.

# rugby

This term has seen a high number of Bradford Grammar School rugby players selected to represent the District, Yorkshire and the North of England. It is particularly pleasing to see so many District players coming through the younger age groups. Congratulations to Matt Beaumont and Seb Tullie U18 Yorkshire, Jack Crabtree U17 Yorkshire and Sam Melville U16 Yorkshire and North of England. Fourth Form pupils George Worthington, Joe Hargreaves, Matt Chivers, James Downey, Sam Ogden, Greg Cox and Alex Robinson have all been selected for the U15 District squad. Well done to Third Form pupils Callum Manchester, James Pinder, Harry Sagar, Adam Waring and Isaac Greene who have all been selected for the District U14 squad.

# art exhibition

On Friday 30 September at 6pm Bradford Grammar School held its bi-annual Art Exhibition. This event is held predominantly to showcase the huge variety and quality of work produced by its pupils and staff. There were over four hundred and thirty pieces of original art work on display throughout the evening. Many visitors attended including pupils, staff, former pupils, governors, former staff, parents, former parents and benefactors.



This year was extra special for a number of reasons: it was the first held by the new Head of Art, Josie Barraclough, and the first event at the School for the incoming Headmaster, Kevin Riley.

The Exhibition included a Hockney Room. In this room original art pieces which have been donated to the School by former pupil David Hockney were on show. The main picture was brought over for the evening from Cartwright Hall where it is usually stored; this is a rarely seen piece known as *View of Bradford from Earl's Court*. Paul Hockney, former Lord Mayor of Bradford and former pupil of Bradford Grammar School, also very kindly lent six pieces of his own original art work to add to the Exhibition. It is thought to be the only time that both brothers have displayed pieces together.

The whole event was co-ordinated by local artist and teacher Henry Thornton with the help of the Art Department staff.



# young musician of the year

Jordan Murray competed in the European Drum Corps Championships in Kerkrade. Each corps competes in its own country throughout the year with the top fifteen qualifying for the European finals. Those fifteen compete against each other with the top ten going through to a grand finale. The Company (Jordan's corps) surpassed themselves and took the title by a clear margin.

This has been Jordan's first year leading the front ensemble and has involved him teaching both percussion and synthesizer and arranging music for the various instruments involved. He has received recognition and commendation from judges across Europe and America.

Jordan was again crowned Young Musician of the Year at the British Youth Band finals in November. He won the seventeen and under categories in percussion and mallets and achieved the highest score of the day for his performance on marimba. Jordan also received a special commendation from the BYBA Chairman for his contribution to youth music.



# british science festival

At the beginning of term all pupils from the Junior School Years Five and Six visited the British Science Festival held at Bradford College. The pupils took part in a variety of science investigations involving Chemistry, sight and sound, birds of prey, science of the circus, forces and mobile phone technology. The day proved to be both enjoyable and interesting.

# vechtrace

From 29th September to 2nd October a selected senior squad from the Boat Club travelled to Gramsbergen, in the North of Holland, for an intensive training camp and to compete in the Vechtrace, an international head race attracting competitors from across Europe.

On arrival at Roeivereniging Salland (host club) in Gramsbergen the party were greeted warmly by their hosts who had coffee and cakes at the ready.

The pupils were keen to take to the water and after a short rest boats were rigged and the squad had their first training session.

Friday involved a series of varied and structured training sessions. One of these sessions gave the opportunity for the crews to travel upstream to Lars in Germany and the starting point of the Vechtrace so that they could familiarise themselves with the course. Friday evening was an opportunity to mingle with hosts and for some to rekindle old friendships.

On arrival at the Salland Club for race day the pupils set about making final preparations to their boats, registering and assessing the opposition. The crews set off for the race's start, which required them to

row 6km into Germany to the start line before racing the 5km back to the finish.

Over the day BGS crews were successful in three events: J18 Mixed Double sculls, J18 Mixed Quad Sculls and J18 Coxed Four. After racing they joined Salland members and other guests for an informal banquet before returning to the hotel.

Once again this short but very intensive trip had been very successful, not just from the clutch of medals, but also from the development progress made by all those pupils who attended.



# school officers

This year's Head Prefects are Lydia Holloway and Ravi Prasad. The Deputy Head Prefects are Jamie Davidson, Ed Lund, Katherine Dixon and Emily Layton.



# olympics 2012

Alistair and Jonathan Brownlee are working hard on their pre-Olympic build up during training and beyond. The brothers have many engagements to fulfil as well as a thirty hour per week training schedule. They called into BGS in November for a flying visit to use the School as the location for the London 2012 programme photo shoot.

The BBC have made a programme tracking the Yorkshire athletes who are taking part in the 2012 games and came to BGS to film a typical Wednesday afternoon at the School to highlight the opportunities the Brownlees had here as pupils. The programme is called *Yorkshire Olympic Dreams* and is going out on Monday January 23rd at 7.30pm.



# dofe gold

One hundred and thirty-nine Fourth Form pupils are now engaged in the Bronze Award scheme. They attend sessions during Form Period to prepare them for the physical, skills and volunteering sections. Their expedition training day is on Saturday 10th March, with their practice and assessed expeditions planned for May and June.

To date thirty-three of the Fifth Form pupils who were involved in the scheme last year have completed their Bronze Award.

A total of sixty-one Sixth Form students are registered for the Gold Award. BGS has never been so busy with training and expeditions. Thirty Lower Sixth Form students are currently making the most out of their General Studies sessions to complete their training. A further thirty-one from the Upper Sixth have completed their assessed expedition and are now working hard to get their activities completed before they hit exam season at the end of the winter term.

Congratulations to all thirty-four BGS Gold Award holders, the latest are pictured at Buckingham Palace receiving their awards in September: Will Grant, Josh Brear, Rachel Barker and Victoria Barker.



# under milk wood

Over fifty pupils from all years appeared in the cast of the drama production *Under Milk Wood* and many more helped backstage. The support of the behind the scenes technical team is always greatly appreciated at the drama productions.

There were three performances in the Hockney Theatre on 30 November, 1 and 2 December, beginning at 7.15pm and finishing just after 9.30pm. The play is a surreal depiction of a day and night, in the life of a small Welsh village, where very little apparently happens – but a great many things are taking place behind closed doors and net curtains. Congratulations to all the cast and technical team on a wonderful production.

# starz in their eyes

Four girls from the Lower Sixth, Jade Dhesi, Katie Shepherd, Roisin Reynolds and Lizzie Pike, helped by Dr Mouat, organised and produced a Starz in their Eyes talent night. The talent on display included singing, acting, comedy sketches and dancing. The Hockney Theatre audience were thoroughly entertained by pupils from all age groups. The evening raised £429 which will be added to the money raised from the non-uniform day held in School on the 17 November for Children in Need.



# netball

The BGS netball teams have made an excellent start to the season, particularly the U14 team who have qualified for the regional rounds of the National Finals. On Wednesday 16 November the U14s played in the county round of the National Schools which was held at GSAL. The team consisted of the U14 squad and three of the U13 players were also selected (Izzy Wellings, Rebecca Ashurst & Izzy Austin). They played three games in their section and won all three. In the semi-final they fought back from a half time deficit to beat Brooksbank by two goals. The regional round will be played in January.



# squash

The BGS squash team has had one of its best ever starts to the school year. A great set of results have included a fourteen to six point victory away at Ampleforth. Well done to all the players but especially to James Sugden (Captain), Rama Patel and Ben Merchant. Ben, a First Form pupil, is the youngest player in the history of the School to play number one for the first team.



# stitch club

The Stitch Club, run by Mrs Tomlinson, Miss Slater and Mrs Harvey, meets every Thursday lunchtime between 1pm and 1.30pm in H6. Over ten pupils meet regularly to learn new skills and make gifts. Projects to date have included pin cushions, cross-stitch Christmas decorations, Mother's Day gifts and Japanese caricature animals using amigurumi (3D crochet). There is also a Wednesday afternoon drop-in session between 1pm and 3pm. New members welcome.



# movember

Staff and pupils have taken part in this year's Movember campaign. Movember is a fundraising event for men's health charities particularly those supporting prostate cancer. Those taking part need to grow a moustache for the month of November. Donations have been made direct to the charities and a collection was held following a morning assembly. If you would like to donate please visit the following web address <http://uk.movember.com/mospace/1419938/>.

A Select Staff v Senior Water Polo team match was organised by George Goddard and Nick Winn. Spectators were asked to donate to the Movember total.

# harvest appeal

Clock House pupils raised an incredible £926.57 at this year's Harvest Appeal. They organised fundraising games and activities, as well as selling buns, cakes and snacks at break time. The Junior School continues to sponsor four children overseas through Actionaid. Actionaid helps to provide them with clean safe water, a basic education and basic health care. Their letters of thank you were read out at assembly.



# cpr

School Nurse Suzanne Lamb writes:

This year we decided that introducing the whole Fourth Form to the basic principles of first aid would be a beneficial way to spend some of the PSHE sessions.

We started with a classroom based session looking at some of the more common injuries such as soft tissue, fractures, cuts and burns – all with some rather detailed photos!

In the second session we took time out to practice resuscitation on the manikins and the recovery position on each other, with their usual noisy enthusiasm they threw themselves into it and managed to acquire the basic life-saving skills. We also took the opportunity to look at when the use of an epipen may be required and to practice the correct technique with the demo epipens. A third session is planned to consolidate the information and practice bandaging but for now I think if anyone in their presence has the misfortune to collapse, faint or be overcome with too much festive spirit we can be confident that they are in good hands!



# visiting speakers

Last term a number of speakers visited the School and gave powerful and informative talks. The



speakers included Shaun Attwood who spoke about going from business success to being imprisoned for dealing ecstasy and the horrors of his time in a USA jail. A heartfelt talk was given by Steve

Pendleton, an RAF pilot, who crashed whilst on duty in Northern Ireland. Steve spoke about facing up to and dealing with his horrific injuries. JCT600 once again came in to School to speak to the Lower Sixth about safe driving and the effect of reckless driving. Other speakers included Alcoholics Anonymous and the Samaritans.



# christmas fair

This year's Christmas Fair was an astounding success, breaking all previous records. The event raised over £9000, which will be used to support Barnardos Young Carers and BGS netball tours. The Price Hall and Sixth Form Centre were bustling with seventy individual stalls plus many games and activities. Santa's Grotto was hugely popular and looked enchanting with lit Christmas trees and Santa himself in his rocking chair by the fire.

Special thanks to all who donated prizes, time and effort, and to the main sponsors Farnell Land Rover.

# arkwright scholarship

At a ceremony held at the Institution of Engineering & Technology, Savoy Place, London, on 28th October Oscar Mann was awarded a prestigious Arkwright Scholarship for his outstanding work in design, engineering and technology. These Scholarships support young people who show the potential to be industry's future leaders in engineering and design, during their Sixth Form studies.



Oscar's scholarship is sponsored by The Royal Air Force and was presented at the afternoon ceremony by Emeritus Professor John Burland CBE DSc(Eng) FREng FRS, Imperial College, London.

Scholars are selected following a rigorous selection process comprising of a detailed application form, a two-hour aptitude paper and an interview. The interviews are held at top engineering universities across Britain. During his interview Oscar presented his GCSE project work to a panel of interviewers and discussed his commitment to design, engineering and technology.

# economics

Congratulations to Upper Sixth Form pupils Ravi Prasad, Rowan Arthur, Ed Lund and Rohan Misra who won the regional heat of the Bank of England's Target Two Point Zero competition held in Sheffield. Target Two Point Zero is the Bank of England's and The Times Interest Rate Challenge, which gives teams of students aged 16-18 the chance to take on the role of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee, assess economic conditions and the outlook for inflation and tell panels of judges what monetary policy they would set to achieve the Government's inflation target of 2.0%. The BGS team will take part in the North of England round in February.

# diving

Ruby Bower is a member of the City of Bradford Esprit Diving Club. She recently won the bronze medal on the 1m board in the British Gas ASA National Age Group Championships. She gave an exceptional performance and dived her way onto the medal rostrum with 176.70 points. The competition, which was the final national event of the 2010-2011 season, was held at Ponds Forge in Sheffield. Ruby was part of a team of fourteen members from City of Bradford, which is the competitive outlet for Bradford Council's Sport and Leisure Services' coaching and training scheme. The team competed against one hundred and sixty-three divers from around the country.



# ilkley literature festival

In October the Senior School sponsored Sir Ranulph Fiennes at the Ilkley Literature Festival. Following a presentation and book signing, Sir Ranulph met with BGS pupils, parents and guests. The Junior School sponsored Mitchell Symons and the Children's Poetry event. It gave Neil Gabriel great pleasure to present the prizes at the poetry competition. Sixth Form pupils had the opportunity to see Tim Harford courtesy of Garbutt & Elliott Chartered Accountants.



# commonwealth youth games

Sian Morgan represented Wales in the Commonwealth Youth Games which took place in September on the Isle of Man. Sian competed in seven events including two relays. She did amazingly well, winning medals in three events; silver medal in the 4 x 200m Freestyle Relay and a bronze in both the 4 x 100m Freestyle Relay and the 400m Freestyle.

# moodle

<http://moodle.bradfordgrammar.com>



Staff from a wide range of departments in school are developing resources for pupils to use in lessons and for homework tasks taking advantage of Moodle, the School's Virtual Learning Environment. There is a wide range of activities available, which can include accessing worksheets and resources, producing online work, submitting electronic documents for review, and online activities such as quizzes and forum discussions. Teachers will direct classes to those areas and the resources they should access at certain times of the year.

There is also a growing range of resources available to promote interest in certain areas of the curriculum which are available to all students and are especially useful for those wishing to pursue these areas at university and beyond.

Moodle is accessible directly from the URL above, as a link on the School website, or from the shortcuts on staff and student desktops. Form teachers will be able to tell pupils the login details they need to access the site. Please see Mr Hargreaves in B5 or email [ajh@bradfordgrammar.com](mailto:ajh@bradfordgrammar.com) for more information.

# dreaming shakespeare

In October groups from the lower school and the Sixth Form presented an evening entitled Dreaming Shakespeare. The finale involved pupils from the First Form up to the Upper Sixth in a mass mob dance to Queen's *You're my best friend* which was a fitting end to a show featuring groups from all years performing their spins on scenes from Shakespeare. Love and friendship were the main themes as Second Year groups took us into the *Midsummer Night's Dream* wood, including one group that included Oberon Kenobi in a galaxy far far away! The First Form filled the Hockney Theatre with smoke as the witches from *Macbeth* and Holly Hellawell and Brittany St Clair in the Third Form delivered a spoof on *Hamlet*. The Lower Sixth Theatre Studies group gave their frenetic half-hour version of *The Taming of the Shrew* with sadistic Connor Warden taming fiery Bryony Skinn before everything ended (reasonably) happily. It is wonderful to see Shakespeare brought to life in the Theatre with costume and lights rather than trapped in a classroom.



# geography

In September Upper Sixth pupils enjoyed good weather on their three day residential trip to Lancaster. The first day was spent studying physical processes in the Yorkshire Dales where the students worked on the formation of limestone pavements and scree slopes. A switch of emphasis the next day saw them finding out about the tourism opportunities in the contrasting towns of Bowness-on-Windermere and Morecambe. The final morning was marked by a precipitous climb on to Whitbarrow Fell to collect data for a vegetation study. All the data collected has been used during the term in preparation for one of their A2 modules.

The Lower Sixth pupils have had their first experience of AS fieldwork this term with a visit to parts of Leeds that they wouldn't normally see to study urban deprivation.

In a new initiative all the Fourth and Fifth Form sets have spent a double period walking into Bradford as part of their study of the local area for GCSE.



# forthcoming events calendar



Jan 10	6.30pm	Junior School Open Evening
11	6.30pm	Senior School Open Evening
14	6.00pm	OBA Dinner & AGM
17	7.00pm	Keyboard Concert - Auditorium
21		Entrance Examination
Feb 8		HM's Matinee - Hockney Theatre
21	7.00pm	Saxophone Concert - Auditorium
22	6.30pm	Sixth Form Open Evening
28	7.00pm	Guitar Concert - Auditorium
Mar 3		BGS CPA Bollywood Ball
6	7.15pm	Concert of Chamber Music - Price Hall
7		Sixth Form Open House
9-10		Fashion Show
9-18		National Science Week
14		Junior School House Music Competition
28-30		Music Performance - Hockney Theatre
Apr 21		1940's Reunion Lunch
21		OBA Swimming & Water Polo
24	7.00pm	5ths Music & Poetry Evening - Auditorium
May 1	7.00pm	U6 Music & Poetry Evening - Auditorium
10	7.15pm	Leavers' Concert - Price Hall
12		Spring Fair
15	7.00pm	4ths Music & Poetry Evening - Auditorium
22	7.00pm	1sts Music & Poetry Evening - Auditorium
31		Clock House Play

# memorial garden

The School, with the help of fundraising organised by The Friends of Clock House, has now completed a remembrance garden in memory of a wonderful teacher, Mrs Sara Denham-Smith. A short dedication ceremony was held to officially open the garden on Wednesday 30 November at 3pm. Staff, pupils and parents met with Sara's mother and husband to lay the remembrance plaque.



# speech day

Speech Day is one of the most important days in the BGS school calendar. This year it was Mr Davidson's final Speech Day as Headmaster of the School. Stephen Davidson said "Today has been an incredible experience, one of the happiest I have ever had. I am overwhelmed by the reaction of the whole school community and absolutely delighted to share my final Speech Day with such an eminent Old Bradfordian as Steve Abbott."

Steve Abbott attended Bradford Grammar School between 1965 and 1972 and left with an Open Scholarship to read Mathematics at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. Following graduation in 1976, he trained as a Chartered Accountant with Price Waterhouse in London. Once qualified, he spent most of his career working in film and television with members of the Monty Python team. Steve's production credits include *A Fish Called Wanda*, *Fierce Creatures* and *Brassed Off*. His company, Prominent Features, has won awards and festival prizes throughout the world, including an Oscar, a César and several BAFTAs. He was recently Executive Producer on Michael Palin's New Europe TV travel series for BBC1. He entertained a packed Price Hall with tales from his schooldays and career.