



Bradford
Grammar
School

Issue 350 | Autumn 2016

The Bradfordian





The honest, open and mutually supportive relationships that I witness between students, teaching and non-teaching staff, parents, Governors and Old Bradfordians are part of our strength.

We're in it together.

Dr Simon Hinchliffe

Headmaster

Extract from Speech Day 2016

For the full speech
please turn to page 05

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School Notes



From the Headmaster ...

It's my pleasure to introduce this latest edition of 'The Bradfordian'.

The following pages are crammed with news of sporting success, fantastic trips, wonderful plays and performances, competitions, fundraising, volunteering, great teaching and thriving school societies – the list goes on.

As ever, 'The Bradfordian' marks time and testifies to the vibrant and full life that continues to characterise BGS.

We began the academic year by celebrating excellent A Level results, good enough for the Yorkshire Post to herald BGS as the top performing school in the county, and our best GCSEs for many years. The efforts of our hardworking students paid off and these achievements were picked up by the Daily Telegraph who identified us as one of the ten best value independent schools in Britain, a satisfying badge to earn for a Yorkshire school.

But there is more to education BGS style than academic results alone. We've looked at the detail and it's clear that the value we add to every student extends far beyond performances in public examinations. This edition of 'The Bradfordian' attests to the wide variety of opportunities outside the classroom to find a new interest or develop an existing one, to broaden horizons and also have a bit of fun and make the kind of friendships that last a lifetime.

The breadth and quality of the offering at BGS reflects the passion and dedication of my teaching and non-teaching colleagues and at this year's Speech Day I paid tribute to the service of those colleagues who left BGS for new challenges or a well-earned retirement.



When students and colleagues leave our halls we very much hope they will stay in touch and I'm grateful to our Old Bradfordians (OBs) who support current students at BGS in many important ways by contributing generously to bursaries and giving their time so freely at various school events.

The positive contribution that OBs make to our school community cannot be understated and to close I'd like to pay tribute to the manner in which ex-BGS and Team GB super-stars Alistair and Jonny Brownlee achieved Olympic glory in Rio – simply amazing and an example to us all.

Hoc Age.

Dr Simon Hinchliffe
BA, MEd, PhD, FRSA
Headmaster



Speech Day 2016 Headmaster's Speech

Vice Lord-Lieutenant, High Sheriff, Deputy Lord Mayor, Junior School Headmaster Neil Gabriel, Lady Lynne Morrison, Honoured Guests, Governors, Ladies and Gentlemen and members of the school. Please allow me to add my welcome to that of Lady Lynne Morrison who I would also like to thank for her generous and supportive words.

A couple of weeks ago the Deputy Headmaster and I hosted an informal breakfast gathering for parents in the Pavilion. After a little conversation it felt right to stand up and say a few words. But I had not planned a speech. The new Headmaster is however a fast learner and I invited Mr Louis d'Arcy, our new Deputy Headmaster and Old Bradfordian, to speak first giving me time to think and conjure up a few thoughts to share.

...

Speech Day 2016

Headmaster's Speech continued ...

...

Mr d'Arcy reminisced eloquently about his BGS school days and early learnings towards becoming a teacher, a vocation it seems he had contemplated since boyhood. Soon it was my turn to talk. Thankfully, Mr d'Arcy's breakfast speech brought up an old school memory of mine about a computer based careers questionnaire. Myself and my classmates were asked to complete this and enter personal details, qualifications and any interests or hobbies that you wished to share.

Data was entered and the barely digital cogs of a 1980s box-like computer turned. A spool of paper chattered out of a nearby printer delivering a pronouncement about what you were going to do with the rest of your working life and who you were going to become. At a time when computers were relatively few and had a magic about them, this was quite a moment for a young lad from Rotherham. The printer rattled to a halt. Near the top of the list of jobs, my future vocation, my reason for being – Zoo Keeper.

And here I stand. Headmaster, Zoo Keeper – I'll let you make up our own minds about the prescience or otherwise of that BBC microcomputer algorithm. Sadly, despite my boyhood hopes, membership of the air cadets and numerous visits to the air show at nearby RAF Finningley, fighter pilot was not on the list. As I confessed at our breakfast session, whilst at school I didn't have a clue what I wanted to do when I left, so I chose Geography. And I loved it.

A Geography degree became a PhD. A PhD led to an early career as an earth scientist, roaming, researching and writing about alluvial fans and landslides in the mountains of Scotland, Norway and Turkey. Later as a Junior Lecturer I was encouraged to do an in-house teaching certificate, but I opted to do a transferable PGCE instead. A vacancy as a teacher at Wolverhampton Grammar School (WGS), not a University, came up. To my surprise, I got it.

At WGS I met Heidi and here we both are with our eldest, Katy, joining Clock House in September and Ben, our youngest, born 48 hours after our move north. Why do I mention these things? For two reasons really. First, Bradford Grammar School (BGS) is a close community, it has a family feel, and I think it is important that we get to know and understand each other, particularly with me being a relatively new face to many.

The honest, open and mutually supportive relationships that I witness between students, teaching non-teaching staff, parents, Governors and Old Bradfordians are part of our strength. We are in it together. Secondly, I believe that life is rarely predictable. I have mentioned in assemblies already that some few months before starting my PGCE I could have been found supporting geological research projects in the remote and undeveloped Aladağlar mountains of Turkey, simultaneously attracting the interest of the local authorities on suspicion of being a mercenary heading for separatist border country, all whilst innocently studying rocks.

So, via a somewhat twisty route, I now have the privileged opportunity of addressing you today as the 29th Headmaster of this wonderful school. Experience to date tells me that life is not straightforward and prescribed, but I firmly believe in hard work and making the most of what you've got and the most of every opportunity that comes your way.

When the sum total of your life is weighed, I think it is important that you can say you did yourself and family proud, and that you did some good in this world. BGS and our age old values of excellence, compassion, determination, opportunity and service, which we talk and walk at school, help our students to achieve this.

I respect our school's past, its history, traditions and ethos, but we are forward thinking too, we always have been. I'm extremely excited about the future of BGS. We are strong and secure and thankfully, like other successful independent schools we are able to steer a safe course through the many changes taking place in the UK education scene, and the scope and pace of these changes is often bewildering. The amount of flux is unprecedented and without parallel internationally.

I do not doubt the laudable intentions of policy makers but we must continue to chart our own course through educational reform and not be deflected by the latest whims or proclamations of Government Ministers. BGS will continue to provide a broad classical education that develops the whole child – something we all value so highly. Nurturing informed, balanced and characterful young women and men, imbued with a sense of fair play and proportion, will always be at the core of what we do regardless of any external pressures upon us. Other pressures we face are particular to the regions.

The Independent School's Council (ISC) census concluded recently that whilst pupil numbers in association schools nationally have grown to a record 518,422, exceeding the pre-recession high, the vast majority of ISC schools outside of the south east have reduced in size. In the north, the ISC school population has shrunk by 7.8% since 2009 and diminished by a further 0.9% this last year. Independent school numbers up north, as always, continue to lag behind any improving economic synopsis.

Affordability is without question our key challenge and this is why, even though BGS is having to bear significant additional costs outside of our control, the fee increase has been kept to 1%. You may have noticed that other schools in the region have been forced to increase their bill by as much as 4%. This is Yorkshire and this school cares about our families' pockets. No one wants to raise the fee, but our increase is the lowest for many a mile and signals our sensitivity to those who invest in independent education for their children.

Our modest fee increase stands also as a testament to the secure financial platform upon which this debt free school is grounded which enables us to be competitive on price whilst at the same time continually improving the quality of the education we offer. Little wonder that the Daily Telegraph mentions us as one of the top ten best value independent schools in the country, and we aspire to keeping it thus – no compromise on delivering educational excellence, and sensitivity to those who pay the fees.

There are other tests facing independent schools currently. Never before have we been the recipient of so much media and political angst; we could be forgiven for thinking that our friends in Westminster and the media are few. We continue to be the butt of unsubstantiated criticism in what continues to be an oddly hostile year – and the facts rarely get in the way of a career enhancing editorial barb.

Consider for example that 7% of the UK's population has been privately educated at some point during their school life – perhaps a larger number than one might have expected. But then reflect on the Olympic medal table of 2012 and the fact that an impressive 54 of the 114 Team GB medal winners had previously attended an independent school (as you will know, some of them came to BGS).

Additionally, this year, 42% of BAFTA winners and 19% of BRIT award winners have also been privately educated. Yet these headlines continue to be used a stick to beat us with, evidence of our stranglehold on the UK. What other organisations within the UK, be they businesses, public bodies or cultural institutions would be criticised for being successful and for enriching wider society so positively?

The reality is that independently educated people make a tremendous contribution to Great Britain. We add value to our nation in a way that is disproportionate to our number. And what about the contribution of independent schools to UK plc? At the last count in 2014, ISC schools contributed £9.5 billion annually to UK GDP, more than the city of Liverpool or the BBC.

Back in November 2015 the Higher Education Funding Council for England wrongly stated that, in 2013-14, 82% of state-school leavers who graduated from English universities achieved a 1st or a 2:1, compared with only 73% of independent school students. The media fallout was predictable.

As for the reality, precisely the reverse is true. However, in a rush for a story few looked closely at all the facts. Headlines were retracted quietly a week or two later when reality crept in. The true picture is irrefutable. Researchers at Durham University have concluded that independently educated pupils receive a boost equivalent to two years of extra schooling even when socio-economic background is stripped away.

At A Level independent schools achieve A/A* grades at nearly double that of the national average and almost two thirds of all GCSE exam entries for independent schools achieve A/A* grades compared to a fifth nationally. Durham University also reported that even allowing for prior ability, socio-economic status and gender, GCSE results are on average two thirds of a grade better by virtue of attending an independent school – significant added value.

Last year BGS students did even better than this with value added at GCSE being one whole grade better than expected for some cohorts of students. This is an outstanding achievement and reflects the difference that BGS makes to each individual student. Bright children do not equally well irrespective of the school they attend.

Sometimes Headmasters get criticised if they dwell too long on results by commentators who think we are overly concerned with metrics and narrow academic margins, presumably at the expense of nurturing the whole child and attending to the breadth of the educational offering. If this were true, then the criticism would be justified. But very often concerns of this kind misjudge what excellent exam results like ours truly represent.

Henry Ford factory style education has no place at BGS and we do not teach to the test. Learning in our classrooms, laboratories and splendid new library, enacted under the direction of enthusiastic teachers, is not a cold, mechanical process. Lessons need to be engaging, varied, enjoyable and above all stimulating. There is no 'one size fits all' approach at BGS.

The exam results achieved by our students, and which deserve to be celebrated, do not reflect a dry Gradgrindian rote learning of facts. Teaching and learning at BGS is vibrant. Exam results are not synonymous with education, we all recognise this, but at BGS they tell you something about the quality of learning that is part of our natural routine. If we look beyond the classroom we see that value is added in a myriad of other ways through the provision of a broad range of co-curricular opportunities that continue to grow.

Our involvement in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme was recognised at Buckingham Palace recently. Volunteering initiatives like the Barnardo's Young Carers' Scheme and our collaboration with Chellow Heights Special School continue to flourish, whilst new ventures like our Rotary Interact Club have added something extra. Public lectures organised by the Debating Society have included speakers such as Dan Snow, Alastair Campbell and Shami Chakrabarti and these have been extremely well attended.

In terms of performing arts I have fond memories of our day hosting 'The Fidelio Trio' who worked with BGS students and others from local schools, and also the new and profoundly moving Carol Service held at Bradford Cathedral. The recent whole school production 'Grease' was another highlight of the past year. Finally, last Saturday I hot-footed it from our final Board meeting of the year to join the crowd at the annual Grassington Festival where BGS brass funk and a bit of brotherly busking was on the menu.

Speech Day 2016

Headmaster's Speech continued ...

Moving on to sport, we have a number of talented athletes competing for Team GB. Many more have gained representative honours for England and at regional and county level across a range of sports.

BGS teams have reached regional and national finals and our collection of plaques and silverware has continued to grow. Yorkshire champions and record breakers walk our corridors, little wonder that sport continues to flourish at school.

Teams of students have also represented BGS in Maths, Modern Languages, Science, Code-Breaking and many more competitions, too numerous to mention. Elsewhere students have gained Arkwright Scholarships and Trinity College Music Certificates. The list is endless. Clearly I am only scratching the surface of what has been a terrifically busy and successful year at BGS.

Before I finish however there is one particular group of colleagues I would like to acknowledge and thank. Every year we say goodbye and good luck to colleagues who are moving on to new challenges or a well-earned retirement.

Dr Shepherd, former Head of Physics and Electronics, who also led debating with great charisma, left us at Easter to take up a position as the Director of STEM at the Rodillian Academy. Mr Walker and Mr Morley from the same department are moving to Dulwich College, Singapore and University Technical College, Leeds, respectively; both colleagues have contributed much to the broader life of BGS. Miss Kirk, Teacher of English and Drama and architect of many new initiatives in her department and memorable theatre productions, moves to Wetherby Senior School, London, next year. Historian Mr Roberts completed his teaching induction year with us and we wish him every success as his career progresses.

Dan Scarborough, Design and Technology Teacher and passionate First XV Rugby Coach will be taking up a full time coaching position at Queen Ethelburga's. PE and Games teacher Danielle Bloomfield is moving to Cardinal Langley, a school closer to her home, and will doubtless add value to their netball teams in the same way she has done at BGS. Mr Bains, part time Mathematician and enthusiastic supporter of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, departs to concentrate on his educational business.

Finally, Dr Fishwick will be retiring at the end of this year having led the Mathematics Department with great integrity since February 2004 and Dr Fishwick has served BGS for an impressive 35 years. Dr Fishwick, on behalf of the BGS pupils you have taught and helped over the years I would like to say 'thank you' and pay tribute to your expert teaching, dedication and long service.

I would also like to thank all my teaching and non-teaching colleagues for their tremendous hard work and professionalism – they all go that extra mile and always put the needs of our students first. Similarly, I would also like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the Board of School Governors for their wise counsel and support during my first two terms as the Headmaster at BGS.

And finally and certainly by no means least I am sincerely grateful to all parents, grandparents and carers for ensuring children arrive at school on time and meet their many BGS commitments. My colleagues and I really do appreciate all that you contribute to school life. Thank you. As ever, this past year has been a roller coaster ride – exhilarating at times. Let's see what the next academic year will bring, but one thing's for sure, it won't be dull.

Dr Simon Hinchliffe
BA, MEd, PhD, FRSA
Headmaster

Changes to the Governing Body

September 2015 – February 2016

New appointments

Mrs Victoria Davey LLB

Victoria Davey was educated in Bradford before qualifying as a solicitor in 1995 via Lancaster University and York College of law. She then joined Yorkshire law firm, Gordons LLP in 2004 where she acts as Head of Operations.

As a lawyer she undertakes work on behalf of the regulator, the Solicitors Regulation Authority, with over 14 years' experience of acting as its agent when it closes down practices. She has also taken responsibility for mentoring, encouraging and supporting other women in her firm and beyond who are striving to follow her lead and fulfil their potential.

Her desire to help other women comes from her own experience and the help she herself received to get to where she is today. She has also undertaken work on behalf of the Serious Organised Crime Agency and regional police authorities and acted as an expert witness.

Victoria was appointed a Governor of Bradford Grammar School in June 2015.



Professor Shirley Congdon BSc, MA, DHealth, DipN, PGCert Ed

Professor Shirley Congdon is Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at the University of Bradford responsible for the strategic development and oversight of the standard and quality of learning and teaching and the student experience.

She is passionate about the student experience and committed to creating excellence in learning and teaching and believes that the cultivation of an environment in which students and staff are supported to be outstanding and creative will enhance student success.

Her professional and academic expertise lies within the area of health and social care service modernisation and cultural change, research methods and evidence-based practice. She has worked within the field of higher education for 22 years during which time she has held a number of senior posts in a number of Higher Education Institutes.

Shirley was appointed a Governor of Bradford Grammar School in March 2015.



Mrs Suzanne Watson MCIPR

Starting her professional life as a weekly and evening news reporter in North Wales and Bradford, Suzanne Watson moved into PR in 1992 and has worked with leading consultancies in North Wales, Chester before setting up her own business Approach PR Ltd in 2001.

As a mum of two, Suzanne is also a lifelong eczema sufferer and talks at healthcare professional events and in the media about the condition that led her to becoming a trustee of the National Eczema Society in 2010.

She is also a business mentor and PR trainer, member of Bradford Chamber Council, judge for the Chartered Institute of Public Relations, Leeds Metropolitan University guest lecturer and a regular guest on BBC Radio Leeds.

Suzanne was appointed a Governor of Bradford Grammar School in June 2015.

Resignations

P T Smith resigned in December 2015

New appointments

Mrs Victoria Davey LLB in the last Bradfordian
Mrs Suzanne Watson MCIPR – representing Bradford Chamber of Commerce in the last Bradfordian

Professor Shirley Congdon BSc, MA, DHealth, DipN, PGCert Ed – representing Bradford University in the last Bradfordian

Other changes

D J Davies awarded MBE in 2016 New Year Honours List

Alan Jerome awarded MBE in 2016 Birthday Honours List

Leaving Staff

Andy Baines

By D Fishwick, Head of Mathematics

As the acting Head of Department back in 2003, Andy Baines was amongst the applicants in what was my first experience of selecting a new member of staff. He was comfortably the most suitable candidate (the rest were rubbish) and was thus the first appointment for the new look Maths Department.

Andy, initially nicknamed Tigger by some, due to his habit of bouncing around the classroom, became an immediate hit with his charges (for those who could aim straight, anyway). He became the first exponent of using an interactive whiteboard in a Maths classroom. This proved highly popular with the younger pupils and Andy has continued to encourage and support the rest of the department in the development of this style of teaching over the years. Indeed so impressed were we that after a few years we bought into Andy's suggestion of introducing online testing for an end of year exam for Year 7. Had Andy not accidentally emailed all the answers to the pupils the day before the exam, I'm sure it would have been a resounding success ...

Andy has been a constant source of entertainment to the department (mostly intentional) with several amusing incidents standing out, most notably the escapade with his car (for which he was entirely blameless it should be added) in which two other members of staff reversed his car from its Clock House parking space, leaving it stranded in the tunnel outside Room 42. The Estates Department were not amused ... Andy has also built a reputation for leaving a trail of destruction in his DofE role. A collection of burned out clutches, a road closure in the Lake District when he embedded the tow bar of the minibus in the road, the infamous tale of when he was stopped by police with a collection of rifles in the back of the van. And so on. Andy has naturally been gently (indeed brutally at times) teased about these exploits quite regularly, but has always taken this in good part.

So, as Andy leaves BGS to concentrate fully on what is already a most successful business enterprise, the Maths Department and school as a whole is losing one of its real characters. It will certainly leave BGS a duller place.

We wish Andy every success and happiness in the future and will rely on Hermione to keep us updated with any further entertaining tales, should they arise.



Danielle Bloomfield

By C Taylor, Director of Sport

Danielle joined BGS in September 2013, initially as a maternity cover. She provided a huge breadth of knowledge in the field of physical education, and quickly took on the role of Head of Netball.

Her international playing career has helped the netball players at BGS to grow and mature and she leaves the sport in a fantastic position. She will be teaching at a school slightly closer to home in Manchester and although she will be hugely missed, we wish her every success.



Dave Fishwick

By S Harris, Teacher of Mathematics

Dave joined BGS in 1982 having completed his PhD and having spent a year doing post-doctoral research.

Joining the School before the days of teacher training, induction and NQT years, Dave was thrown in at the deep end. However, he quickly developed into an outstanding teacher, highly respected by pupils and staff alike.

Dave's role as Head of Department was made permanent when Andrew Jobbings resigned in November 2002. Dave succeeded in building a very successful Department, through some sensible decision making, his ability to build a close knit team and, of course, leading by example with his excellent teaching and results. He has a management style that the whole Department really appreciates: Dave trusts his colleagues to act as professionals and teach in the manner of their choosing; however, this is possible because of Dave's organisation and management which allows everyone else to just focus on the teaching.

Dave is known by pupils for his extensive mathematical knowledge, the swift pace of his lessons, their thoroughness and clarity, and for his, sometimes, colourful and interesting choice of shirts. To this day, there is still no projector or interactive whiteboard in Room 33, but Dave has never needed more than a board and a pen to deliver excellent lessons.

In the early nineties, Dave would always be found at the Bridge table in the Common Room. The craft he developed there is stronger than ever today, as he regularly plays Bridge at a club. Dave is also an avid music fan, his collection of music is huge and could well exceed the 128GB memory of the new iPod that the Department

decided to buy him as a retirement gift. His knowledge of music is equally vast. We have tested this out on Maths Department nights out, naming some obscure song and asking him to name the year and artist. He rarely fails.

Dave is an exceptional Mathematician and Mathematics teacher, but for all his talent, he is more interested in words than he is in numbers. The Department will testify to the numerous puns and plays with words at the end of a departmental email. These often occurred following some humorous health and safety announcement.

Dave is now looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Edwina, and being able to spend time expanding his music collection, playing Bridge and resuming his accordion playing. The whole Department, and I am sure the whole School, wish him every happiness in his retirement, and hope he enjoys very much that first Monday morning in September!



Dan Scarbrough

By C Taylor, Director of Sport

Dan has had a huge impact on the School.

After returning to the School from his life in professional rugby he brought a level of professionalism to the School rugby which all of the players have enjoyed and responded too.

The All Blacks have a saying of 'leaving the jersey in a better place'; Dan has clearly done this with Rugby at BGS.



Eileen Mann

By S Palmer, Head of Learning Support

Eileen came to work for Learning Support in 2003. The School was delighted Eileen was able to fit this new position around her already busy life, looking after her large family whilst still continuing her work in the care services.

Having previously worked in the kitchens at BGS, Eileen was a familiar face and immediately became on first name terms with everyone. Her ability to make both pupils and staff feel at ease, along with her flexibility, helpfulness and ability to see the humorous side of life, made Eileen ideal for this supportive role. This was appreciated on a daily basis.

Eileen could occasionally be seen waiting for her pupils in the old Library or Common Room either engrossed in a crossword or a newspaper. Eileen was never fazed by any task or request from School. One particular incident which comes to mind was when the Learning Support Department were engaged in Evacuation Chair training. Barry Thorn, the Health and Safety Officer, was advising the Department how to use the chairs to evacuate pupils who could not walk down stairs unaided. Eileen volunteered to control the chair, but unfortunately for Eileen she had me as the 'pupil'. She took my life in her hands as she wielded me down the stone stairs, using all her strength, yet crying tears of laughter. I am not sure who was the most terrified; Eileen, Barry or me.

Eileen grew fond of all the pupils here and always enjoyed her work. However, she was offered a full time post in a Care Home in Ilkley which meant she could simplify her working hours. We wish her well.



Mark Roberts

By G Woods, Academic Director

Mark joined the History Department in September 2015 after obtaining a first-class degree in History at Lancaster University and a PGCE at Durham.

He taught across the age range and his classes were carefully planned and well delivered. Mark threw himself into the life of the School, becoming involved in Cross Country running, Orienteering and Chess Club. He also accompanied the Modern Languages Department on their trip to the Château de la Baudonnière in Normandy. Mark decided to move back to his native Cheshire at the end of the 2015-16 academic year, and he leaves the School with all our best wishes.

Elizabeth Asady

By N Gabriel,
Junior School Headmaster

Elizabeth joined the School in 2013 as a Year 5 teacher.

During that interview process it became clear that she already had management experience and it was therefore no surprise that she applied and was eventually successful in getting the Deputy Head's role.

It was in this role that she excelled, providing help and assistance in running the School. During her time at the School she also directed High School Musical with a cast of over 100. She was loved by staff and pupils alike. Her pupils were always enthusiastic, motivated and keen learners and her lessons were second to none.



Kevin Tordoff

By I Clint, Estates Manager

After 24 years of service to Bradford Grammar School Kevin Tordoff has pulled up stumps on his position as a groundsman and has decided to retire.

Kevin is a proud Yorkshireman, keen sportsman and avid sports fan with football, golf and cricket being amongst his favourites. He was a valued member of the groundstaff team and conscientiously prepared the grounds for whatever sports were being played whatever the weather. He was always interested in results of any school fixtures and liked to follow the progress of past students who went onto play and compete on a bigger stage. He will be missed but he may not miss us whilst he is out on the golf course and we wish him well in his retirement.



Lottie Kirk

By L W Hanson, Head of English

Lottie Kirk, a product of Westminster School, Leeds University and the 'Teach First' scheme arrived at BGS from Spen Valley High School in 2013. A charismatic and energetic teacher she brought with her a huge stock of ideas and strategies and played a major role in the reshaping of the English Department.

I first saw Lottie in action when she was asked to teach as part of her interview. I had never seen a lesson begin with the surging sound of Fat Boy Slim's 'The Rockafellar Skank' and pupils being asked to limbo round the Hockney Theatre, but this is how she kicked things off. The pace of this lesson never slackened and the reactions of the pupils was a joy to see. I knew, straight-off, that this was somebody we needed. At that time, the Headmaster said that he believed 'she would shake things up a bit' and he was right, she most certainly did. In her three years with us she proved beyond any doubt that she was an outstanding, innovative teacher who inspired all the pupils she encountered.

When I took over as Head of Department I spoke with Lottie and made it clear that I did not want her to hold back and that she was forbidden to consider herself a junior member of the team; instead I wanted her to push herself, help me introduce new initiatives and help take us forward. She did all this and more and became an integral, passionate and exceptional member of the team. There was no one more delighted than me when she became a recipient of one of the School's outstanding teacher pay awards in 2015.

As well as shaping teaching and learning in the Department, Lottie helped get our School newspaper ('The Bugle') off the ground, took groups on several theatre trips, directed Oscar Wilde's 'Lady Windermere's Fan', and Theatre Studies examination pieces and was a helping hand in all dramatic productions. I cannot forget, how in the spring of 2016, she acted rather like the shopkeeper in 'Mr Ben' by magically organising visually stunning costumes for our rambunctious production of 'Grease'.

Never one to sit back and allow things to happen, Lottie also grabbed the opportunity to become Assistant Head of Higher Education and served this role in her typically effervescent way. I know that many Sixth Form students benefitted from her advice and direction.

A Londoner by birth, Lottie leaves us to return home and to become Head of English at Wetherby School in Marylebone – quite an achievement for one so young. I hope she always keeps a large chunk of Yorkshire in her heart as she begins this next phase of her career. I am certain she will be a success and I expect to hear of further promotions in the future. She departs with the English Department's very best wishes. It feels appropriate to end with a line from Hamlet, her favourite Shakespeare play: 'Farewell, my blessing season this in thee!'



Ian Walker

By J Boardman, Head of Physics and T Bateson, Head of Higher Education

Ian, a former BGS pupil, joined the Physics department here in 2010. Over the past six years the school has benefitted greatly due to the selfless commitment Ian has shown both in the classroom and beyond. He is in many respects the archetypal School Master and under his tutelage many pupils have enjoyed significant academic success and have gone on to access the degree course of their choice.

Ian is an outstanding physicist and classroom practitioner. He always looks for innovative ways to demonstrate and explain new concepts and in doing so he brings physics to life in lessons. He is a very supportive colleague; always willing to offer advice and help whenever it has been required.

For part of his BGS career, Ian was Head of Careers. During his time in this role he enhanced the biennial Careers Evening, bringing in new speakers and showing pupils a greater variety of career pathways. He was instrumental in introducing 'Networking' lunches giving pupils a chance to meet and talk to Old Bradfordians and parents working in different careers, these included; Engineering, Creative Industries, Sport, Leisure and Tourism Lunches.

He also developed a bespoke work experience scheme, ensuring that all of our Year 12 pupils had the chance to undertake a relevant work experience placement and the opportunity to reflect on what they had learnt from this afterwards. Ian firmly believes in stretching pupils beyond the classroom and is therefore a great supporter of Headstart, Smallpeice and Year in Industry schemes which has given many pupils the encouragement they needed to try new things and extend themselves.

Ian's contribution to the co-curricular programme has been outstanding. As both a rugby coach and a cricket coach, he has travelled far and wide with the teams. Highlights include, the 2016 Rosslyn Park Sevens tournament, the St Vincent and Grenadines cricket tour and the first ever BGS rugby development tour to South Africa which was organised by Ian. The Duke of Edinburgh scheme has also benefitted from Ian's outdoor experience and qualifications and his organisational prowess. Ian has contributed to the Gold Award Expeditions on several occasions and as the Assistant Leader he skilfully ran the Bronze Award scheme so that over 100 pupils could access the award whilst still continuing to represent the school's sports teams. No mean feat.

Ian leaves BGS to continue his teaching career at Dulwich College in Singapore and I am sure that as the College grows Ian will play a major role in its development. We all wish Ian and his family well for the future and I am confident that if Simon Kellett ever writes his autobiography, 'Walkie Talkie' will be sure to get a mention.



Kevin Riley

By S Hinchliffe, BGS Headmaster

I first became aware of Kevin Riley whilst leading an outdoor education trip to The Towers centre, Capel Curig. Dusty, half-forgotten journals regaling the exploits of previous visitors filled the high shelves of the staff room. Evocative tales of scrambles on Snowdon and whirlpools in the Menai Straights filled the hand written volumes. Thumbing through the pages, down the years, I came across 'The adventures of Riley', and I'm quoting here. I hesitate to repeat the fine details, but it is clear that Riley has mischief in his bones and enjoyed the trips to The Towers as much as his pupils.

Kevin has served countless children as a first rate teacher of English and for much of his professional life as a highly respected and successful Headmaster. Throughout his long service he has retained that sense of fun which characterised his early career, enjoying the camaraderie of colleagues and pupils in equal measure. The strong bond that Kevin manifestly enjoys with those he taught stands as a testament to a man of principle, proportion and good cheer.

Young Riley began his teaching career in 1978 at Pocklington, which might explain why he was particularly gleeful on those occasions when the BGS First XV beat them at rugby. A move to Wolverhampton Grammar followed as the Head of English where Kevin quickly gained a reputation for leading many fantastic drama productions. Migrating further south he next took up the post of Deputy Head at Bristol Cathedral School, becoming the Headmaster in 1993, and he has since led The John Lyon School and Harrow International Bangkok before landing at BGS in 2012.

Kevin is greatly respected as a school leader and inspector, and someone who has played a full and charismatic role in the UK independent education scene. He is well known and liked by fellow Heads, many of whom he has guided in their roles. Kevin is also a founder member and the Chairman of the Bujagali Trust which undertakes important work meeting the educational needs and caring for children in Uganda.

I met Kevin fifteen years after reading about his Towers exploits when he and others grilled me at interview for the position of Deputy Head at BGS (I'm getting my own back now). He put me through my paces and clearly knew his stuff. Possessed of playful sense of humour – no doubt – but the man has backbone too and during his time at BGS he made some bold decisions, rang the changes and had impact. Building upon the strengths of the past, I am grateful to Kevin for leaving the School in such great shape, ready for the next chapter in its long and distinguished history.

As Kevin settles into a well-earned West Country retirement with his wife Elspeth, interrupted only by an occasional bit of educational consultancy in far off exotic schools, he might reflect on a professional life spent unselfishly helping both pupils and fellow teachers to make the most of themselves. He remains lively, good company – ready with an anecdote, ever the entertainer.

'Education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire'

wrote William Butler Yeats, Kevin, I think, might agree and will doubtless carry his natural vigour and passion for education long into retirement.



Phil Shepherd

By J Boardman, Head of Physics and T Bateson, Head of Higher Education

Phil joined BGS in 1992 as a teacher of Electronic systems. He became Head of Electronics in 1996 and Head of Physics and Electronics in 2006. Phil is a true academic; his intellectual capacity and thirst for knowledge has enabled him to stretch some of the brightest pupils to pass through the school during his term.

Phil's subject knowledge is first class and his ability to enable pupils of all abilities to access some of the most difficult concepts has been extraordinary to witness.

Phil's style of management helped to unify his teaching team whilst at the same time making each member of the team feel valued and supported. As a true Educationalist, Phil put in place strategies, policies and schemes of work that enabled the academic performance in both departments to improve significantly. As a firm believer in data tracking and analysis, Phil, was able to identify how and where to make the necessary improvements to maximise performance within the department. As a classroom practitioner, Phil strived to instil confidence within his pupils and always taught with great empathy. Phil is a great family man and as a former BGS parent he really understands what a pupil experiences during an education at BGS. As a form tutor, 'Dr S', was someone who his tutees could trust and feel supported when perhaps they felt that they had been treated unfairly.

Outside the classroom, Phil made a significant contribution to Senior Debating, taking us from a local "also-ran" to one of the top schools in the country, with debating teams famed for their tough, combative style. In recent years he launched squad training, which has been instrumental in the success of our teams. Phil also established and ran Junior Debating. Here he encouraged even the most shy and reticent of pupils to have a go. Many pupils had their first experience of any form of public speaking under Phil's tutelage. He leaves a hole which will be all but impossible to fill.

Phil has many talents which includes his ability to captivate an audience due to his articulacy and sharp wit. Earlier this year, he was asked to read a story to a group of our youngest children in Clock House, which he did and as a result he was named 'Dr. Awesome' and asked to return to read for the children again. A rather larger audience, namely, the Senior School, were totally captivated by Phil's assembly-the best of the year, on 'Feminism', which aimed to create greater awareness and to provoke thought amongst the school community. Another educational triumph for Phil.

Phil leaves BGS as Director of STEM with the Rodillian Academy Trust and we would all like to wish him well in this new and exciting venture. As Phil addressed the school in the final assembly of the Spring term, he thanked BGS for the opportunity he had been given.

I think that many current and Old Bradfordians would reciprocate by thanking Phil for the opportunities he has given them during his significant tenure.

Richard Morley

By J Boardman, Head of Physics and T Bateson, Head of Higher Education

Richard was educated at BGS and joined the teaching staff here in 2006 to work in both the Physics and Electronics departments.

Richard's subject knowledge and his innate ability to develop innovative experiments has meant that his contribution has been integral in the development and advancement of both departments. As the Teaching and Learning Co-ordinator, Richard developed the practical database which has now become a fundamental and essential resource in the day to day operation of the department.

Richard is an outstanding classroom practitioner and under his guidance many pupils have achieved significant academic success. Richard's passion for his subject makes his lessons stimulating and engaging. His ability to facilitate learning across the ability range with significant success is testimony to his academic prowess and the empathy he has for the pupils in his charge.

In his final year at BGS, Richard was appointed Head of Electronics, a role which was to be short-lived due to a change in the school's curriculum. His professionalism never wavered and this was reflected in the outstanding results his pupils achieved both at AS-level (71% A) and at A-level (75% A*A).

Over the past few years, Richard has been a form tutor in the Middle School, a role in which he has developed an excellent rapport and understanding with many of his tutees. Richard's ability to instil an appetite to succeed academically and his success in developing a team spirit built on mutual respect should be commended. Richard's commitment to supporting good causes has been shared by his forms over the past couple of years with the invent of 'Santa's Lab' which has helped to raise a fantastic amount of money for charities such as Mary's Meals.

Richard has made a significant contribution to the co-curricular programme in both debating and war games. As a successful debater under Dr. Shepherd's guidance during his time as a pupil, it was inevitable that he would continue this activity when he joined the staff. He ably assisted Dr. Shepherd in running Junior Debating and was an excellent coach for pupils entering competitions; his clear thinking and common sense paved the road to victory for many a team. Richard was also a keen war gamer. He brought his expertise to the society and in his sociable and friendly way made new gamers welcome. He regularly gave up time during the holidays to run longer war-games sessions so that pupils would have the opportunity to experience a wider range of more challenging games.

Richard leaves BGS to join the University Technical College (UTC) in Leeds; this should be an exciting opportunity as the college develops and we all wish him well for the future.



Neil Gabriel

By K Howes, Junior School Deputy Head and L Morris, former Junior School Teacher

It was with great sadness we bid a fond farewell to Neil Gabriel at the end of the summer term. Neil has Bradford Grammar School stamped through him – a bit like Blackpool through a stick of sweet rock.

From the moment he joined in 1994 he has devoted his life to the school in every aspect.

He came from a background in architecture but it is in education where he achieved true fulfillment. He started in the school as our junior DT specialist and apart from throwing his coffee all over David Crowther's floor on his first day, his employment went from strength to strength.

He inherited a vibrant department but he enlarged its expertise and brought in computing to augment and enhance children's learning. An inherent interest in management involved a move to Westville House as deputy head; however, the lure of Bradford Grammar was not far away.

He then returned to take up the role of Deputy at Clock House. This was a new role to the school and Neil delighted in creating a position which strengthened the school further. Actively involved in marketing he was most proactive in promoting the school in the locality. He worked closely with Geoff Lee-Gallon who was not only his mentor in these early days but also a good and trusted friend – this friendship continues to flourish even though it is now conducted long distance.

On Geoff's retirement Neil took over the headship and steered the Clock House ship through a number of changes. He implemented numerous curriculum changes and supported staff in their pursuit of knowledge and expertise. He encouraged them to arrange various extra-curricular activities – even allowing himself to be embroiled in hikes across the Lake District in every weather condition imaginable.

As a School Inspector, he brought his expertise to the Junior School and managed the school through outstanding inspections both in his role as Deputy and Headmaster. He was ever the listening ear for parents and many benefitted from his open-door policy. These meetings however did not always go in his favour – one left him agreeing to have cold custard poured over his head – apparently it was all in a good cause!

The general welfare of the pupils was always close to his heart and he would always listen to their cares and concerns. These strong ties led to links in Senior School and beyond.

Although proud of the achievements of the Junior School, he has always insisted on close ties with the Senior School and as a member of the Senior Leadership Team ensured that the Junior school was always viewed as a vibrant and intrinsic part of BGS.

Alongside the following Senior School Heads, DAG Smith, Stephen Davidson, Kevin Riley and currently Simon Hinchliffe, Neil has been interwoven into the fabric of the whole school and has been instrumental in creating the intricate tapestry, that is Bradford Grammar School.

Neil has worked with many staff throughout his career at BGS and it was delightful to welcome so many back for his leaving do's.

Throughout all of his many achievements and active participation in all aspects of school life, he has been supported by his wife Lyn. She has often been quietly in the background providing tea for staff on Open days as well as giving unstintingly of her time at numerous events during Neil's Bradford Grammar School career. As Neil embarks on new ventures, he can reflect with delight on his achievements as well as take time for a well deserved rest.



Katie Harrison

By L Purcell, Library Manager

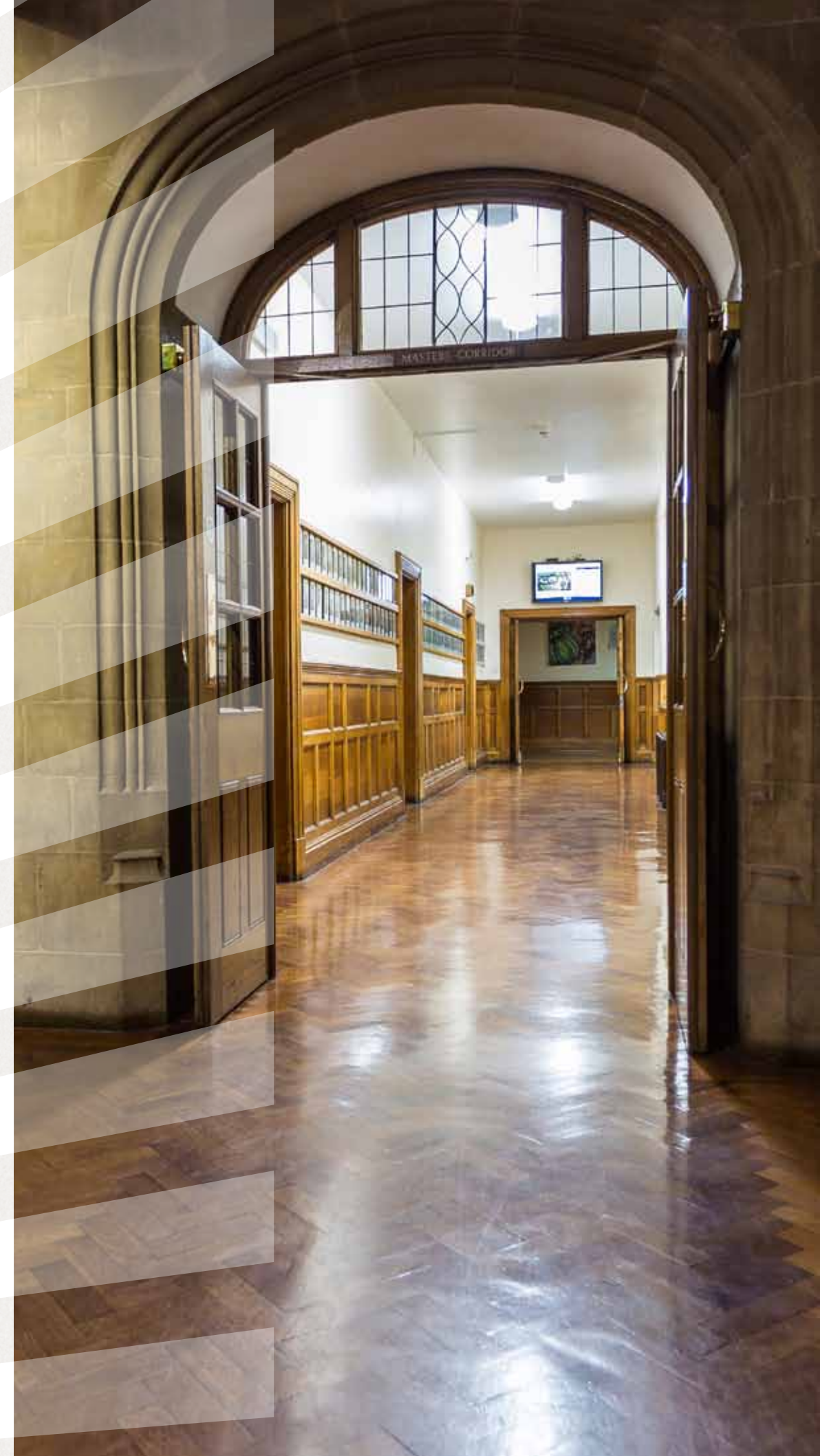
Katie Harrison left the Clarkson Library team at Easter, as fresh faced (I am looking at a picture of her in the Spring 2000 BGS News Magazine as I write this) as she did when she began working here in 1999.

When I arrived at BGS to take on my Assistant Librarian job share role with Katie, we only worked with each other for a few hours each week, however both recognising the same sense of off-kilter humour in each other, we quickly became firm friends. In fact we got quite the 'double act' reputation, but we did discover that we looked exactly like Rick Mayall and Adrian Edmondson in a photograph, so it was always on the cards.

Katie loved working with Clock House pupils, gaining a great deal of joy in assisting them with reading choices and introducing them to information literacy skills. She was brilliant with senior students, sharing fun with many that she had known since Year 2 in Clock House as they moved up through the years in senior school. Katie loved to get her head into the complexities and fine detail of cataloguing and indexing (yes, we also recognised the same geekiness in each other). She would work on new systems until every wrinkle was ironed out. She assisted Miss Lancelot with the senior school Chatterbooks reading group, and also ran a very popular poetry group with Clock House pupils.

When I became Library Manager, Katie was incredibly supportive of my new role, encouraging me to go for the job when I hesitated to apply. Throughout all the sweeping changes that have occurred in the library in the last three years, Katie forged ahead with new ideas while continuing to support my work through the hardest parts of all the library changes – firstly into the temporary accommodation in the Sports Hall, then finally the move back into our fabulous new building.

The library team were really sad when she decided to move onto her new job, working as a teaching assistant at a school in Leeds. It was the right decision for Katie though as she looks to the possibility of establishing a new career as a primary school teacher. Katie was a brilliant, extremely professional school librarian. She'll be a brilliant teacher if she does decide to do it. If all that fails she has a sparkling career as a Rick Mayall 'lookie-likie' waiting for her.



University Degree Course Admissions 2016

A

Sachin Ahir
Azaz Ali
Usama Ali
Alex Anstess
Robert Ashby

Manchester, Economics
Manchester, Pharmacy
Birmingham, International Relations with Economics
Warwick, History
Nottingham, Geography

B

Kristen E Barrett-Casey
Roneel Bhagwakar

Oxford, History
Manchester, Computer Science (Human Computer Interaction) with Industrial Experience

Gursewak S Bhogal
Musa Bin-Imran
Kathryn Boden
William H Bowie

London, Mathematics with Economics
Birmingham, Dentistry (5 years)
Chester, Sport and Exercise Sciences
Nottingham, American and Canadian Literature, History and Culture (International Study)

Matthew M Boyle
Jagjeet S Braich

Bristol, Medicine – MBChB Standard Entry (5 years)
Bradford, Pharmacy (5 years practice-integrated programme)

Francesca Broadbridge-Kirbitson
Annabel Browne
Lois Bryant
Matthew T Bulmer

Newcastle, Medicine (Stage 1 Entry)
Nottingham, Biology
Birmingham, Political Science and Sociology
Durham, General Engineering

C

Emile Cairaess
James Callender
Cameron N Chippindale
Alexandra Christian
Oliver P Clegg
Gregor M Cleland
George Cockcroft
Ralph C Coen
Thomas Cooper
Thomas R Court

St Mary's, Sport Science
Durham, Sociology
London, Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Durham, General Engineering
Manchester Metropolitan University, Business
Cardiff, Dentistry
Newcastle, Urban Planning
York, Accounting, Business Finance and Management
Manchester, Architecture
Birmingham, Mechanical Engineering

D

Eleanor D'Arcy
Alison E Dewhirst
Thomas Dixon
Olivia Dovernor
Joseph S P Downs

Lancaster, Mathematics
York, Marketing (with a year in industry)
Birmingham, Electronic and Electrical Engineering
University of St Andrews, Chemistry with External Placement
York, Electronic Engineering with Nanotechnology (with a year in industry)
Lincoln, Psychology
Liverpool, Business Management (with a year in industry)

Aiden G S Dulay
Oliver Dunn

F

Alexandra J Farrar
Pascale Fisher

Leeds, French and Spanish
York, Politics

G

Isaac E G Greene
Conor Gundry

Loughborough, Product Design and Technology
Newcastle, Chemistry

H

Emily S V Hamilton
Matthew Handy
Matthew G A Harris
William E Heard
Holly N Hellowell
Harriet J Hoban
Joe S Holden
George D Hudman
Ibrahim Hussain
Yousef M Hussain

Chester, Animal Behaviour and Psychology
Sheffield, Civil Engineering (4 years)
Bath, Aerospace Engineering
Oxford, Engineering
Cambridge, Medicine
Birmingham, Political Science
Birmingham, Political Science and Philosophy
Durham, Geology
Leeds, Medical Sciences
Bradford, Accounting and Finance

I

Emma R Irwin
Manisha Islam

Birmingham, Biomedical Science
York, Physics

J

Rowan D E Jarman
Benjamin Jolly
Jacob A G Jolly

Durham, General Engineering
Lancaster, Engineering (with study abroad)
York, Environmental Geography

K

George A Kay
Joseph Kay
Matthew Kay
Lauren S Kelly
Mohammed Y Khan
Ross Kirtland

Loughborough, Mechanical Engineering
Edinburgh, Politics
East Anglia, International Relations and Modern History
Newcastle, Fine Art
Bradford, Accounting and Finance
Newcastle, International Business Management (with a placement)

University Degree Course Admissions 2016
continued ...

L

Catherine Lathom-Sharp Bristol, History
James Liu Sheffield, History and Politics
James A G Lord Loughborough, Industrial Design and Technology
John H M Lovitt Leicester, Management Studies and Economics

M

Holly MacDonald Loughborough, Social Psychology
Struan Mackenzie Birmingham, Law
Georgina L Mancey Sussex, Anthropology and Cultural Studies
Callum Manchester Leeds Beckett, History
Benjamin McCash Durham, Modern Languages and Cultures (with a year abroad)
Mohsen Mehmood Nottingham Trent University, Civil Engineering
Sophie A C Merrick Manchester, Politics and International Relations
Urvis Mistry York, Electronic and Computer Engineering

N

Rishi Naru Warwick, Economics
Harriet R Nash Lancaster, Psychology
Olivia Newman Birmingham, Biomedical Science

O

Charlie Ovens Bath, Politics with Economics

P

Edward Paget Cambridge, Modern and Medieval Languages
Demini Patel Nottingham, Chemistry
Farah Pervaiz Leeds, Medicine
Andrew J Petyt Newcastle, Business Management
Georgia Pickles Leeds, English Literature and Theatre Studies
James D Pike Birmingham, Law
James Pinder Newcastle, Accounting and Finance
Anika Prasad Cambridge, Law
Alexander J Priestley University of St Andrews, English and Russian (with a year abroad)
Catherine J Procter Manchester, Philosophy and Politics
Davina C Puri University College London, Medicine (6 years)

R

Ana Raashed Kings College London, Religion, Philosophy and Ethics
Mohammed A Rehman Bradford, Clinical Sciences/Medicine Foundation (Year 0)
Alexander C Rhodes Bristol, Electrical and Electronic Engineering
Harry J P M Robertshaw Leicester, Medicine

S

Harry G Sagar Newcastle, Medicine (Stage 1 Entry)
Arjun Saralaya Nottingham, Science (with a Foundation Year)
Hannah Schofield Manchester, French and Spanish
Yusra M B Shabir Manchester, Japanese Studies
Hope Silver Queen Mary University of London, English Language and Linguistics

Jacob Silver Queen Mary University of London, Geography
Rickdeep Singh Bristol, Mechanical Engineering
Katherine E Skelton Leeds Trinity University, Sport Psychology
Callum Skinn Oxford, Business Enterprise and Entrepreneurship
Adam Smith Newcastle, Surveying and Mapping Science
Laurence Smith Hull, Geology with Physical Geography (with study abroad)

Annabel Smith-Moorhouse Plymouth, Marine Biology and Oceanography
Elise S Starling Cardiff, Psychology
Emma C Stell Newcastle, Marketing and Management
Rebecca L Stevens Salford, Prosthetics and Orthotics

T

Sarah Twaddle Bristol, French and Italian (4 years)

W

Adam Waring Birmingham, Mechanical Engineering
James H Webb Birmingham, International Business (4 years)
Evie Webster Manchester Metropolitan University, Fashion Buying and Merchandising

Enya-Medi A Wentling

Cardiff Metropolitan University, Speech and Language Therapy
Izaak J Weston Liverpool, Geography
Henry Whitelaw Edinburgh, History
Rebecca Wilkie Sheffield, International Relations and Politics
Matthew Wilson Bristol, English
Sally Windle Newcastle, English Language and Literature

Y

Zulaikha Yasir Bradford, Clinical Sciences/Medicine Foundation (Year 0)

Z

Sikander Zaman Bradford, Optometry

Examination Results 2016

General Certificate of Education (A Level) 2016

A	Ahir SR Ahmed H Ali SM Ali U Al-Jawad ZAMM Anstess AJ Ashby RJ Athwal AS	Economics [^] , Mathematics, Spanish [^] Biology [^] , Chemistry [^] , Mathematics [^] Fine Art [^] , English Language [^] , Religious Studies [^] Economics, History [^] , Politics [^] Fine Art, Chemistry, Mathematics Geography, History [^] , Philosophy [^] Biology, Geography [^] , History Biology [^] , Chemistry [^] , Mathematics	Cockcroft GEH Coen RC Cooper TJ Court TR	Business Studies [^] , Economics [^] , Physics Economics, Geography, Philosophy Design & Technology [^] , Mathematics [^] , Physics Economics [^] , History [^] , Mathematics [^] , Physics [^]	B	Bhagwakar RH Bhogal GS Bin-Imran M Boden KR Bowie WH Boyle MM Braich JS Browne AF Bryant LT Bulmer MT	Electronics [^] , Computer Science [^] , Mathematics Mathematics [^] , Further Mathematics [^] , Physics [^] Biology [^] , Chemistry [^] , Mathematics [^] Computer Science, Mathematics, Physics Economics, History, Philosophy [^] Biology [^] , Chemistry [^] , Mathematics [^] Biology, Chemistry, Religious Studies Biology [^] , Geology [^] , Philosophy English Language and Literature [^] , Philosophy [^] , Religious Studies Chemistry [^] , Mathematics [^] , Further Mathematics [^] , Physics [^]	D D'Arcy EM Davies HR Desilva JP Dewhirst AE Dixon HL Dixon TJ Dovemor OJ Downs JSP Dulay AGS Dunn OH	Geography [^] , Mathematics [^] , Further Mathematics [^] Biology, English Language and Literature [^] , History Biology [^] , Chemistry [^] , Mathematics Fine Art [^] , Business Studies [^] , Philosophy [^] Business Studies [^] , Psychology [^] , Philosophy [^] Electronics [^] , Mathematics [^] , Physics Chemistry [^] , Mathematics, Physics [^] , Spanish [^] History, Mathematics [^] , Physics Computer Science, Music Technology, Psychology Business Studies, Design & Technology, Geography	F Fisher PI	Economics, English Language, Philosophy [^]	G Greene IEG Gundry CJ	Design & Technology [^] , Economics [^] , Physics Biology, Chemistry, Geology	H Hamilton ESV Handy MJ Harris MGA Heard WE Hellowell HN Hoban HJ Holden JS Hudman GD Hussain A Hussain I Hussain YM	Biology, Geography, Psychology Mathematics, Physics, Philosophy Chemistry [^] , Mathematics [^] , Further Mathematics [^] , Physics [^] Chemistry [^] , Mathematics [^] , Further Mathematics [^] , Physics [^] Business Studies, Mathematics, Physics Biology [^] , Chemistry [^] , Economics [^] Biology, Geography, Psychology Mathematics, Physics, Philosophy Chemistry [^] , Mathematics [^] , Further Mathematics [^] , Physics [^] Chemistry [^] , Mathematics [^] , Further Mathematics [^] , Physics [^] Biology [^] , Chemistry [^] , Physics [^] , Spanish [^] English Language and Literature, History, Philosophy [^] History, Philosophy [^] , Religious Studies [^] Chemistry, Geology [^] , Physics [^] Biology [^] , Chemistry [^] , Mathematics Biology [^] , Chemistry [^] , Mathematics [^] Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science	I Irwin ER Islam M	Biology, Chemistry [^] , Psychology [^] Mathematics [^] , Further Mathematics, Physics	J Jarman R Jolly BCN Jolly JAG	Economics, Mathematics [^] , Further Mathematics [^] , Physics [^] Geography, Mathematics [^] , Physics [^] Geography, Geology, Philosophy	K Kay GA Kay J Kay MO Keating JL Kelly LS Khan FB Khan MY Kirtland RN Kraft AL	Mathematics [^] , Further Mathematics, Physics [^] Economics [^] , History [^] , Philosophy [^] History, Physics, Philosophy [^] English Language, Music Technology, Psychology Fine Art [^] , Latin [^] , Spanish [^] Biology [^] , Chemistry [^] , History [^] Economics, English Language, Religious Studies Business Studies [^] , Economics, Mathematics German [^]	L Lathom-Sharp CA Legg JF Liu JA Lord JAG Lovitt JHM	English Language [^] , History [^] , Mathematics [^] Computer Science, Mathematics, Physics Economics, History, Philosophy [^] Design & Technology [^] , Geography, Mathematics Business Studies, Economics, Philosophy	M MacDonald HC Mackenzie SA Malik RNR Mancey GL Manchester CR McCash BJ Mehmood B Mehmood M	English Language, English Language and Literature, Psychology Business Studies, History, Philosophy [^] Biology [^] , Chemistry [^] , Physics [^] English Language, History [^] , Psychology [^] Economics, History, Physics Economics [^] , German [^] , Philosophy [^] , Spanish [^] Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics Business Studies, Design & Technology, Mathematics	N Naru R Nash HR Newman OR	Economics [^] , Latin [^] , Mathematics [^] , Further Mathematics [^] Business Studies, English Language, Physics Biology [^] , Chemistry [^] , Physics [^]	O Ovens CR Ovens MW	Economics [^] , History [^] , Philosophy [^] Economics, History [^] , Philosophy	P Paget EA Patel D Patel M Pervaiz F Petyt AJ Pickles GE Pike JD	French [^] , Geology [^] , Spanish [^] Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics Biology, Chemistry, Physics Biology [^] , Chemistry [^] , Mathematics [^] Economics, Physics, Spanish [^] English Language, History [^] , Theatre Studies [^] English Language [^] , History, Philosophy [^]	Pinder JL Prasad A Priestley AJ Procter CJ Puri DC	Business Studies [^] , Mathematics, Philosophy [^] Economics [^] , French [^] , History [^] , Mathematics [^] English Language [^] , Russian [^] , Theatre Studies [^] English Language [^] , French, History [^] Biology [^] , Chemistry [^] , Latin [^] , Mathematics [^]	R Raashed A Rashid G Rehman MA Rhodes AC Robertshaw HJPM	Biology [^] , Chemistry, Religious Studies [^] Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematics Electronics [^] , Mathematics [^] , Physics [^] Biology [^] , Chemistry [^] , Mathematics [^]	S Sagar HG Saralaya A Schofield HSM Silver HE Silver JB Singh R Skelton KE Skinn CF Smith AC Smith LH Smith-Moorhouse A St Catherine BLM Stevens RL	Biology [^] , Chemistry [^] , Physics [^] Biology, Geography, Religious Studies French [^] , History [^] , Spanish [^] English Language, Mathematics, Physics Biology, Geography, History Biology [^] , Chemistry [^] , Mathematics [^] , Physics [^] Biology, Computer Science, Psychology Business Studies, Design & Technology [^] , Economics Business Studies, Design & Technology [^] , Geography Economics, Geography [^] , Geology Biology, Chemistry, Physics Biology, English Language [^] , French Design & Technology [^] , Mathematics, Physics	T Twaddle STA	French, Latin [^] , Mathematics [^]	V Van Berckel SM	Electronics, Mathematics, Physics	W Wardale JM Waring AD Webb JH Webster ER Wentling EMA Weston IJ Whitelaw HC Wilkie R Wilson MG Windle S Winn EA	Geography, History, Philosophy Chemistry, Mathematics [^] , Physics [^] Business Studies [^] , History [^] , Psychology Business Studies, History, Religious Studies Biology, German, Psychology [^] English Language, Geography, History English Language [^] , History [^] , Philosophy Economics, Philosophy [^] , Spanish English Language [^] , History [^] , Philosophy [^] Fine Art, English Language and Literature [^] , Mathematics [^] , Physics Fine Art [^] , French, Mathematics	Y Yasin ZUA Yasir ZK Yousaf S	Biology [^] , Chemistry, Mathematics [^] Biology, Chemistry, Physics Biology, Chemistry [^] , Mathematics [^]	Z Zaman S	Biology [^] , Chemistry, History
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We extend our congratulations
to all of our students on their
achievements this year!

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Junior School



From the Junior School Headmaster ...

Junior School Speech Day 2016 Junior School Headmaster's Speech

Good evening distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen and boys and girls. Welcome to the Junior School Speech Day and Celebration Evening.

First of all, after announcing my retirement I want to thank everybody for all their kind words. And as ever, thank you for recommending this School to so many others. Marc Silverside is doing a fantastic job marketing BGS, but word of mouth always remains important.

Thank you also to all of you who filled in the parent questionnaires – you are overwhelmingly happy with the school. All the responses were well over 95% positive. We have taken note of the survey and where one of us, or a particular incident has not measured up to the standards you expect we will endeavor, as always, to put it right.

What is school for? And what is the Junior School for? Education, vocation and to teach about life skills. Memory is the residue of thought – it's what's left behind when we have taught pupils. We need to teach children so that they learn things, yes, but so they can make sense of the world too.

What is the point of weights and going to the Gym? It's to provide resistance to your muscles so that they grow. Children often ask what is Algebra for and will I ever need it? Teachers then go off on the explanation 'That it's used in every walk of life and that they will understand when they grow up'. But even if it's never used by them again, it's resistance for the brain, it exercises and makes their brain stronger. I still love learning things and I still love change. This school exercises children's brains, it makes them stronger and makes them think for themselves. But can we really prepare children for the world of work at junior level? Yes, we can.

Maddie Parlier is a car parts factory worker in America. She has a job because the robot arm that could do the job just as well as her will cost too much. The company will not buy any equipment that does not pay for itself within two years. When it does she is out of a job. She can see it coming and wants to go back to school to learn new skills.

In state schools our children have now become really, really good at passing Government tests. These tests do not equip them for life today, in the real world. We are picking up more and more parents at this school because of the new Year 2 SATs. First they are on, then they are off. We track all the children here and our teachers know everything about them, so why, oh why would we need a SATs test in Year 2 and Year 6 to prove it?

Astoundingly the 1944 Education Act was correct, but we have forgotten its message – that 'Every child should have the right to a broad and balanced curriculum' and a broad and balanced education. In most schools this is just not available. A total focus on Maths and English leaves little time for everything else. Maths and English are vital but not at the expense of other subjects.

So a school curriculum should be broad and balanced and our curriculum is just that. We have English, Maths and Science but in addition we also have time for Humanities, the Arts and Music as well as Computing, Technology and Sport. We expect so much of our young charges, completing more and more open ended work, independent study, mindfulness and resilience.



Is it the curriculum the same across all year groups? Yes, all our pupils have access to all our subjects at a level they can access and develop. How do we get better? What changes do we make because of the data we collect on children? Not just more data, but cause and effect, formative and not just summative information. By the very nature of our broad and balanced curriculum we use modern technology and give our pupils an insight, as best we can, to the world outside school including speakers from the world of work.

With small class sizes and the ability to spend time with each pupil each and every day, our teachers are given time to teach, and we have qualified teachers in front of every class. Our job as teachers and our curriculum is not to prepare kids for something, our job is to help children learn to prepare themselves for anything.

This is a school that should start where the learner is and not where we think they should be. Homework is no good unless the pupil is involved and engaged. We should, whenever possible, use the inverted classroom where pupils prepare for a future lesson and focus on future learning rather than regurgitating what they already know. Now with the aid of the internet that is actually not only possible, but vital. They should all have the opportunity for independent learning.

...

Speech Day 2016

Junior School Headmaster's Speech continued ...

...
Leaders should keep their eye on the long-term goal and not worry about the government fads in between, only utilising things that are appropriate and worthwhile for the pupils in their care. Teachers sometimes say 'I have been teaching for 20 years'. Maybe, but too often they have taught for one year and they have just repeated it 20 times. We need to take notice that our audience, the pupils have changed, and so in turn must we.

As I mentioned before, I like change. The best teachers are always wanting to do and find out more about their own craft; pushing out the boundaries of their learning and teaching, which is why many exceptional teachers re-work or even discard their teaching notes on a regular basis and look for new topics, and ways, to teach. Children will work harder for a teacher they respect, even if they demand more and insist on discipline and high standards.

One can only speculate what would have been the impact if all the money spent on technology in state schools had gone instead into lowering the teacher-pupil ratio and improving the identification, selection and training of the most effective and passionate teachers. Where would we be now? In a somewhat better place maybe.

But how do you spot a good teacher?

I spot good teachers by the changes they want to make for the pupils. I never get tired of a teacher saying 'Can we try this, can we buy that' and 'Would it not be great to go on this trip?' It's quite humbling to see what some of our teachers are prepared to do for our pupils. A simple trip, even now, requires massive amounts of form filling, risk assessments and approvals (that's how it should be) but teachers who organise visits spend hours on them, they do not do them for fun, they do them because they really believe that they will benefit our pupils.

So good teachers – they may be unorthodox, idiosyncratic, employing a variety of approaches to get children to want to learn and to question what they are being taught. They are typified by their passion, their non-negotiable standards, breadth of interests, high expectations, understanding of how children learn, empathy, an insistence on greater self-discipline and by their relationship with their pupils.

I would like to show you a short video by Taylor Mali an American teacher. When at a dinner party he was asked 'What do teachers make?', as in how much money? But instead he took it literally. So if you ever want to know what teachers make, watch this video or look at your own child to see.

I would just like to say a huge thank you to all the Junior School staff to each and every one of them for all their support. Also to all the non-teaching staff that most of you never see – you are all amazing.

I would also like to thank Mrs Bradley, Mrs Langdon and Mrs Celik who have run the Junior School Parents' Association so well. Also all the other parental helpers that a Junior School could not run without.

I would also like to thank Lady Morrison, Simon and all the Governors for their superb support.

But, I could not let the moment pass without thanking Kerry Howes who has been wonderful and has supported me through thick and thin. So thank you Kerry and please give her the same great support as you have to me. Finally, my thanks go to Julie Reilly who has organised me for the last two years, which has not been an easy task. Thank you Julie, I think all the parents know just how hard you work. So thank you to all of you.

And so to the pupils – my message to you courtesy of Frank Turner:

**'Well I guess I should confess that I am starting to get old,
All the latest music fads all passed me by and left me cold,
All the kids are talking slang, I won't pretend to understand,
All my friends have long been married, mortgages and pension plans,
And it's obvious my angry adolescent days are done,
And I'm happy and I'm settled in the person I've become,
But that doesn't mean I'm settled up and sitting out the game,
Time may change a lot but some things they stay the same,
And I won't sit down,
And I won't shut up,
And most of all I will not grow up.'**

Don't ever grow up – don't ever stop learning.

And as Harper Lee the author said to a fan:

'As you get older, always tell the truth, do no harm to others, and don't think you are the most important being on earth. Rich or poor, you then can look anyone in the eye and say, "I'm probably no better than you, but I'm certainly your equal".'

And then keep saying:

**'I am somebody
I was somebody when I came to this school
I will be a better somebody when I leave
I am powerful
I am strong
I have things to do
People to impress and places
I want to go.'**

If you say it often enough it will start to be a part of you and if you ever falter or doubt yourself.

Pick up the red book, you all have one. Open it and read your name out loud, you have already achieved so much, imagine what you will go on to achieve because:

**'For every child that has been born there is a chance in life,
To try it all and be someone with what we have inside,
So don't give up and don't give in, just give it all instead,
And raise your voice above the crowd and let them know,
You've said "I have been here, read my name, read my name;
With all I've got I've taken part, I've made a difference,
To the world, I have been here, just read my name!"'
Read My Name, Chris De Burgh**

Thank you.

Neil Gabriel

Neil Gabriel
BA, DipArch
Junior School Headmaster

Arts and Performance

Junior School Christmas Concert

By C J Brook, Teacher of Music

This year the Junior School Christmas Concert took us on a musical tour of the world, the theme being Christmas Around the World. It featured songs from Hawaii, America, Czech Republic, Germany (sung in German), Africa, and the Caribbean.

There was also instrumental music from Ireland, France, Brazil and Austria along with some good old traditional English Christmas carols which the audience lustily joined in with. The second half began with 'Rockin' All Over the World' – the Rock Band couldn't have performed a more appropriate piece and it ended with the whole School joining together to sing a lively Christmas song entitled 'All Around the World'. The concert was not quite finished as there was a surprise item to mark the retirement of Mr Riley and to wish him well – yet again another country was visited with an Australian version of 'Jingle Bells'!

The range and talent of the young instrumentalists was clearly evident as was their enthusiasm and excitement of music-making. The concert featured both large and smaller ensembles ranging from the Orchestra, Wind Band and Choir to the String, Flute, Guitar, Samba and Recorder Groups. A new group making its debut at this concert was the Ukulele Group who had great fun playing 'Santa Claus is Coming to Town'. The musical items were interspersed with Christmas readings with all the pupils reading with great confidence.

Thanks must go to all the peripatetic music staff who teach the pupils so wonderfully well, Mr Smales for his help with the Orchestra and Wind Band, Mrs Orviss for preparing the readers, Mrs Allen for all her organisational work behind the scenes, Mrs Green for teaching the pupils the German Christmas song, Mrs Reilly for all her administrative work and Mr Dutton and Miss Deal for the technical support. The biggest thanks however must go to all the pupils both young and old who performed so well on the night and demonstrated the great variety of music on offer here at Bradford Grammar Junior School.

Junior School Spring Concert

By C J Brook, Teacher of Music

The Spring Concert traditionally features winners of the House Music competition held in School a few weeks earlier in the term, as well as music from the various school ensembles.

The concert couldn't have got off to a more unusual start as conductor of the Orchestra, Darth Vader (or does a member of staff harbour secret Hollywood ambitions!) held a light sabre battle with your correspondent in the middle of the Price Hall. The groups that performed a wide variety of pieces throughout the evening included the Orchestra, Wind Band, String Group, Flute Group, Guitar Group, Recorder Group, Samba Band and Choir. The second half began with a preview of the forthcoming Junior School musical production of 'Honk!' as the cast and choir sang the opening number entitled 'A Poultry Tale'. As is customary in Junior School concerts all pupils are involved in a whole School song to finish the evening.

The remainder of the concert showcased some of the amazing musical talents of Junior School pupils both young and old as the various winners of the beginner, intermediate, advanced and even super advanced categories of the recent House Music competition performed with great musicality and confidence. There were solo sections for string, wind, brass, percussion, piano, and vocal performers as well as classical and vocal ensembles.

The prestigious musical awards for the year were given out at the end of the concert with Royal House the overall House Music Trophy winners; Isaac Li, Serene Liu and Elise Stanton-Davies receiving the Wilkinson Music Prize; and Sam Bryan, William Crookes, Isaac Li, Serene Liu, Tzavier Thornber and Olivia Wasley being awarded the Musicians of the Year Trophy.

Grateful thanks must go to all the peripatetic staff for their continued work with the Junior School pupils and ensembles, Mr Smales (DV) for his help with the Orchestra and Wind Band, Mrs Allen for her stage management and behind the scenes help, Mrs Reilly for her administrative help and Mr Dutton and Miss Deal for their technical assistance.

National Poetry Day

By C Orviss, Junior School Teacher

On Thursday 8 October 2015, Clock House pupils celebrated National Poetry Day, the theme for which was 'light'.

The day started with a special assembly and in English lessons pupils read and wrote poetry about light. At lunch time pupils and teachers enthusiastically gathered in the Library to share their favourite poems. A great day was had by all!

English

By C Orviss, Junior School Teacher

Throughout the year, English has been promoted and celebrated in Clock House as children have enjoyed reading, writing and performing a wide range of different genres of literature.

National Poetry Day, World Book Day, Shakespeare Week and the Book Fair are just a handful of events that have been held to engender a love of literature and learning throughout the School.

Shakespeare Week

By C Orviss, Junior School Teacher

In March, Clock House pupils joined over 11,000 schools nationwide to celebrate Shakespeare Week, an annual event organised by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.

Pupils enjoyed reading, writing and performing poems and plays in the style of William Shakespeare and Tudor cloaks and hats were donned by our enthusiastic actors as they enjoyed delivering the magic of Shakespeare's writing.



Events

An 'eggstreme' mystery

By N Gabriel, Junior School Headmaster

When Clock House pupils returned to school following the Easter break, they were shocked to see a giant egg in a nest at the end of their playground.

The school's health and safety officer, Mr Thorn was called to inspect the unexplained arrival and Mr Gabriel called an emergency assembly. The area was cordoned off and the egg was analysed by scientists who undertook a close examination of it. They were satisfied that the egg contained some sort of life form. The school's CCTV was checked to see how and when the egg had arrived on the school's grounds. Unfortunately, the CCTV footage showed a blackout during the weekend and when the footage resumed, the egg and its nest were neatly nestled under a tree.

The Telegraph and Argus newspaper, intrigued by the story, reported on the strange phenomenon and teachers and pupils watched each day in the hope of seeing something happening. Pupils reported the egg moving and seeing cracks appear in the shell. However, as mysteriously as it had arrived, the egg disappeared leaving nothing but a trail of green slime. The source of the egg is still unknown and teachers and pupils can only speculate as to the source of this weird and wonderful happening.

House Music Competition

By C Brook, Teacher of Music

This years' prestigious House Music competition took place over two days in Clock House Hall and featured a full range of musical sections, categories and repertoire.

Instruments ranged from string, wind, brass, percussion, acoustic guitar, piano/keyboard, recorder and voice. There were also ensemble sections for both classical instruments, bands and singers.

Pupils from each year group were encouraged to take part and the music making was of the highest standard throughout. All pupils, whether young or old, acquitted themselves extremely well playing with great confidence, and for many of them it was the first time performing as a soloist in front of an audience.

The winners of the various categories would go on to perform their pieces later on in the term, either at the Spring Concert or Speech Day, but it is the enjoyment of music making and taking part which is ultimately the main aim of House Music. This was demonstrated by another record participation of 147 pupils involved.

This was another wonderful musical event, and many thanks must go to Mr Barry Jordan for adjudicating at the House Music Finals. He has a wonderful ability of putting the pupils at ease whilst also imparting such sound words of advice and encouragement for the future.

Queen's Birthday Celebrations

By N Gabriel,
Junior School Headmaster

Red, white and blue was the order of the day when, on 9 June, Clock House commemorated the Queen's 90th birthday.

Pupils and staff arrived at school resplendent in the colours of the union flag where they celebrated the achievements of the Queen in a special assembly.

They all stood to sing the national anthem and prizes were awarded to the winners of the Queen's birthday card competition. Under a blazing sun, pupils enjoyed a 'street party' style picnic lunch across the front of the school building which was wonderfully festooned with festive bunting.

World Book Day

By K Howes, Junior School Deputy Head

World Book Day is always an exciting event in any school's calendar and Clock House is no exception.

Our staff and pupils looked amazing as they paraded through school dressed as their favourite book characters. We saw many different popular book characters from Cruella De Vil to Mary Poppins and everyone enjoyed a literary inspired day of fun and learning.



Year 5 History Workshop

By K Howes, Junior School Deputy Head

On 5 October 2015, Year 5 pupils were very excited to welcome an unusual visitor into school: an Egyptian embalmer.

Pupils were thrilled to assist in the embalming of a 'real' Egyptian body and they learned first-hand how to observe the rituals of the detailed embalming process. Following that, they participated in an Egyptian funeral procession singing and chanting as they sent their embalmed body off to the after-life.



Sports

Clock House Sports Day

Tuesday 7 June saw the annual Clock House Swimming and Sports Day, one of the most anticipated days in the calendar for both staff and pupils. Clock House was awash with red, green, yellow and blue as the competitive nature of the House competition built up.

In the morning the four determined teams, Bradford, Founders, Freeman and Royal all had a debrief in assembly before heading to the pool for a morning of splashing entertainment. With races in every stroke and something for all age groups, no one missed out. Even the staff got involved with the eagerly awaited and now unmissable staff versus pupils race. Mr Townsend deputised for the absent Mr Newsome and did the staff proud as they took victory again for another year. The swimming pool was alive with noise, Bradford cheering the loudest after they were crowned champions for this year.

In the afternoon the focus moved outside to the track. The sun shone down on the BGS playing fields as the competitors took their places. The usual Sports Day events, such as the egg and spoon race and the sack race, were run alongside the more traditional Athletics events or sprint and distance races; each House rooting for their contender to go that little bit faster than the others. The two most prized events were the Year 6 Special Race and the Tug of War. It had been close all afternoon and when the results were in Mr Gabriel had a surprise announcement – for the first time there were joint winners with Freeman and Royal sharing the spoils.

Roll on next year.

Clock House Sports Report

Rugby

This year was another busy season that saw the ongoing development of Rugby for the boys in Clock House, with representatives from teams from Under 8 to Under 11. Fixtures were played at both home and away, however unfortunately we also had to contend with the weather which intervened for the BGS annual tournament and other notable fixtures.

Boys Hockey

A new developmental programme this year saw the introduction of Boys Hockey for the spring term. This successful venture saw fixtures played against other schools and the inclusion of the sport in the annual Year 6 sports tour. This will ensure future progression and we look forward to continued success next year.

Cricket

Despite at times battling against a wet summer season, which has seen limited training time as well as having an effect on fixtures, it has been a fairly successful season. This summer has seen fixtures played in snow, rain and glorious sunshine. Teams at all age groups have had success throughout the season – the highlight being a trio of victories at U9, U10 and U11 at nearby neighbours Brontë House in the last fixture of the season.

Swimming

Over the course of the year pupils from Year 3 to Year 6 have represented the School in galas both at home and away, cumulating in the annual HMC gala and National Relay Championships, where we had success in the U11 Breaststroke with both Will Odgen and Ana Campean finishing first. We also had a number of second places, including the U9 girls' freestyle relay. A highlight of the season was Eleanor Dawson breaking the U10 freestyle record at Sports Day.

Cross Country

A long season of Cross Country saw pupils from all year groups compete for the School across the different races held in the Bradford Schools League. Eleanor Dawson and Rebecca Flaherty finished second and third in the Year 5 and 6 girls' event.

The school was also well represented at the Bingley Harriers competition, in which Eleanor came first and Rebecca came second.

Netball

The U9, U10 and U11 teams have competed in a variety of fixtures and the competition is improving our standards across all year groups. Unfortunately the weather saw the cancellation on the annual BGS tournament but the girls still enjoyed success in other fixtures they took part in.

Trips and Visits

A Gruffalo! What's a Gruffalo?

By N Gabriel,
Junior School Headmaster

We were thrilled to meet the man behind one of the world's best-loved monsters Axel Scheffler, co-creator of 'The Gruffalo', who visited the Junior School as part of a 'Mini Literature Festival' to officially open the Clarkson library.

Along with getting the chance to meet Axel Scheffler, Junior School pupils enjoyed a day of Gruffalo-related activities with an array of festival workshops. The workshops included arts and crafts tips, reading sessions, making art displays for the classroom, a live drawing workshop by Axel himself, where he showed pupils his very own techniques, and a book signing.

Pupils Eesa Rashid, and Roop Hare, were among lots of pupils who had lots of fun including making a video starring pupils and the Gruffalo.

Eesa said: 'I loved meeting the Gruffalo, that was my favourite part, and the Gruffalo is also one of my favourite books because it's really funny. I also really liked it when Axel drew for us because it was fun to see him do it in real life and he drew in my book, which I'll keep forever.'

Roop continued: 'I liked meeting the Gruffalo and I like that he's very big and snuggly. He's funny. I also really liked it when Axel came into the room and drew for us. His sketches are really good.'



Fire Talk

By K Howes, Junior School Deputy Head

As part of our PSHE curriculum, the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service made their annual visit to Year 5 – an always eagerly anticipated event.

The children learned about evacuation plans in the event of a fire at home and the importance of smoke detectors. Road Safety was also addressed. The highlight of the visit was the opportunity to explore the fire engine!!



HMC Athletics

By H Smith, Junior School Teacher

On Friday 10 June, 29 children from Years 4, 5 and 6 travelled to the International Stadium in Gateshead to compete in the annual HMC Athletics Championships against 14 other schools. Representing the School in events in both track and field the students did a sterling job.

This year we were particularly successful in the U10 events with Daniel Grimmitt making the 200m final, Rebecca Flaherty finishing third in the Girls 600m, Annabel Petyt was just pipped at the post in the 80m sprint, a photo finish needed before Hymers were awarded the win, and Billy Blacker producing what we think is our first win in seven years coming a solid first in the Boys 600m.

A huge congratulations to all who took part and thank you to Miss Marsden and Miss Yates for their assistance.



Ingleborough Hall

By G Smith, Junior School Teacher

On Friday 20 May, Year 3 headed off towards The Yorkshire Dales, at what would be an exciting and enjoyable weekend at Ingleborough Hall, in the village of Clapham. Our first stop was Coniston Hall Falconry Centre to see the birds of prey. We were greeted by Matt, who told us about some of the birds and gave us all the chance to have a tawny owl fly onto our hand.

From there we went straight to Ingleborough Hall, where we were greeted by members of the hall staff, who showed us to our dormitories. After the children had been helped by the teachers to make their beds, they all went outside to play. Everyone had fun playing on the swings, climbing frame and on the enormous lawn!

Following a fire drill everyone went into the dining hall for their evening meal. The choice was pizza or fish and chips. Afterwards one child from each table had to stay behind and was shown how to set their table for the following morning.

On Friday evening there was the experience of country dancing. The children were not sure what to expect, but had great fun following Chris's instructions. By the time it was over everyone was very tired, but agreed it had been awesome. After a drink and some supper, the children went to bed and were unusually quiet within a short time.

The following morning for what must be the first time ever, the children had to be woken by the teachers. After getting dressed and making their beds the children made their way to the classroom to wait for the breakfast bell. After doing their diary for Friday everyone went into the dining room. Breakfast consisted of a choice of cereals, toast and a cooked breakfast.

After breakfast everyone went into Clapham to do the village study. Although it was raining heavily, no one complained, especially when it was discovered that one of the only shops in the village was a sweet shop. Lunch was a packed lunch of sandwiches, crisps, fruit, a biscuit and a drink and was eaten inside, due to the continued rain.

After lunch the children were given a tour of the hall by Mrs Hughes (Mrs Watts) the house keeper, who explained what each room would have been used for when it was the Farrah's family home. Following the tour of the hall, as it had stopped raining, everyone went outside and enjoyed the challenge of the adventure playground.

In the evening parents started to arrive for the barbecue. The food for the barbecue came from Keelham Farm Shop and was cooked by Mr Smith and James Robertshaw. The food was enjoyed by all and some children even described it as brilliant! Saturday concluded with a game of bingo, before the children retired exhausted to bed.

Sunday morning was rather busy, as the children all had to get up, strip their beds, pack their bags and then take them downstairs into the entrance hall and all before breakfast at eight o'clock. Following a nice breakfast, the children put a snack and a drink into their rucksacks, ready for a quick walk up the Nature Trail to Ingleborough Show Cave. Unlike Saturday the rain had stopped and the sun was beginning to shine.

Ingleborough Show Cave was amazing! The children learnt how stalactites and stalagmites had been formed over a period of 350 million years. They also learnt some of the names that had been given to some of the formations, such as The Jockey's Cap, The Mushroom Bed, Queen Victoria's Bloomers and The Witch's Fingers. It is said that if The Witch's Fingers drip on you, then you will experience a year's bad luck. Hopefully all the children managed to dodge the drips!

Once out of the cave everyone visited the souvenir shop and bought souvenir gems, before returning at a leisurely pace to Ingleborough Hall. The packed lunches were enjoyed sat outside in the sunshine. By the end of lunch, the coach had arrived and so all the bags and equipment were loaded on. Everyone waved a sad farewell to Ingleborough Hall and the coach set off back to school. All the children agreed it had been a most enjoyable and memorable weekend and they hoped to be able to return sometime in the not too distant future.

Trip to Borrowdale

By Junior School, Year 2 pupils

Eesa: Thursday night and Packing

On Thursday our homework was to pack ready for Borrowdale. I was organised and had started packing on Wednesday ready for Friday.

Jumana: 8:30 Arriving at School

On Friday, we arrived at school and Mr Silverside put the suitcases in his car – I was so excited.

Lucy: Waving to Parents and the Journey

On the Friday morning I was so very excited too. When we left school to set off to Borrowdale I was singing with Ashalina. It was so much fun.

Daanyaal: Packed Lunches with our Teddy Bears

We had a teddy bears' picnic at lunchtime. My lunch was a kebab sandwich which tasted really nice. Adam and I shared my teddy bear.

Elizabeth: Rafting out to Treasure Island (St Herbert's)

When we went rafting out to St Herbert's Treasure Island, everyone got wet. I felt freezing cold for the next two hours but I still enjoyed it.

Laura: Finding the Treasure!

When we got to Treasure Island, we got into two groups. We found the treasure chest before the keys. We needed to find three keys to unlock the chest. To get the keys we had to do different activities.

Trips and Visits continued ...

Layla-Qasim: Team Activities to find the Treasure

The first activity we did was to follow our team blindfolded through an obstacle course. Then we had to work as a team to cross the swamp on lily pads. Next we had to find the hidden keys to open the treasure chest. The treasure was some crayons.

Jessica: The Journey Back

Coming back from St Herbert's Island was harder than going there but it was more fun. The speedboat went really fast and got everybody soaking wet!

Ashalina: Getting Changed and Ready for Tea

After we got changed we had our tea. We had a choice of pizza, chips and sweetcorn. It was really yummy. I wish we could have pizza, chips and sweetcorn every single day. I loved my tea.

Roop: The Walk beside Derwent Water and up Cat Bells

We walked up a mountain called Cat Bells. It was very steep. There was a beautiful view from the top.

Adam: Bedtime story

Before bed, Miss Yates read us a bedtime story. It was called the 'Lemur's Tale'. Lemurs live in Madagascar, which is in the Indian Ocean. It is off the southeast coast of Africa.

Izzy: Friday Night

Before bed we had hot chocolate. Then we went up to our rooms to sleep. My room did not get much sleep at all. But it was fun.

Millie: My Room

In my room there was Layla-Qasim, Ashalina, Georgia and me. I couldn't get to sleep because we were all chit chatting all night!

Saif: Saturday Morning

Abdullah and I woke up at 6.54am because the boys in the next room called Cat Bells were so noisy!

Georgia: Packing

When we got up we had to pack our suitcases with all of our things ready to go home. Our room was a mess because we had a midnight feast, so it took a long time to tidy up.

Robyn: Breakfast

For breakfast there were cornflakes. I had some beans, toast and a hash brown but it took a long time to get the hot food at breakfast.

Afterwards, we had to clear up the plates, knives and forks.

Henry: Orienteering

When orienteering, we had to find numbers and letters and collect them using stampers. We had to use a map to help us.

Khadijah: Archery

When we did archery, you had to try and get a bull's eye. First you had to get an arrow and click it into the bow. Then using three fingers you pulled the string back towards your mouth and aimed.

It was quite hard because it made your arms ache.

Abdullah: Archery

At Borrowdale, I was in the group who had a go at archery before orienteering. When it was my turn – the most points I scored were 90!

Alexander: Archery

In archery we played a pizza game. We had to get cheese, tomato and water, but stay out of the black circle on the target. It was excellent. It was the best!

Archie: Lunch

For lunch we could choose a sandwich. Mine was soggy!

Samuel: The journey back

It was a very long journey back. I took a silly picture of Abdullah and Adam in the minibus. I was happy to get back to school as I was so tired and looking forward to seeing my parents.

Lorna: Thank you to the Staff

We would like to thank all the staff who helped on the trip.

Carrie – thank you for looking after us and keeping us healthy.

Mr Gabriel and Mr Thorn – thank you for driving the minibuses and helping out with everything.

Mr Silverside – thank you for taking all the photos and joining in with everything.

Miss Yates – thanks for organising the trip.



Ski Trip, Le Corbier, French Alps

By H Smith, Junior School Teacher

This year in the second week of the Easter holidays, 32 pupils and four staff members took to the slopes of Le Corbier and Les Sybelles, nestled in the heart of the French Alps.

Despite being one of the largest resorts in the Alps, Le Corbier is relatively unknown and was an excellent resort for the Clock House ski trip. It offers a range of slopes for beginners, intermediates and advanced skiers with a lift-pass that covers six resorts and offers a wide variety of terrain.

Again this season the children were in ski school under the guidance of Philippe, Yan, Michael and Herve from the ESF. They commented on the excellent behaviour and attitude all the children showed and said they would love to teach us all again next year.

Philippe's beginners enjoyed plenty of wide slopes featuring good snow, and they made quick progression. Yann's intermediates enjoyed enormous blue runs with spectacular views and an exciting sense of travelling further afield. The advanced groups of Michael and Herve were entered into a downhill slalom to compete for 'Une Fleche'.

Deputy Mayor for London, Roger Evans, visits Clock House

It was a huge pleasure to welcome Roger Evans, The Deputy Mayor of London, to the Junior School in September 2015.

He began his visit by talking to the 186 junior pupils, ranging from 6 to 11 years, where he spoke about life in London, his job as Deputy Mayor, and the importance of key issues in his role. These included cutting crime, protecting and promoting the interests of outer London, keeping costs of Greater London Authority to a minimum and supporting the freedom of drivers whilst improving the tube and bus network.

The pupils were also given the opportunity to ask questions throughout the talk. As uncle to two pupils at the school, Isabel Bishop, 6, and Joe Bishop, 10, Roger said:

'It was fantastic to see my niece and nephew and meet all the pupils to answer their unique and enthusiastic questions ranging from transport to housing in London. Also, it's not everyday you get asked "... what's the most dangerous thing you've had to deal with?" or "... have you ever met any presidents?" – it really keeps you on your toes.'



Year 2 Science Trip

By H Smith, Junior School Teacher

On Thursday 17 September, Year 2 travelled to Baildon as part of their Science studies, to visit the DENSO nature reserve, an urban haven of woodland, meadows and pools where varied wildlife complements the other green areas in the wildlife rich Aire Valley. The trip involved exploring the seven-acre reserve which is situated between the River Aire and the Denso Marston factory in Shipley, West Yorkshire.

Created in 1990 on Denso Marston wash land for the benefit of wildlife, community enjoyment and education, Year 2 first helped with a snail survey – collecting as many snails they could find within a particular area of the reserve, identifying and counting them using a key and recording their findings for conservation purposes, before returning the snails to their habitats. Who knew there were snails with pink shells in Shipley!

Once all the snails had been safely returned, the group tried their hands (well nets) at pond dipping, finding an array of all different creatures lurking in the depths. Again these were all recorded for conservation and returned to the pond. In the afternoon, we went searching for field mice. However, since we were unable to be 'quiet as a mouse' we only found tracks and nests, no actual mammals, though plenty of toads were hiding in the undergrowth.

Unfortunately, the reserve was badly affected by the December flooding. Year 2 wanted to help so they arranged a competition to raise some funds to help replace the washed out classroom and damaged equipment. The teacher's pet competition invited other Clock House teachers with their pet. Some were more successful than others. However, the real winner was the reserve as £350 was raised and Steve the warden was so proud of everyone's efforts that he came into School to report on the process of the clean up.

Year 3 join the Roman Army

By J Watts, Junior School Teacher

As many as 24 new recruits have enlisted for the Roman Army, hoping to become Mini-Auxiliaries. They took along some adults who were conscripted as Optios. The Centurion gave the orders and the Auxiliaries had to reply 'YES CENTURION!' They were all issued with uniforms consisting of a neck-scarf, red tunic and belt; some fitted better than others!



After some initial training, weapons were also supplied. The Auxiliaries were put to work immediately with a day filled with lamp making in the workshop, further weapons training, Guard Duty and learning to write in Latin. 'Clock House' in Latin might be 'Domus Horologium.'

Towards the end of the day the local Celtic Tribe, on hearing that the fort was manned only by new recruits, launched an attack. The Auxiliaries shouldered their Armour and weapons and with great courage marched out in Tortoise formation, causing the marauding Celts to flee for their lives. A sacrifice was made to thank the Roman god for sparing them all, after which the Auxiliaries and Optios were paid a Roman coin for their day's labour! Although now qualified to join the Roman army, all the Auxiliaries opted to return to BGS with the Optios.

Year 4 Viking Trip

By A Buckley, Junior School Teacher

On Monday 7 March Year 4 spent the day at Murton Park (the award winning Danelaw Centre for living history) to experience a day in the life of a Viking. Danelaw Dark Age Village is a unique educational environment that is designed to support the study of life in Viking England.

The village provided an atmospheric learning environment where children dressed in costume, broke bread with the Viking lord, made pottery and even took part in guard duty (with blunt tools) to chase off the enemy. The children loved the teachers taking on the role of slaves for the day!

Year 5 Geography Trip to Clapham

By K Howes, Junior School Deputy Head

We were very lucky to have the perfect weather conditions for our Year 5 Geography field trip to Clapham and this added to the success of the trip.

Throughout the day the children explored the similarities and differences between the lower and upper course of the river. All groups worked well on what was actually GCSE level work and despite the odd wellington boot being water filled, an enjoyable (and educational) time was had by all.



Year 4 Bradford Cathedral Visit

By K Howes, Junior School Deputy Head

On Thursday 26 May, year four visited Bradford Cathedral. Led by Education and Visitors' Officer Gillian Davis, the visit provided children with an opportunity to learn about places of worship and tour the cathedral building followed by a drama and creative writing session.

With over thirteen hundred years of history on this site, there were many stories and facts to discover.



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Community Societies and Activities



Community, Societies and Activities

100 Leading Ladies

By J Chapman, Pastoral Director

Using Nancy Honey's '100 Leading Ladies' photographic exhibition at the Cartwright Hall as its focus, the School held a 'Leading Ladies' event in March to coincide with International Women's Day and consider the role of women in modern society, and how modern feminism should be defined.

The afternoon began with Nancy giving a guided tour of her photographs and describing her journey in documenting these important and successful women. Every portrait featured a woman, aged over 55, who is a leading figure in her field, ranging from scientists, engineers and doctors to entrepreneurs, writers and designers. Nancy described the collection as a living list of role models for young women in today's society.

Students from Years 11 to 13, with staff, and guests invited from other local schools then made their way to one of the upper galleries for a panel discussion. The panel included Hattie Garlick, former Times journalist, who chaired the debate, Rita Britton, founder of Pollyanna, the famous Barnsley boutique, Lis Merrick, mentor and coach, and two of our BGS Governors, Victoria Davey, lawyer, and Suzanne Watson, Approach PR. The topics covered included Emma Watson's 'He for She' campaign, how far men should be responsible for fixing inequality in society, and whether men can be feminists too (the consensus was that they could). As Maria Hussain (11ZJS) summed things up afterwards 'When we debated what the word 'feminism' means and how our generation could redefine this, it was suggested it now means gender equality and it really is down to us all, male and female, to take it forward.'



Barnardo's Mentoring Scheme

By L Croudson, Barnardo's Co-ordinator

This scheme is totally unique – I believe it is the only one like it in the UK. A group of Year 13 students meets and mentors every week a group of Young Carers who work with Barnardo's.

They receive help with their school work and homework. It is an excellent scheme because it not only improves the Young Carers grades but gives them confidence in their own ability and for a short time they can focus on themselves and not who they are caring for at home.

The Year 13 students motivate the Young Carers to raise self-esteem and confidence so that they can achieve more through their education. Feedback from teachers and relatives of the Young Carers indicates that they notice a positive difference in school and at home. Carers participate more readily in lessons putting their hand up to answer questions and are more engaged. At home they are more talkative and prepared to open up and interact.

Through the child protection and safe guarding training, and through the awareness they have gained from various education-related issues, the mentors have become a force for good and are able to support the Young Carers with sensitivity. One example of this was when a Year 13 mentor thought that a young male carer may have been Dyslexic and with help referred the case back to the relevant school who then helped the mentor to adapt his teaching style to suit the carer's needs. Sometimes however, all the Young Carers need is someone to talk to or just feel comfortable with. The mentors often sense this and it give them time to relax and have opportunities for conversation.

On the 11 March 2016 the School had a non-uniform day and Barnardo's merchandise was sold. The teddy bears were particularly popular. The day raised nearly £1,500 for the charity which will be 150 years old this year. In recognition of this work the school was nominated for and won the Princess Diana Award for Volunteering and attended an awards ceremony at Barclays HQ in London. At the time of writing the scheme is in the process of being entered for the Queens Award for Voluntary Service – the highest award given to volunteers across the UK.



Historical Society

By H Baines, Head of History

The BGS Historical Society meets weekly with students presenting topics of their own choice, followed by a discussion from the floor.

It is a relaxed gathering and all are welcome to join in – pupils and staff both teaching and non-teaching have attended this year. We are always ensured an eclectic range of topics reflecting the interests of our Sixth Formers and older students and this year was no exception. Our topics for discussion this year included the Gulf War of 1991, the Suez Crisis, Kim Il Sung, General Franco, Four women who should be more famous, The Creation of the SAS, a Brief History of Medicine, Heian Japan, South African Apartheid, Protest Music and Mughal India. We also welcome outside speakers and were delighted to welcome Old Bradfordian Rudi Leavor in January to talk about his experiences of growing up as a Jewish boy in Germany in the 1930s and his emigration to Britain in 1938. Rudi's excellent talk was to a packed Room 36 and he was very impressed with the questions from students.

Teenage Cancer Trust

By L S Allen, Development Executive

Over the last year, the BGS Netball team has raised over £1,700 for Teenage Cancer Trust, the only UK charity dedicated to improving the quality of life and chances of survival for the seven young people aged 13 to 24 diagnosed with cancer every day.

The charity funds and builds specialist units in NHS hospitals and provides dedicated staff, bringing young people together so they can be treated by teenage cancer experts in the best place for them.

Players raised money through a range of School events including the Christmas Fair, an online auction and the Fashion Show. Sally Bertrand and Lydia Beckett handed over the cheque to the charity.

Catherine Foster, Teenage Cancer Trust Regional Fundraiser, said: 'We've been so impressed with the incredible enthusiasm of the Netball team at Bradford Grammar School and we'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who took part in the wonderful fundraising events. This money will go towards desperately needed services for local young people with cancer.'

Extended Project Qualification

By A L McOwen, Teacher of Politics

In keeping with the School's values of excellence and opportunity, we encourage Sixth Form students to enrol upon the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

Successful applicants to this course undertake research on a question of their choice and write about their findings in a 6,000-word dissertation. As part of the process, students reflect upon their experience of conducting academic research and showcase valuable skills such as planning, research and analysis and evaluation which are key components to success in Higher Education. The EPQ requires a great deal of independent study and allows our students to distinguish themselves through academic endeavour.

Successfully demonstrating academic initiative and genuine intellectual curiosity this year were the following students:

Michael Beadle

Ethics of stem cell research

Kalvis Berzins

Future of electric aircraft

Toby Betts

Ethics of stem cell research

Adam Bradbury

Potential of sports psychology

Annabel Browne

Screen portrayal of dinosaurs

John Michael Burke

Social media use and mental health

James Callender

Print media as part of a ruling class

Gregor Cleland

Ethics of water fluoridation schemes

Rory Dickinson

Impacts of computer gaming

Olivia Dovernor

Environmental and economic viability of the Toyota Mirai

Max Duckett

Socio-economic impacts of immigration to Australia

Adam Haq

Desirability of opt-out organ donation systems

Ruby Hendry

Societal welfare of post-reunification East Germany

Fiona Holdsworth

Economic desirability of Brexit

Michael Jia

Socio-economic impacts of immigration to the UK

Tegan Johnson

Desirability of a British Bill of Rights

Jamaal Khan

Future of electric vehicles

Melissa Knapton

Home-ownership as a goal of UK housing policy

Adrian Kraft

Comparative evaluation of MRI scanning techniques

Matthew Ovens

Naval policy relating to the Battle of Jutland

Amreena Pervaiz

Public health policy and obesity

Anika Prasad

Achieving universal primary education

Jack Reid

Legitimacy of Catalonian independence

Thomas Riley

Future direction of UK nuclear policy

Awais Zahoor

Future direction of Alzheimer's research

On behalf of the tutor-assessor team, I would like to congratulate these students upon the successful completion of the EPQ course. It was a pleasure to support their growth as independent learners and we hope that they can use their EPQ experiences to underpin a successful UCAS application.

Ilkley Literature Festival

By E Wragg, Communications Executive

BGS pupil Edmund Milwain, 14, from Shipley, was proud to meet the well-known poet and Yorkshire treasure Ian McMillan for the first time.

They met at an event at Kings Hall and Winter Garden, Bradford Theatres as part of the Ilkley Literature Festival, proudly sponsored by the school where Ian performed extracts from his recently published novel 'Neither Nowt Nor Summat: In search of the meaning of Yorkshire.'

On the lead up to the event pupils could take part in a poetry competition with an exciting prize to meet Ian in person. Edmund Milwain was over the moon when he realised he had won alongside one of his peers Meg Boyle, 15, from Leeds.

As well as various readings from his book where Ian embarks on a journey around the county, trying to discover what lies at the heart of Britain's most distinct county and its people, he ended with a very entertaining Q and A with the audience.

Pupils, staff and Governors at the School delighted in his company and many queued up to get their books signed in the buzz of the aftermath.

Simon Hinchliffe, BGS Headmaster said: 'It was a fabulous evening with Ian. It's a privilege to sponsor an event like this because it brings the best and most exciting literature from across the world to Yorkshire – a place we're all proud of.'

It's also very important for the pupils to get involved which is why we held the poetry competition on the theme of Yorkshire. It's fantastic for them to meet someone of Ian's calibre who is so down to earth and such a passionate advocate of poetry.'



GCSE Physics Challenge

By O Theaker, Physics Teacher

The Physics Challenge is a prestigious national competition organised by Oxford University and run by the School. Our Year 11 pupils were tested on a wide variety of Physics material, some familiar from the GCSE course but applied in unfamiliar situations.

We also covered new Physics that the pupils have not come across before. This included tasks such as exploring the mechanical properties of cables for lifts, the loads they could carry and the dimensions required.

Nationally over 3,400 Year 11s entered and BGS submitted 27 candidates, a record high for recent years. A Gold Award is only given to candidates in the top 3% of the country and congratulations should go to Will Robson who achieved this high honour. Silver Awards place candidates in the top 8% nationally and Miles Loney, Henry Stonelake and Ben Wood all received this award.

Congratulations to all students who took part.

Gold

Will Robson

Silver

Miles Loney
Henry Stonelake
Ben Wood

Bronze 1

Erin Erturan
Ben Longfield
Amy Peacock
Bea Taggart

Bronze 2

Alexander Broadbridge-Kirbitson
Daniel Field

Commendation

Charlie Andrews
Theo Azfar
Laura Barnett
Lydia Beckett
Gaurav Bhardwaj
Hannah Chaidry
Ismail Ellam
Will Elmore
Sana Hafeji
Freddie Koenig-Gimeno
Tom Liu
Hibah Mahmood
Maddy Silberberg
Will SmithBarnaby Vaughan
Milly Websdale
Nasic Zahir

Schools Challenge Quiz Team

By A Corrigan, Modern Languages Teacher

The Schools Challenge Quiz team took part in the 2015 regional competition held at Ripon Grammar in November 2015. Competing against seven other teams from across Yorkshire, including Ermysted's, Ampleforth and Ripon Grammar, the team of Qudeer Ahmed, Ismail Ellam, Takreem Ahmad and James Hartley once again showed off an impressive depth of general knowledge.

Although they lost the first round match and therefore could not win the overall regional competition (eventually won by a very impressive Ermysted's A team), they did go on to beat Ripon and Ampleforth to win the inaugural Yorkshire region plate competition. They should be proud of their efforts and a great time was had by all.

My Srebrenica Experience

By H Baines and Danyaal Akhtar

We were pleased this year to build on the success of last year's Anne Frank exhibition by hosting SUSOMAD's Srebrenica Exhibition, which aimed to use the 20 year commemorations of the Srebrenica massacres to raise awareness of genocide in the modern world.

Twenty Year 9 pupils volunteered to train as Ambassadors. They gave tours of the exhibition to pupils throughout the school, parents and the public and participated in workshops with pupils from other Bradford schools on the issues raised, which culminated in teaching local primary schools. We are very proud of the way our Year 9 rose to the challenge and the sophistication with which they reflected on their experiences, as Danyaal Akhtar (9BCG) explains:

'Before I entered this scheme, I didn't know what 'genocide' was and I definitely did not know that racism was so common in today's society, and its immense effects. But when I learnt about Srebrenica, it really opened my eyes; I became truly passionate about genocide and other major issues in the world. I felt really happy to know that I was able to spread awareness across both the Srebrenica and 'Anne Frank + U' exhibitions to so many different people – from primary pupils to adults alike. Many people assume, including me, that my audience won't listen, they don't care. However everyone did and they properly thought about the valuable messages brought across by the exhibitions. The whole scheme has been fun – especially working beside my friends and children my own age. Who knew working with people you've never met before can be so interesting and fun? This whole scheme has made me much more confident. You should have seen the first time I did an exhibition! My speaking out does not end here – I will definitely stand up, speak out and make a difference from here on!'

Science Club Physics Olympics

By V Powne, Teacher of Physics

As a new addition to the co-curricular programme, the 'BGS Science Club' for Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils has had a successful year.

Pupils completed a variety of different practical challenges on Monday lunchtimes throughout the year, including building balloon powered cars, extracting DNA and making sparklers. Fifteen pupils completed the 'Squashed Tomatoes' challenge over six weeks to earn a British Science Association Bronze CREST Award.

This involved designing and building a prototype using limited materials for a cable car system to transport tomatoes down a mountain side in Nepal. The aim of the prototype was to transport the most tomatoes successfully down a vertical drop of one metre and a horizontal distance of one metre in two minutes. There were prizes for best design as well as most tomatoes transported. Four pupils from Science Club in Year 8 got to take part in the Physics Olympics competition at St Peters School, York, in June 2016 which involved five mini practical challenges as well as a demanding mathematical 'Fermi Quiz'. This year's team of Peter Nix, Seb Handley, Theo Horsley and Issy Kenyon came a respectable 10th place out of 35 on the day.

DofE Award Diamond Anniversary year

By S R Hoath, DofE Co-ordinator

Now in its 14th year at BGS the Duke of Edinburgh's Award continues to inspire our young people, challenging them to achieve in the four different section areas.

This year we have had another 100 students complete the Bronze award programme and a further 25 their Gold. The DofE Award goes from strength to strength and as the number one worldwide adventure programme for young people in its 60th year of operation.

Not only credited with the largest number of Gold Award students at a single ceremony, BGS has now received praise from The Award at Buckingham Palace. As part of the Diamond Anniversary Celebrations, Old Bradfordian Joshua Bhagaloo attended a once in a life time Gold Award Presentation at Buckingham Palace.

At the event Mr Hoath was presented with a special plaque from the DofE Charity by celebrity supporters 'Yorkshire Rows', acknowledging the school's commitment to running the DofE and thanking it for giving young people the opportunity to transform their lives. Speaking proudly about their involvement with the DofE Scott said: 'BGS has held a licence to deliver the DofE for two years and I feel honoured to have been invited to Buckingham Palace to receive a commemorative plaque to acknowledge and say thank you for our work with the Charity during its Diamond Anniversary year.'

Since starting the DofE award scheme an amazing 570 of its young people have achieved a DofE Award after volunteering in their community, learning a skill, getting fit, going on an expedition and, for Gold, taking part in a week-long residential. Doing a DofE programme significantly impacts young people's futures, enabling them to develop vital skills for life and work, such as confidence, commitment, resilience and team work.



BGS hosts the Fidelio Trio

By L S Allen, Development Executive

In November, the Music Department undertook a highly ambitious project which saw 80 pupils from local schools attend a 'string day' with the famous Fidelio Trio from London.

Pupils participated in a day of workshops, masterclasses and rehearsals with the Trio and our peripatetic string teachers. The day culminated in a wonderful concert in the Price Hall. The concert in the evening showcased the work done during the day. The Junior Ensemble (made up of players from pre-grade 1 to grade 4) performed five pieces and it was marvellous to see over 80 string players performing together. The Senior Ensemble, which was open to players who were grade 5 and above, worked on music by Warlock, Holst and Karl Jenkins and performed Basse Danse from the Capriol Suite and the first movement of Holst's St Paul's Suite in the evening performance.

It was a huge privilege to hear the Fidelio Trio perform La Mer by Debussy, in a new arrangement for Piano Trio by Sally Beamish. The quality of the performance was breath-taking and it was wonderful to welcome world class musicians to Bradford Grammar School.

We hope to welcome the Fidelio Trio to Bradford again and would like to thank them for making the day so memorable.



Mary's Meals

By J Chapman, Pastoral Director

After awarding the prizes at our 2015 Speech Day, Peter Higgins (OB) returned to BGS in September to set the School a challenge. He introduced us to a very special development charity called Mary's Meals.

They currently provide school dinners for over a million children in some of the poorest countries of the world, and by doing so enable them to go to school. Peter explained that any money donated to Mary's Meals before the end of December would be matched by the Department for International Development, so that BGS could double their fundraising in the autumn term.

Inspired by his visit, the School undertook to raise £10,000, and soon blue collecting boxes, modelled on the mugs used to serve school dinners in Africa, could be found all over the school and fundraising initiatives (cake sales, bag-packing and sponsored events) were in full swing. As the end of term approached, the fundraising became more intense. 10RWM's Christmas Cafe made an impressive £700, and the star individual fundraisers were Maddie Nix whose homemade Christmas cards raised £200 and Ben Merchant, who made £325 with a sponsored 10k run made up of laps round a squash court! Clock House made over £500 and the Music Department raised £850 at their Christmas performances. By the end of December BGS had donated a staggering £9,655 (doubled by UK Aid to £19,310) and we overtook the £10,000 target early in the new year. An unprecedented total and one we hope to build on next year.



Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

By J O'Malley, School Staff Instructor and G Ingham, Contingent Commander

BGS CCF has had an excellent year, during which it took an increased number of cadets to annual camp, received its first standard and participated in its first Brigade competition for many years. In addition, it has recently undertaken a rigorous adventure training four-day camp, which again, is a first for the Contingent.

Major John Stott completed his tenure as the Contingent Commander at the end of May 2015 and handed over to Geoff Ingham. Geoff has 21 years of military service behind him, primarily in the Light Infantry as a reservist. Major Stott receives the thanks of the School and CCF for guiding the Contingent at a difficult time.

There has been a marked increase in training opportunities over the last year, which in turn has led to increased numbers. These opportunities include an increased amount of flying time for the R.A.F. cadets within the Contingent and an independent Adventure Training package run over the Easter period. These opportunities are currently being enhanced by the introduction of modules such as First Aid, which will gain an external

qualification for those successful cadets. Overall, modules are being introduced which will attract UCAS points, which in turn will enhance the ability of the individual cadet to generate a good UCAS application. Camp 2015 took place in July at Wathgill, which is an Army Camp on the Catterick Training Area. A wide variety of training and experiences were provided, including mountain biking, navigation, full bore rifle shooting, archery and rafting, culminating in military skills including section attacks, followed by a 24-hour field exercise. The Contingent acquitted itself well and the demeanour and standards of the cadets brought positive comment from the Brigade Staff.

In November, the Contingent participated in the Brigade CCF Skill at Arms Meeting 2015. This was the first time that the Contingent had participated in a Brigade exercise for many years. It was pleasing to note that the Bradford Contingent was the second largest contingent in terms of numbers that participated in the event. In addition, it was especially pleasing to note that the participants came from both the Army and R.A.F. sections of the Contingent, showing that the Contingent is now working together, rather than as two separate sections.

Since November, there have been a pleasing number of new Cadets and training has therefore been expanded to ensure that all levels of training are catered for. The Senior Cadets have just undertaken a Methods of Instruction course which will now allow them to become a part of the training team and they have been attached to the other parts of the Contingent for this purpose. This last year has been very busy. The Contingent has grown, and the variety of the training is increasing so Cadets will get as much out of their membership as possible. The coming year promises to be equally busy, but looking back at the gains of the past twelve months, the effort will prove to be more than worthwhile.



By Major J M Stott, Former Contingent Commander

2014-15 saw cadets participate in a variety of exciting activities.

Regimental Sergeant Major Mushtaq trained with Air Cadets in Gibraltar, and Battery Sergeants Chivers, Neague and Owens completed a senior leadership course at Nescliffe, Shropshire.

The Air Cadets also took to the skies over RAF Linton on Ouse. The Army Cadets participated in 7.62mm rifle practice with Yorkshire North and West Army Cadets, completed a National Rifle Association coaching course at Ampleforth College, and attended RAF Odiham, Hampshire.

The contingent trained with Bridlington School and Read School at Warcop Camp in Cumbria, and the annual camp for Army Cadets was at Wathgill, North Yorkshire.

2014 marked the centenary of World War I and the founding of the BGS Combined Cadet Force. Both events were commemorated in school and the contingent was hosted by the Lord Mayor at a prestigious civic reception.

The end of term saw Regimental Sergeant Major Mushtaq, Battery Sergeant Major Flavell, and Battery Sergeants Chivers and Neague leave School. We wish them every success for the future with thanks for their dedicated, professional service to the CCF.



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Events



Events



Debating Society

By A Prasad, Senior Prefect and Secretary of the BGS Debating Society

This December the BGS Debating Society were honoured to welcome OB Alastair Campbell back to the school to give a talk entitled 'From BGS to Number 10'.

To have someone who has been so significant in shaping the political world during the Labour government was an incredible privilege for everyone involved.

Alastair spoke about his journey from leaving BGS to becoming Tony Blair's Chief Press Secretary from 1997 until 2003. Alastair's talk was followed by a Q and A session which covered many subjects including the war in Iraq, his work with mental health charities and even Bradford itself.

We were delighted to see an attendance of over 300 people both from in and out of the BGS community, and a fascinating, informative and inspiring evening was had by all. Debating strengthens skills which are invaluable later on in life, and I hope that our speaker series this year has increased awareness and interest in one of BGS's longest running societies.



Battle of the Somme assembly

By L S Allen, Development Executive

Bradford Grammar School held a moving assembly to remember all those who lost their lives at the Somme on Friday 1 July.

Joined by the Bishop of Bradford, Toby Howarth, and Deputy Lord Mayor, Alun Griffiths, the School also remembered the 14 former pupils who lost their lives in battle.

Following a blast of the WW1 whistle, a service, led by Bishop Toby, was held at the School's war memorial, before biographies of each former pupil were read to a packed hall of pupils, staff, governors and guests.

Martin Shaw and his family travelled from Knutsford to lay a wreath in memory of his Great Uncle, Kenneth Bloomer, a former pupil of Bradford Grammar School. He was joined by many Old Bradfordians and other guests who attended to pay their respects.

Renaming the Brownlee Pavilion

Old Bradfordians and sporting heroes Alistair and Jonny Brownlee returned to Bradford Grammar School on Wednesday 30 September for a fun run with pupils and the renaming of School's Pavilion in their honour.

Current and former pupils joined the brothers for a handicap run around Lister Park which was followed by the official opening ceremony at the Pavilion, led by Kevin Riley and Lady Morrison.

Olympic gold medal winner Alistair attended the school from 1998 to 2006, while his younger brother Jonny, Olympic bronze medallist and the current World Sprint Triathlon Champion, was a pupil from 1998 to 2008.

The Brownlee Pavilion now houses a permanent exhibition, commissioned by the School, depicting a timeline of Jonny and Alistair's achievements throughout their School and professional careers.

Careers in the Natural and Built Environment Networking Lunch

By S Flaherty, Careers Coordinator and Chemistry Teacher

On 23 March BGS held its first Careers in the Natural and Built Environment Networking Lunch.

Professionals working in roles that ranged from Catastrophe Operations Manager to Town Planner to Civil Engineer offered advice and support to Year 12 students interested in careers in this area. It was lovely to see both Old Bradfordians and parents offering the benefit of their experience to the pupils. Guests enjoyed an informal buffet lunch as they chatted and it was clear that the students gained a huge amount from the event. Indeed, some of the contacts made have resulted in work experience placements taking place over the summer.

Thanks to all the guests and staff who attended for their support.

The NPA Christmas Market

By D Bloomfield, Head of Netball

The Christmas Market proved yet again to be a huge success. We have built up a fantastic, well established event that makes a huge difference to fundraising for our tour.

The NPA run numerous stalls including a bottle and chocolate tombola and a sweet stand. Similarly our netball players sell raffle tickets for a chance to win an iWatch and a variety of luxury hampers ranging from beauty products to fine foods.

The DT department also put together an incredible Santa's grotto, with a special mention to Stuart Taylor and Shelby Deal who put a lot of time and effort into making it look spectacular. Thank You! The Price Hall stage is completely transformed to create a magical experience for all the children who come and visit him on the day.

Like the Fashion Show, a percentage of the money raised on the day went towards Mary's Meals, which was contributed to such a great cause.

We look forward to seeing you all there next year.

Faiths in the City

By R Skelton Head of Religious Studies

Year 9 pupils took part in a day of workshops, including Hindu and Sikh dance, Christian drama and Islamic calligraphy, as part of our annual Faiths in the City day.

Pupils had the opportunity to explore and discuss beliefs with their workshop leaders, producing a film which presented a series of interviews about faiths and its significance in people's lives. The film was shown at a special assembly to the whole school. The assembly was expertly led by pupils who also had the opportunity to express their own ideas about faith and its importance in their lives.



Founders' Day

Founders' Day is a very important day in BGS when the School comes together to remember what we are all about and to reaffirm our connection with Bradford and Bradford Cathedral.

Members of the School community, including students, governors, staff and friends, meet to commemorate those who founded the school and who have bequeathed resources to its development.

This year's Founders' Day service was held at Bradford Cathedral on Thursday 24 September. The Very Reverend Jerry Lepine, Dean of Bradford welcomed everyone and The Right Reverend Dr Toby Howarth, Bishop of Bradford addressed the congregation.

The order of service included hymns, readings and prayers read by Kevin Riley, Lady Morrison, Chairman of Governors, Rishi Naru, Head Prefect, and Simon Hinchliffe. The School Choir sang 'The Heavens are Telling'.

As part of the remembrance service candles were lit in remembrance as the list of benefactors was read. This is always a poignant part of the service.



World famous illustrator opens the Clarkson Library

Axel Scheffler, co-creator of 'The Gruffalo', led a Mini Literature Festival for BGS pupils to celebrate and open our new library.

As part of the festival Axel was also joined by award-winning sculptor and writer, Anthony Padgett, renowned poet and best-selling children's writer Nick Toczek and children's writer Saci Lloyd, author of the Carbon Diaries. The collective ran a series of exciting workshops with pupils from Years 2 to 13 including poetry recitals, open mic sessions, talks about their work, careers and life experiences and Q and A sessions throughout the afternoon.

Axel said: 'It was a real honour to be asked to visit Bradford Grammar School to open their new library. I also really enjoyed showing the children my creative process and how I come up with my sketches. It's a great feeling to have that impact and to get children reading and also parents reading with their children. I think that's an amazing thing to achieve.' – **Axel Scheffler**

'The style of the day really breathed fresh life into literature, ideas and words. It's not your average school day.' – **Saci Lloyd**
'With the kind of postmodern age we're in where technology is everywhere and it's an essential part of who we are and what we do, it's nice to revisit the pleasures of reading and tradition. The barriers and boundaries between who is an author and who is a poet, who is a writer or a blogger, it's all so fragmented now. So it's so important to do this sort of thing where we can go back to experiencing that raw talent and I think that's a real pleasure for pupils to see and take part in.' – **Anthony Padgett**



Race for Life

By L S Allen, Development Executive
Pupils, staff and parents enjoyed the annual Cancer Research Race for Life, a 5km run around Lister Park, on Sunday 12 June.

Our team joined around 1,200 other participants who ran, walked and jogged around the park, followed by refreshments back at the School.

Year 7 pupil Grace Dawson crossed the finish line first in 19 minutes and 32 seconds and teacher Sarah Flaherty was hot on her heels just ten seconds behind.

Grace said: 'It was a bit tougher than I expected but I just kept going. I'm really pleased to have come first and pleased with the time and that I managed under 20 minutes. I did the race two years ago when I was 10 and came second.'

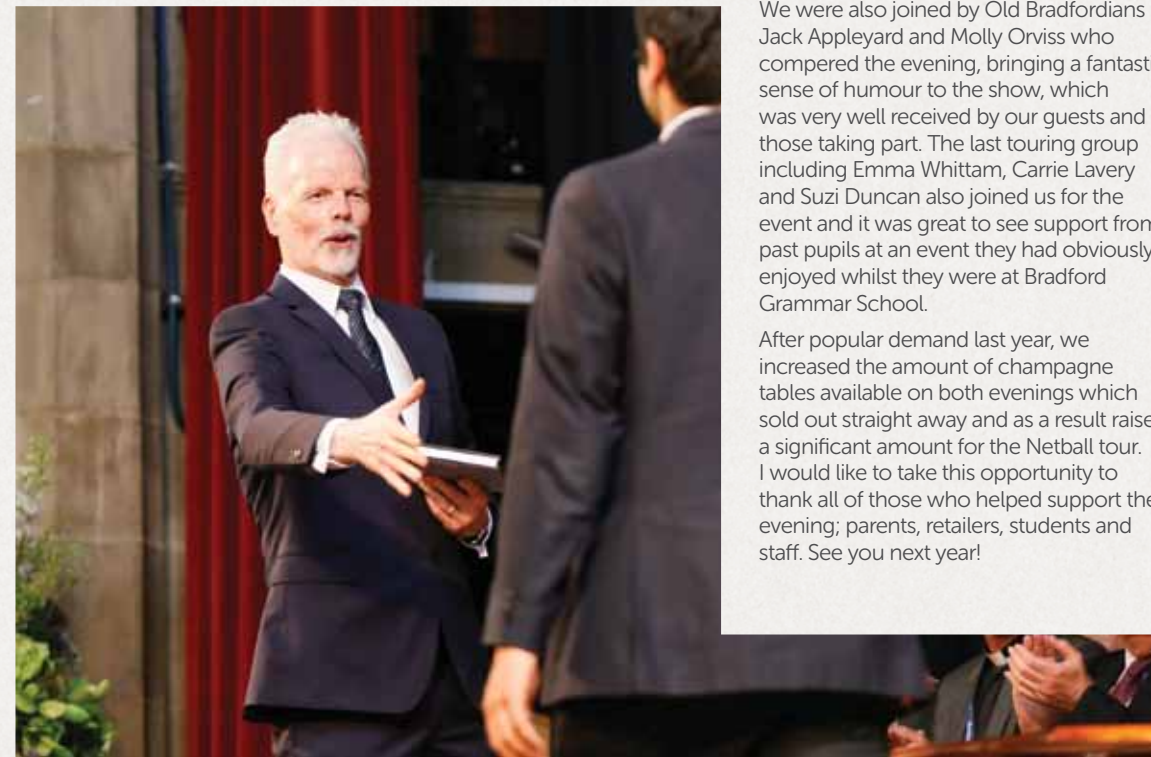
Regular training sessions took place in the lead up to the race and we are very grateful to Yorkshire Sport Foundation after we were successful in gaining funding to go towards our pink t-shirts.



Speech Day 2016

By L S Allen, Development Executive
This year's Speech Day on Friday 24 June saw Old Bradfordian and author Neil Hanson return to School to address the BGS community. After giving out prizes to pupils, Neil spoke about his varied career, the opportunities he experienced while at BGS and the honour he felt being invited back to speak to pupils.

A proud Yorkshireman, Neil attended BGS from 1957 to 1966 before reading PPE at Trinity College, Oxford. He became a full-time author, writing over 60 books including a string of Sunday Times Top 10 titles and a New York Times Number One bestseller. His most recent books, The Inn at the Top and Pigs Might Fly, are the bestselling humorous accounts of running the highest inn in the Yorkshire Dales.



Spring Fair

By T Lord, Vice Chair of the Parents' Association

The Parent's Association has had another busy year supporting the school and funding a number of projects. The 'Spring Fair' held in May had 'carnival' as its theme where we managed to successfully blend Rio and Yorkshire. We were fortunate in having Amanda Ashby as the fair organiser.

The sun shining on the day made it all the more enjoyable. We continue to fund small projects such as the Photography Competition which was available to all pupils across the junior and senior schools; the purchase of several picnic benches which are in continual use by pupils; and provision of a bowling machine that is used by cricketers and hockey players.

Other events organised by, or contributed to, by the PA include the 'Hockey Fun afternoon'. Our members have helped out at events such as the Family Farewell buffet, held for the first time at the end of May. Our meetings are well attended and provide an opportunity for like-minded parents to get together and share ideas. All parents are members of the PA and we look forward to continuing our partnership with school in the coming year.

The NPA Fashion Show

By D Bloomfield, Head of Netball

The Fashion Show this year was a huge success, raising more money than ever before for Mary's Meals and our tour fund to Australia this summer. We were joined again by some fantastic retailers including Attic, who continued to show their support for such a great event, and new retailers including Proms and Pearls and Hiblekind Clothing.

The Sixth Form students put on a great show and created some great routines to showcase the products. Sarah Varley and Talia Goode in particular choreographed some fantastic scenes and the standards were raised yet again.

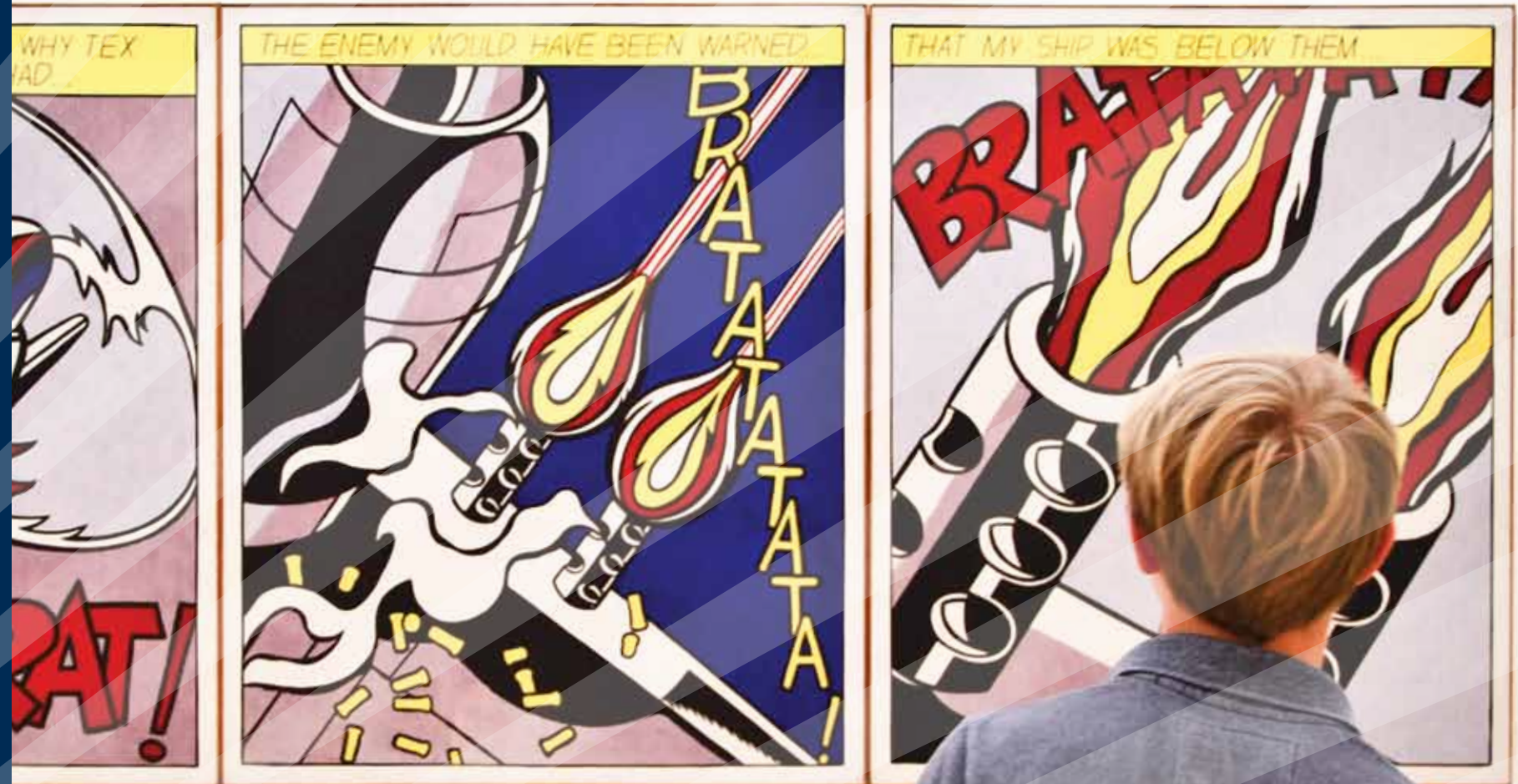
We were also joined by Old Bradfordians Jack Appleyard and Molly Orviss who compered the evening, bringing a fantastic sense of humour to the show, which was very well received by our guests and those taking part. The last touring group including Emma Whittam, Carrie Lavery and Suzi Duncan also joined us for the event and it was great to see support from past pupils at an event they had obviously enjoyed whilst they were at Bradford Grammar School.

After popular demand last year, we increased the amount of champagne tables available on both evenings which sold out straight away and as a result raised a significant amount for the Netball tour. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who helped support the evening; parents, retailers, students and staff. See you next year!



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Trips and Visits



Trips and Visits

A Level Trip to Rosehill Polymers

By J Richards, Teacher of Design and Technology

On the 22 January early this year the Design and Technology department visited Rosehill Polymers in Sowerby Bridge with a group of A Level Product Design pupils; the visit was planned to help pupils gain an educational insight in to how polymers are turned into products on a commercial level, underpinning curriculum knowledge at A Level.

We were very lucky to have had a company, such as Rosehill, so locally based who proud themselves on forefront innovative technology, specialising in the development and manufacture of coatings, adhesives, sealants and moulded rubber products.

The pupils were able to experience, first-hand the recycling and up cycling of polymer materials into new commercial products. The company's CEO Alex Celik was very helpful and patient with the pupils talking them through projects and how the company works closely with its customer base, to develop new products and technologies to satisfy new needs through R and D. The pupils were able to see the full journey of the products, helping them gain a clearer understanding of commercial manufacturing, design and installation.

Paris Art Trip

By S Horsfield, Teacher of Art

On 4 April, 19 very excited Pupils and three Art Teachers, Mr Norman, Mrs Hepworth-Wood and Mrs Horsfield met at BGS. The 11pm meet did not dampen the pupil's enthusiasm and off we set to Luton Airport to catch an early morning flight the following day.

Our excitement made it impossible to sleep on the coach journey, so we arrived a little tired and giddy at Charles de Gaulle Airport, Paris. The transfer to our hotel was smooth and we were met by RJ who informed the group of important and iconic buildings on the way into the centre of Paris.

Once we had dropped off our bags at The Grand Hotel Turin, we started our journey through several Galleries and Museums. However, an important stop at Le Bouillon Chartier was much needed to restore our energy levels. After reenergising ourselves with good food we visited the Picasso National Museum. The group was very much inspired by the African influence within Pablo Picasso's work and busily collected photographs and sketches. We decided to walk to the oldest park in Paris the Place De Vosges, where families relaxed and children played. The park was surrounded by typically Parisian buildings and shadows from the sculptures and trees danced in the breeze. And of course we all participated and very much enjoyed an ice cream which was also artistically presented in the form of a rose flower.

The next day we hopped on the metro to visit The Pompidou. This modern iconic architectural building did not disappoint and for many of the group proved to be the best museum of the week. We were inspired by the Modern and Contemporary structure alongside the exhibited Art, showing a vast array of works asking for introspective responses. After Pizza in the court yard, we hopped back onto the metro and travelled to the Musée de l'Orangerie which is home to Monet's most famous paintings. We took time here to sketch, collage and develop our journals. We took the opportunity to walk to the Sacré-Coeur and view the beautiful white church on the hill which looks out over Paris. Continuing walking around the streets we rested our feet at the square to enjoy our evening meal. This area is famously known to have been an area where artists in years gone by have socialised, worked and lived.

On the Thursday we visited the Louvre with an ambition to see one of the most famous paintings ever created, The Mona Lisa. Luck was certainly on our side and we all got an excellent view of the painting which is placed behind protective glass and guarded constantly. Not only was every room filled with artefacts but the detail applied to the interior was breath taking and reflected the many Kings of France that had once lived and ruled in the Palace.

An Impressionist painting session gave the whole group time to reflect on all we had seen and put into practice our knowledge of how to create a painting like Monet's Water Lilies. After a quick change a well-deserved meal waited for us at the Hard Rock Café. We have to say the pile of nachos from the teachers was finished off in a flash by a select few.

Coming to the end of our frantic journey across Paris, we woke up early to go to the Musée d'Orsay. Exhibited here is a massive collection of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist work and to actually see Van Gogh's Starry Night and self-portrait was incredibly moving. Completing our final gallery visit the high rise of the Eiffel Tower called. Mrs Horsfield once again marched the group until we turned a corner to see the tower rise above the Parisian streets. We took many pictures and sat down on the grass to absorb the towering jigsaw of steel. After the Eiffel Tower we took a boat trip down the River Seine. Viewing Paris from the calm waters, removed from the

hustle and bustle of the French streets this was very much a time for chatting about all we had seen becoming a very reflective time. Mrs Horsfield had one last treat for the group, to see Paris from the top of The Arc De Triomphe. It may not be quite as tall as the Eiffel Tower but, the race to the top of the Arc up a very steep spiral staircase set everybody's heart pounding. It was we have to say, worth every step.

Alas, it was time to head to the Hotel and collect our bags for the final journey home; we sat a little saddened on the coach that we were leaving so soon. The trip was full of busting with activities and to see so much Art was inspiring for all. I believe this is a trip we will all remember for so many reasons for years to come. Paris we will visit again soon!



Biology Trip to Chester Zoo

By P M Dunn, Head of Biology

Central to the pupils' success in Biology is encouraging them to appreciate that they are an integral part of the subject; therefore having the opportunity to engage in and experience some of the variety of life that exists on our planet, is invaluable.

In February, 45 members of Year 12 travelled to Chester Zoo for a lecture on Biodiversity and Conservation. Seeing and handling the animal parts confiscated by HM Customs – elephant tusks, snake, alligator and tiger skins and turtle shells – to name but a few – really has an impact. Appreciating the significance of worldwide Stud Books in the conservation breeding programmes of zoos across the globe which help to maintain genetic diversity, and the importance of educating and including indigenous people in conservation projects, is important in the students really understanding their role and effectiveness. Decomposition time line. This visit also gives students the opportunity to enter the 'Bat Cave', walk round the 'Islands' with its orang-u-tan and tigers, not to mention the Tropical Realm and giraffe house.

Year 10 pupils also have the chance to visit Chester Zoo, as an introduction to the IGCSE unit on the 'Variety of Life'. In June, 125 students and ten staff once more crossed the Pennines to enjoy a sunny day really getting to grips with the array of vertebrate and invertebrate animals and plants sourced from across the world. Going round in groups led by their Biology teachers the pupils complete their workbooks whilst enjoying the antics of the chimpanzees, penguins and meerkats, marvelling at the beauty of the Coral, Flamingo and Reticulate Python whilst hoping for a glimpse of the lions, tigers and sun bears. Invariably, at least one pupil (face painted) 'tiger' travels on the coach back to Bradford!



Trips and Visits
continued ...

German Day

In December 2015, Year 7 pupils had the opportunity to learn about a traditional German Christmas from the experts. German students from Rishworth School took part in a cultural exchange with BGS, spending the day here learning about Year 7 pupils' experiences of learning German whilst leading a variety of activities to teach Year 7 about Christmas celebrations in Germany and how they differ from British traditions.

The Year 7 pupils watched a short sketch about a German family Christmas and participated in a quiz to check their understanding (with prizes) before hearing the nativity play auf Deutsch. The pupils then moved to the DH room to participate in a carousel of activities in which they decorated gingerbread, made a Christmas card, wrote to Santa, completed a worksheet and sang a Christmas carol, all in German. All the Year 7 pupils and the German visitors enjoyed their day and agreed that it was a most enjoyable way in which to start the festive season.

Château de Baudonnière

By E Town and L Wright, Year 7 Pupils

In April 2016 50 students in Years 7, 8 and 12 went on a trip to Normandy in France. The journey was long – a six-hour bus ride to the port and a six-hour ferry journey to France and a further hour and a half to the château.

It was our first time on a school trip abroad and we were all so excited. When we arrived it was very late and we were given a warm welcome with hot chocolate and a cosy bed to sleep in.

The next day was jam packed with fun. In the morning we had a quick tour and sport, as well as a delicious breakfast. After lunch we made bread (which we ate at dinner) and we all enjoyed it so much. In the evening we did a sporty activity where we raced against each other in all kinds of different races.

On Tuesday we woke up at 7.30am and after breakfast went to aéroball. We all agreed it would be good to have an aéroball team at school and we also did some French lessons (hilarious). After our tasty dinner we had orienteering; we got really lost so we teamed up with another group to help get us out!

On Wednesday we visited the market and Mont St Michel. At the market we had to complete a section of our journal and then we could go shopping. At Mont St Michel we walked round the shops and then we went up onto the main walls and learnt some very interesting facts (Harry Potter's 'Diagon Alley' was filmed here!)

On Thursday we did archery and initiative exercises and in the evening we had 'French night' and ate snails. On Friday we had climbing and the assault course which was the best by far! We all loved the trip and would have loved to have stayed. It was an amazing experience.

By H Chowdhury, Year 12 pupil

I think the trip to Le Château de la Baudonnière was very beneficial for us; we were able to speak French to the staff and locals as well as partake in exciting activities such as milking goats at the goat's cheese farm and visiting the caramel factory. We did lots of practice for our oral exams (which are very soon!) and learned much about French culture and also their terrible taste in music!

German Exchange 2016

By S B Davis, Teacher of Modern Languages

This spring saw the fourth exchange between BGS and the Albert-Schweitzer-Schule, Hofgeismar, with 24 participants from each school taking part.

We welcomed our German guests to BGS in January, offering them a rich programme of activities; as well as attending lessons and assemblies in school and enjoying our school lunches, the German group paid visits to the Royal Armouries in Leeds, the Media Museum in Bradford and went bowling at Hollywood Bowl. On Sunday they were joined in York by their BGS partners. After exploring the Minster area, we visited the Castle Museum before learning about the history of chocolate making at York's Chocolate Story where we also had fun making our own chocolate lollies and tasting a range of confectionary products through the ages.

During February half-term, it was our turn to experience German classrooms, enjoy local cuisine, go bowling and learn about numerous aspects of German culture and history. We were all impressed by the beautiful half-timbered houses from the 1600s in Hofgeismar and in the nearby towns of Bad Sooden-Allendorf and Hann. Munden. We were also shocked by the sad stories of unsuccessful escapes to the West at the nearby site of the old border between the former East and West German States, which is now a museum and memorial. Here we had a chance to sit inside an old USSR helicopter, now looking incongruous in its charming rural setting and to see the site on the inner German border fence where an East German lost his life trying to flee to the West – the bullet-hole is still clearly visible. The nearest city to Hofgeismar is Kassel and we

travelled there by tram-train – a combined vehicle that crosses the countryside like a train but then moves through the city streets like a tram. In Kassel we were able to buy presents and souvenirs after a fascinating visit to the brand-new interactive Brothers Grimm Museum where we learned about the world-wide popularity of their fairy-tales as well as their lives and academic work. We were also able to squeeze through a life-size hedge of thorns, thus feeling very much part of stories from our childhoods.

On our way back to Düsseldorf airport we stopped off at the Wewelsburg near Paderborn. Here in the triangular castle, built by the local Prince-Bishops in the early 1600s, we saw some of the rooms created by Himmler as a training academy for SS officers and as a place of ceremonies and mystical rituals linked to German mythology. This was a slightly spooky but fascinating historical site. Everybody who took part said that they enjoyed the trip very much, spoke lots of German, and learned a great deal about German culture; although it might be a little daunting at first to stay with another family, everybody got on well with their partners and gained an enormous amount from the experience. We hope to organise the fifth BGS-Hofgeismar exchange in 2017-18.

'Project-X' RAF Challenge

By S J Flaherty, Teacher of Chemistry

On 4 March, 26 Year 12 students took part in 'Project X' with the RAF. This was an interactive IT game whereby the students had to work together in small teams to solve problems and overcome challenges similar to those that the RAF meet during real life operations.

This was followed by an activities session designed to improve communication and leadership skills. The students enjoyed the session and it encouraged them to think about developing the sorts of skills that employers will be looking for in the future.



History round-up

By H E Baines, Head of History

The History Department has had its usual busy year with its range of trips and excellent talks to the weekly Historical Society. The Year 11 First World War Battlefields Trip in October was given extra poignancy as it tied in with our BGS WW1 Commemoration Project.

In conjunction with the Old Bradfordians Association and the OB Club (London), former Head of History, Nick Hooper, is researching the biographies of all the 219 Old Bradfordians on our School war memorial and special commemoration services held in school on the centenary of each death. 1915 was a year which saw mounting casualties, and the visit to the graves of the three OBs all killed during December 1915 in the first gas attacks of the 2nd Battle of Ypres was moving.



Year 9 also had their taste of the First World War closer to home, with a 'WW1 Experience Day' held by the Museum of Lancashire and the Lancashire Regiment in Preston. This included a tour of a mock-up trench, a visit from a WW1 'nurse', being drilled by a scary real Sergeant-Major and team-building activities with the soldiers of the Lancashire Regiment.

Year 8 got to grips with the life of mill apprentices during the Industrial Revolution with our visit to the always excellent Quarry Bank Mill in Styal, Cheshire. Year 12 Historians spent a day in York getting to grips with the impact of the Reformation through a study visit to the always impressive York Minster, and a number of smaller historic churches in York. They were also able to go to an A Level lecture day on Revolutionary Russia in Manchester, giving them a taste of proper university style lecturing.

For many of the Sixth Form though, the highlight was the opportunity to visit Krakow and Auschwitz in conjunction with the RS Department.

The Historical Society continued with its weekly meetings with a wide range of presentations, mostly by Sixth Form students, on topics from the early Mughal Emperors to the Armenian Genocide to Kim Il Sung. The highlight of the year was the talk in January from OB Rudi Leavor who, as a Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany, attended BGS from 1938. To hear his experiences first hand of how life in Berlin changed once Hitler came into power, and what it was like to arrive as an 11-year-old exile was, as one pupil commented, 'like touching history'.

A big thank you to colleagues both in and outside the History Department who have supported all these initiatives, and to our pupils for engaging so enthusiastically with history in all its forms.

Junior Classics trip to Italy

By K Meakin, Head of Classics

Gloomy weather forecasts for the Bay of Naples at October half term did nothing to dampen the spirits of 42 Year 8 pupils setting off on the 2015 Classics trip.

Wreathed in cloud, Mount Vesuvius was at its atmospheric best, and pupils were able to scale its heights and look down both into the crater on one side and across towards ancient Pompeii on the other. This was followed by a chance to roam around the spectacularly well-preserved remains of Villa Oplontis, a Roman country villa situated outside Pompeii and thought by some to have been the property of Nero's third wife Poppaea.

Frescoes on the walls here coupled with the generous dimensions of rooms, gardens and even swimming pool gave us a sense of the life of leisure and luxury lived by some under the rule of the emperors. Poignantly, several of the mosaics we went on to see in Naples Archaeological Museum the following day were designed to remind the viewer of Death, the great leveller who comes to rich and poor alike.

Continuing heavy rain in Herculaneum on Wednesday gave us a memorable insight into the original purpose of all those tall pavements and stepping stones! Shelter was found in the still intact baths, where pupils were able to admire the original floor mosaics as well as hunt for evidence of the Romans' underfloor and even behind-the-wall heating systems.

Those who braved the floodwater draining in torrents down to the original sea front were rewarded with moving close-up views of the skeletons of some of those inhabitants of the ancient town who perished in the pyroclastic blasts that followed the 79 AD eruption. Back at the hotel, pupils participated in a quiz on what they had learned so far. All groups impressed teachers with how much knowledge they had retained, but a tie-breaker question on the height of Mount Vesuvius saw Lex Galloway lead his team to victory.



The climax of the trip came with Thursday's all day visit to Pompeii. In the amphitheatre gladiator Thomas Howson was mercifully condemned to a quick, clean death by emperor Lewis Griffith, acting to placate an unanimously bloodthirsty Year 8 crowd. This was followed by a moving recitation of Pliny's eye-witness account of the eruption, ably performed by Alice Barnes, Max Bradley, Isabella Kenyon and Daya Dhesi. On the final evening, pizza, shopping and ice cream in Sorrento made the perfect end to an unforgettable trip.

Leeds University Classics Reading Competition

By K Meakin, Head of Classics

Thirty-five pupils entered this prestigious annual competition, in which the works of Greek and Roman poets, novelists and statesmen are performed aloud to an audience as they used to be in the ancient world.

The judges commented on the very high standard of entries, and congratulated all participants on their fluency and expressiveness, as well as their sheer nerve.

Entrants in the Junior Greek section included James Hartley, Alicia Hawksworth, Saul McShane, Edmund Milwain, Jonny Milner and Finlay Mears-Young. Competitors had to read one of Aesop's fables and against stiff opposition Finlay Mears-Young took second place for his clear and convincing recital.

In the Senior Greek category, competitors Adam Jackson and Shihab Basit read part of a speech composed 25 centuries ago by the Greek orator Lysias. Shihab was commended on his expressive, well-modulated phrases and won first prize.

Minimus Latin entrants gave group performances in Latin of the story of Little Red Riding Hood. From the six groups entering, both of the BGS groups achieved special mention and impressed the audience with their costumes and amusing additions to the script. Team Quintus, consisting of Adair Doulah, Fraz Ahmad, Grace Cogan, Tom Ashby, Hassan Sajad and Becca McCash were especially complimented on their lively presentation and flawlessly memorised lines, with Hassan's clear diction from beneath a wolf mask particularly impressing the judges. Meanwhile Team Caecilius was greatly enjoyed by audience and judges alike, and was felt to go the furthest of all six groups in terms of bringing the Latin to life: Harry Burns, Rohan Lalli, Wlyatt Butt, Freddie Azfar, Aisha Qureshi and Jasmine Madeley took well-earned first place.

Competitors in the Junior Latin section read a famous but tricky passage of Caesar, consisting mainly of one of those long and difficult sentences so much loved by Latin students. Performances in this category were in some cases breathtakingly good. Amongst a large number of entries, strong performances were given by all nine BGS pupils: Takreem Ahmad, James Hartley, James Harwood, Arshia Haider, Armani Mir, Hanna Panni, Salya Noor, Daryal Akhtar, and Bilal Al-Hassan. Takreem Ahmad was given an honourable mention: as first performer he set the standard high and gave a very confident performance which conveyed Caesar's meaning well. Meanwhile Daryal Akhtar gave a stunning performance: communicative, direct and thoroughly convincing from start to finish, with the majority of the speech committed to memory, he certainly deserved his first prize in this section.

In the Intermediate Latin category competitors from several schools gave readings of Horace's 11th Ode, carpe diem. Alex Doulah, Sophie Still, Claudia Kenyon, Aman Ismail, Jonny Milner, Finlay Mears-Young, Edmund Milwain and Saul McShane all gave thoughtful readings of this poem. Alex Doulah achieved honourable mention here for continuing his performance, unfazed by the noisy arrival of latecomers! Saul McShane took second place with a strikingly clear and expressive reading.

In the hotly contested Senior Latin section, Gaurav Ghardwaj, Hannah Chaudry, Adam Jackson, Shihab Basit and Matthew Parry each gave their own interpretation of a speech in which Cicero launches an attack on notorious Roman sex-goddess Clodia. The standard was high, with well-rehearsed entries from a number of schools. Ultimately, the judges found it impossible to choose between two quite different and equally impressive performances: two first prizes were therefore awarded, to Hannah Chaudry and Matthew Parry.

Trips and Visits
continued ...



Madrid Trip, Easter 2016

By G Woods, Academic Director

Seventeen members of Year 10 and Year 11 set off from school on Easter Sunday with Frau Murach and Mr Woods heading for Liverpool Airport for our flight to Madrid and a week-long linguistic and cultural stay in the Centro de Intercambios Escolares, a centre for educational exchanges.

We started the first full day of our stay with a walking tour of Madrid, focusing on the parts of the city built for the Hapsburg dynasty, and culminating in a fascinating tour of the Royal Palace. After visiting the Plaza Mayor, perhaps the most famous landmark in the city, we visited a local market and marvelled at the range of produce on offer.

On another day, we visited the world-famous Prado museum, stuffed with art and sculpture from around the world, although we concentrated on two Spanish Old Masters, Goya and Velázquez. We spent a couple of very interesting hours in the museum, but could easily have spent the whole day there, as there are so many works of art to see. Later in the week we returned to the theme of art with a visit to the Reina Sofía Museum which is the Spanish museum of modern art. There we were able to see Picasso's world-famous canvas Guernica, completed in June 1937, which depicts the horrors of war. By way of contrast, we were also able to enjoy the beautiful Retiro park, the green lung of the Spanish capital, and there were also plenty of opportunities for shopping in the Puerta del Sol and Gran Vía.

We had two excursions out of the city to local places of interest. One day, we visited the town of San Lorenzo de El Escorial to see the El Escorial monastery, burial site of the Spanish kings and queens of the Hapsburg and Bourbon dynasties. We travelled to the small town of Alcalá de Henares, a UNESCO world heritage site, seat of the original Complutense University, one of the oldest universities in the world, and birthplace of Miguel de Cervantes, author of Don Quijote, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the Spanish language. We saw the oldest part of the university, the birth house of Cervantes and one of the oldest preserved theatres in Europe.



Sixth Form Modern Languages Study Days

By B Cuesta-Gonzalez, Head of Spanish
Every year, the Association for Language Learning organises a series of Sixth Form Study Days held at the Showroom Cinema in Sheffield. This year, BGS students studying German and Spanish had the opportunity to attend in March.

Separate workshops are held for Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth, focussing on different aspects of the courses each year. In the afternoon, students from both year groups come together to watch a film in the language being studied, having had an introductory session led by an expert in the field of cinema to set the scene and talk about the main characters.

As in previous years, the day included a presentation by a leading exam board member on maximising performance in the relevant examination. This session was full of tips and advice on how to obtain the highest grades in speaking, writing, listening and reading and was well-received by the Sixth Formers. The workshops covered a range of AS and A2 topics, including speaking practice and discussions about immigration, that most relevant of current affairs topics.

This year, the German film was 'Westen', adapted from Julia Franck's novel 'Lagerfeuer' and told the story of a mother and child who chose to leave East Germany for a better life in the West. On arriving in West Germany, the family was placed in a refugee centre and the mother had to collect a number of stamps before receiving permission to leave and make a new life in West Germany.

The process of collecting stamps was an arduous one and, in many ways, the treatment that the family received in the refugee centre was little better than life in East Germany. This thought-provoking film encouraged students to think about issues of democracy and dictatorship and to consider how they would have approached life in East Germany.

The Spanish film was 'The Motorcycle Diaries', a poignant story about Ernesto Che Guevara, the iconic Argentinian revolutionary. It depicted his young years, as a student of Medicine about to graduate, who embarks on an adventure across the South American continent with his friend, Alberto Granado. As the adventure, initially centered on youthful hedonism, unfolds, Guevara discovers himself transformed by his observations on the life of the impoverished indigenous peasantry.

Through the characters they encounter on their continental trek, Guevara and Granado witness first-hand the injustices that the destitute face and are exposed to people and social classes they would have never encountered otherwise. To their surprise, the road presents to them both a genuine and captivating picture of Latin American identity. This is an inspiring movie and a perfect way to discover the many wonders of the Latin American continent.

The study day was an excellent opportunity for students to brush up their knowledge and skills and to pick up hints and tips to help them as they enter the revision period for their AS and A2 examinations.

Religious Studies

By R Skelton, Head of Religious Studies

The year has been a busy one for the Department but a very successful year. The 'Faiths in the City' event in October 2015 for Year 9 was magnificent. Faith leaders from different religious communities in Bradford and the wider Yorkshire area made excellent contributions to a very busy day.

Year 9 pupils experienced all six workshops and fed back at the end of the day. They experienced Hindu dance, Sikh dance, Islamic calligraphy, Christian theatre, Jewish literature and Buddhist practice and meditation workshops. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed and benefited from the day. Each Form had the opportunity to video interview the workshop leaders about their faiths – their commitment to faith and how it affects their daily lives. The video was broadcast to the School in a fantastic assembly in November led by Year 9.

The Philosophical Society has continued to grow and grow. This year we have had fantastic debates and discussions ranging from abortion, euthanasia to free will and Marxism. Fantastic contributions from pupils and led by Sixth Form students.

For many of the Sixth Form though, the highlight was the opportunity to visit Krakow and Auschwitz in conjunction with the History Department. Adam Bradbury (12MM) writes of the experience:

'It's hard to say if you should enjoy a trip to Auschwitz and the surrounding area, but the visit to Krakow was without a doubt the most moving, yet most enjoyable trip that I have ever been on.

Krakow itself is a fantastic city, we spent our first day exploring the rich heritage of the city, discovering the events that helped shaped it to this day. Our 2nd day in Poland however was when the emotions of the trip caught up with us. It was the day that we visited the Auschwitz and Birkenau camps. It's hard to describe how visiting a place of such extreme horror makes you feel, everyone in a way, seemed to feel a little bit empty throughout our time in the camps. The room full of shoes however, was when people began to feel that the events that had occurred 7 decades ago were more than just something seen in a documentary, the baby shoes in particular elicited the strongest reaction. The trip was emotionally draining, but it is something I feel needed to be experienced. The following day was perhaps one of the most emotional experiences of my life. After exploring the Oskar Schindler museum and visiting the Jewish Quarter of Krakow, we then watched the film adaptation of Schindler's life, Schindler's list. First visiting Auschwitz and seeing the camps first hand, followed by seeing the museum of Schindler's factory, the film brought everything home. It was hard to watch, more than a few tears were shed in the room when the film ended, but it perfectly captured what we had seen on the trip so far, it was the best way for us to finally see, how real the Holocaust was.

Our final day in Poland ended on a somewhat lighter note, we visited the salt mines of Krakow, deep underground. It was nothing short of spectacular. The carvings in the rock, the sculptures and particularly the various churches throughout the mine were a wonderful way to round off the trip. It really was a true representation of Krakow, hidden away from much of the world, but beautiful nonetheless. Krakow was universally popular with everyone on the trip in spite of the cold weather. Everything from the scenery, to the people, and in particular the food was unbelievable. While everyone had a fun time visiting Poland, we all I feel, came away with a new perspective of the Holocaust and the tragedy that occurred. It was hard, upsetting even, but a trip that truly created a lasting imprint. If I had to sum up the trip, it was thoroughly worth it.'

Anika Prasad (13HJB) echoes the emotional intensity of the whole experience:

'They say that visiting a place like Auschwitz-Birkenau affects every individual in a different way, so I wasn't entirely sure what to expect. Looking back now, however, it was undoubtedly the most chilling experience I've ever had, and it will remain with me for many years to come, I know. Seeing the human hair; the faces of the victims on the walls, the set of keys, shoes, family portraits that were brought, with the relentless hope of return. Suddenly the victims become so much more than a number, and nothing can prepare you for the numbness that brings. For me personally, I was speechless, angry, and actually quite scared. Scared that human beings not dissimilar to us were, and are still capable of committing such atrocities. The words of the memorial at the far end of Birkenau extermination camp should never, ever, be forgotten: "For ever let this place be a cry of despair and a warning to humanity".'

The Sixth Form Religious Ethics conference in Manchester in February 2016 was a brilliant event. The Central Methodist Hall was filled to the brim with A Level students. The speakers and presentations were excellent and the content extremely relevant and delivered by Dr Peter and Charlotte Vardy.

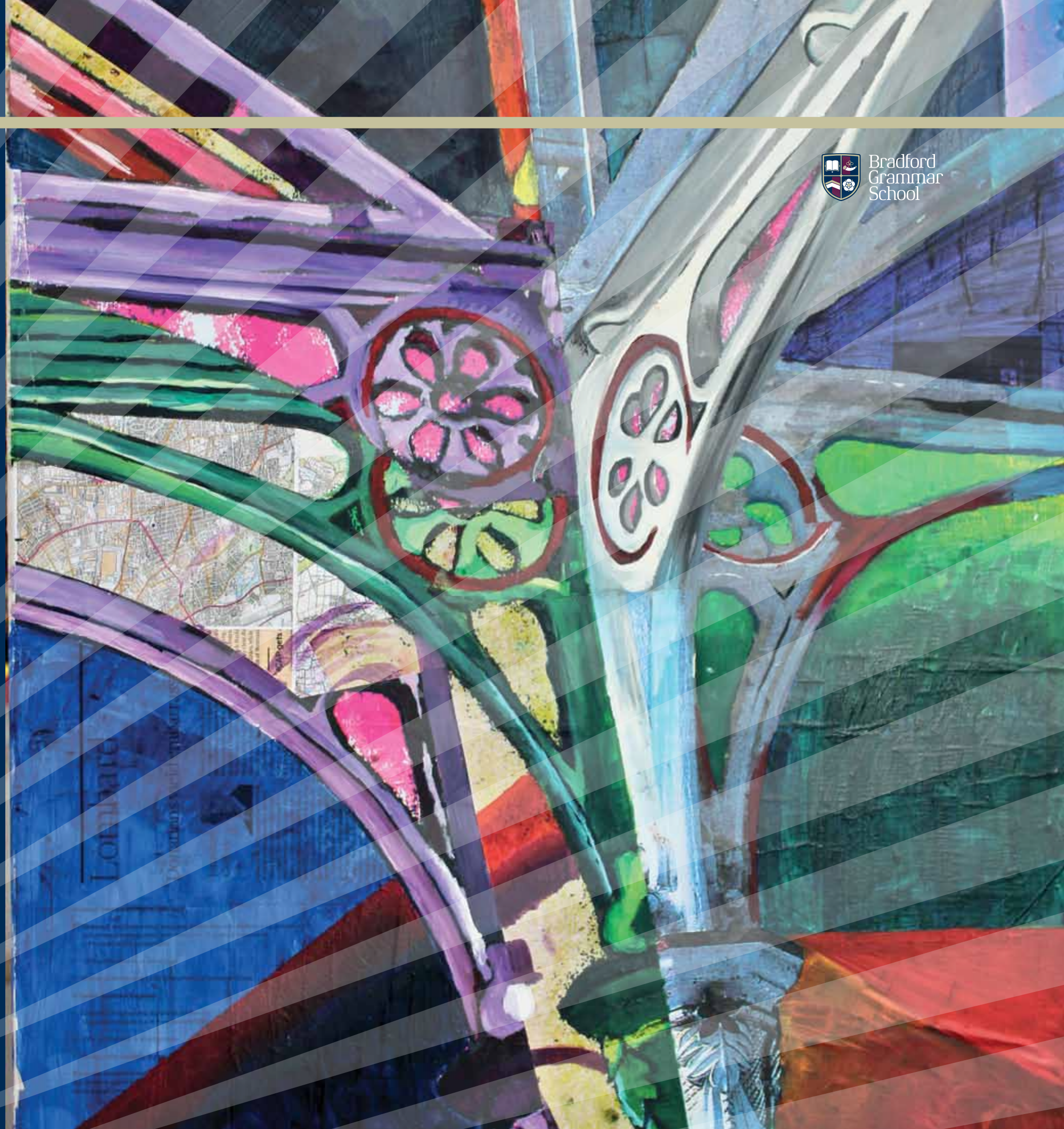


On the 18 and 19 March, the Religious Studies Department took 15 Year 11 pupils on a Religious Studies trip/retreat to the seaside town of Whitby. The trip fulfilled aims of guiding the GCSE students in revision for their exams. We arrived at Sneaton Castle on the Friday evening and had a lovely dinner followed by helpful revision sessions. The next day, we visited Whitby Abbey and the memorial of Caedmon. Later in the day we visited Sneaton Castle's chapel and a tour was led by a couple of charming sisters of the Order of the Holy Paraclete. The rest of the day was filled with revision sessions, tea breaks and free time. After a final meal on the Saturday night, we returned home feeling spiritually rejuvenated and in a peaceful state of mind coming up to the exam season.



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Arts and Performance



Arts and Performance

Arts Trail

By S Horsfield, Teacher of Design and Technology

During the Open Day the Art department had many exciting and imaginative activities running.

Visitors had the chance to participate in producing an animated film which ran live during the day and an arts trail testing our younger visitors to recognize artists throughout the department. The Arts Trail winners Poppy Ibbetson and Landon Crowther from Westville House School both revisited the School to be presented with their prizes of a selection of fabulous art materials. A fantastic result and much fun was had by all on the day.



Christmas Concert 2015

By E White, Director of Music

The Christmas Concert on Tuesday 8 December was a fitting end to a busy and enjoyable term of music-making.

Large junior groups performing were Junior Orchestra, playing 'Treasure' by Bruno Mars, and Junior Choir, who sang three songs, 'Electricity' from Billy Elliot, the spiritual 'Elijah and Joshua' and the Hebrew song 'Al Shlosha D'Varim', arranged by Naplan. The newly-formed Junior Chamber Choir, a smaller, auditioned choir, sang a beautiful arrangement of the 'Water of Tyne'. Singing featured prominently in the programme, with further performances of John Rutter's 'Noel Nouvelet' and 'The Birthday Carol' by the Senior Choir and Senior Chamber Choir. Another newly-formed choir, the Close Harmony Group sang 'White Winter Hymnal', a song made popular by the American group, The Pentatonix. Soul Band, The Wickermen, and Concert Band entertained us with music ranging from Jungle's 'Busy Earnin'' to the folk-inspired '10,000 Miles Away' by Bellowhead. Who could forget Big Band's take on 'YMCA', complete with costumes and moustaches; the sight of hundreds of audience members doing the actions in the Price Hall was something to behold! Before our final carol, the Senior Orchestra performed the 'Overture from the Marriage of Figaro' and a lively rendition of Leroy Anderson's 'Sleigh Ride'.

Chamber Concert 2015

By E White, Director of Music

The Autumn term's Chamber Concert, held in the Price Hall on 26 November, was an opportunity for soloists and ensembles to perform together for the first time this academic year.

We were treated to a variety of performances from pupils in all year groups, many of whom have achieved successes in music exams or competitions.

Music ranged from Adele's 'Rollin' In the Deep' by the Senior Brass Ensemble, to Chopin, Purcell and Lennox Berkeley. Ensembles performing were the Junior Saxophones, Clarinet and Flute groups and Senior Guitar group. The concert ended with a massed Senior and Junior Brass group performance of the 'William Tell Overture' by Rossini.

The standard of musicianship on show was as high as ever and the hard work and amount of practice undertaken by the groups and individuals was obvious. Congratulations to all performers and thank you to the teachers involved in preparing such wonderful ensembles.



'Grease'

By L A Kirk, Teacher of English

It is difficult to articulate the excitement and anticipation which swept through the School as the Hockney Theatre was transformed into 1950s American Rydell High School. After weeks of rigorous dance, music and drama rehearsals, the cast welcomed an eager and bursting crowd to transport themselves into the gossipy world of the Pink Ladies, T-Birds and of course, 'Grease Lightning'.

As the lights went up, the audience were met with an enthusiastic chorus and the 'too-cool-for-school' T-Birds and Pink Ladies singing 'Grease is the Word' before Patty Simcox's (played by Becky Wilkie) memorable entrance; special mention must go to Becky for her ability to master Patsy's irritating cheeriness so precisely, much to the laughter of the audience – she is certainly deserving of winning the Drama Prize.

After Danny and Sandy's dramatic reunion, the audience were hooked and eager to see how the lovers' feud would play out. Scenes were met with heavy laughter, sighs and gasps. Highlights included Kenickie's (played by Harry Sagar) confident rendition of 'Grease Lightning', which involved the slick chorus boys wheeling onto the stage a real car, as the T-Birds joined him in a perfectly choreographed performance that emanated the gang's characteristic 'attitude'. Lacking his own car, a clueless Roger (played by Henry Taggart) strove to impress an awkwardly 'geeky' Jan (played by Siena Anderson) with his 'Mooning Song', which despite his sincere chivalrous efforts was met with roars of laughter from the audience every night. More successful in melting the audience's heart, at least, was Doody's (played by Ed Paget) romantic and beautifully sung 'Those Magic Changes'. The Guardian Angel's (played by Jake Keating) witty and skilfully sung 'Beauty School Drop Out' perfectly concluded the first act, leaving the audience eager for the second half.

After the interval, the prom scene wowed the crowd yet again, through its lively hand jives and authentic and colourful costumes. Vince Fontane (played by Alex Priestley) was disturbingly convincing as the sleazy compère and huge congratulations must go to the chorus who successfully managed to dance in perfect unison for such a sustained period of time. In the second half, the atmosphere of the play took a notable change, as characters were faced with dilemmas and hardship. Rizo (played by Clementine Hall) didn't leave a dry eye in the house with her emotionally charged and heartfelt 'There are Worse Things I Could Do' – here, her performance skills honed as an A2 Theatre Studies student shone through.

However, a particularly special mention must go to the exceptional leads of the show Danny and Sandy (played by Matthew Boyle and Ruby Hendry). Both characters underwent enormous transformations, which they conveyed convincingly and movingly to the crowd. Matt and Ruby's ability to perform to the highest standard as well as deliver song after song with expert ease is admirable and conveyed a standard not often seen in school productions.

The level of talent, commitment and enthusiasm displayed by all involved deserves huge praise; congratulations to the cast, band, backstage helpers, technicians and staff involved in making this a truly exceptional show.

Nine Lessons and Carols Service

By E White, Director of Music

The wonderful surroundings of Bradford Cathedral provided an atmospheric setting for our inaugural service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

The opening welcome address was given by the Dean, the Very Reverend Jerry Lepine, and led to a beautiful unaccompanied first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City', sung by the very talented John Scholey. Senior Choir performed John Tavener's 'The Lamb', followed by Junior Choir's 'The Little Road to Bethlehem'. Close Harmony Group provided a slight departure from the more traditional repertoire with a jazz-inspired acapella arrangement of 'Silent Night' which was a wonderful contrast to Samuel Scheidt's 'A Child Is Born in Bethlehem' with semi-chorus quartet. No Carol Service would be complete without the music of John Rutter and he was well represented with the 'Sans Day Carol' (Senior Choir), 'The Colours of Christmas' (Junior Choir), his arrangement of 'Noël Nouvelet' (Senior Choir) and 'Dormi Jesu' (Senior Chamber Choir). Interspersed with the music were nine traditional readings from members of the school community, both pupils and staff, and the brass ensemble complemented the organ accompaniments to the congregational carols with the David Willcocks descants.

The Carol Service is to become a regular fixture in the School's calendar and we hope to see you at this year's event.

Grassington Festival

By E White, Director of Music

For the last two weeks of June, Grassington comes alive as artists, bands and art enthusiasts come together to perform at this well-regarded Festival. The Festival features live performances of music, dance and drama as well as workshops, talks, walks and creative challenges.

This year, performers ranged from Hue and Cry, the wonderful Hackney Colliery Band, to comedian Rich Hall, Marc Almond and Toyah Wilcox. The BGS Concert Band have become a regular feature of the Festival now, and performed in the main square for the 14th year in a row. Playing to a lively and very full town square, the Concert Band and singers entertained us with over 20 hits, such as 'Uptown Funk', 'Valerie' and 'Superstition'.

The event has become a real highlight in the school year and we are extremely privileged to be invited back to perform. Congratulations to all involved and a special thank you to the conductor of the band, Mr David Roberts.



Spring Concert 2016

By E White, Director of Music

We held our Spring Concert in the magnificent surroundings of the Price Hall on 15 March. The concert featured items from our large school ensembles as well as solos from some of our Year 13 musicians. Wonderful performances from all five of our school choirs, The Wickermen, Jazz Ensemble, Soul Band, Senior Orchestra and Concert Band also entertained us and got everyone's feet tapping.

Soloists at our concert were Alex Christian and Annabel Smith-Moorhouse, Shiraaz Ali, Alex Priestley, Emma Irwin and Sarah Twaddle, performing music from Vaughan Williams, Poulenc, Einaudi and Paradis to an arrangement by one of our peripatetic music teachers. Four of our pupils, James Pike, Aiden Dulay, Ed Truby and Fin Mears-Young performed 'Everlong' by the Foo Fighters. The evening was a wonderful way of celebrating the talents and hard work of our pupils and thanking those Year 13 musicians who lead by musical excellence and commitment to rehearsals.



Summer Concert 2016

By E White, Director of Music

On the evening of Tuesday 28 June, performers, parents and staff gathered in the Hockney Theatre for our annual Summer Concert. The heavens had been unrelenting throughout the afternoon's rehearsals, and as the strawberries and cream, fruit juice and Pimms began to flow at the drinks reception out on the cricket pitch, albeit under canvas, the rain it surely did continue to pour.

Audience and performers were welcomed, refreshed, and then damp but certainly not deterred, assembled eagerly around tables and chairs in the theatre space that had been transformed into an intimate jazz club setting for the evening. The summer sky may have been dark and drab, but the music that followed was quite the contrary.

Superb vocal performances by Lydia Crabtree, Year 7, and Alicia Pollard, Year 7, were met with rapturous applause. Grace Lancaster Year 9 performed a delightful arrangement of 'Nessun Dorma' from Puccini's 'Turandot' for French horn and piano, and the Junior Saxophone Ensemble's performance of 'Street Collection Medley' had the audience dancing in their seats with its infectious funk rhythms.

Making their Summer Concert debut, the Senior Choir gave a stirring performance of Brahms's 'How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings', made ever more poignant due to the fact that tonight's choir performance was the last under the conductorship of Alex Woodrow, Director of Music at Bradford Cathedral who leaves us to take up his new position of Director of Choral Music at Solihull School from September 2016.

After the performance the choir officially thanked Mr Woodrow for his tremendous work with our school choirs over the last four years, and presented him with flowers and a personalised coffee mug by which to remember his time with the BGS choirs. The Summer Concert is always tinged with a little sadness as it is the occasion upon which some of our Year 13 musicians perform at school for the very final time.

This year's Summer Concert was no exception, and to bring the evening to a close with a rousing rendition of the Traveling Wilburys's 'The Wilbury Twist' was, in his ever-popular guise of singer and acoustic guitarist, Jake Keating, Year 12, flanked by his brother and electric guitar wiz, Nick Keating Year 12, with Finlay Mears-Young, Year 10, on the drums.

And so, after one final, spellbinding encore performance of The Keating's signature tune; 'Budapest' by George Ezra, the audience retired into the rainy summer's evening having enjoyed a fantastic concert, bringing another tremendous musical year at BGS to a close.



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Sport

Athletics

By G Jones, Head of Athletics

Throughout the 2016 season, the BGS Athletics Club has continued to increase both the aspirations of our teams and the opportunities to compete.

The Junior and Inter Girls teams particularly have enjoyed friendly fixtures against other schools as well as competing alongside the boys' teams in Bradford Schools, HMC, English Schools and Independent Schools Competitions.

We have had a number of team and individual successes throughout the season.

Northern HMC Championships Wednesday 20 April

All four of our teams (JB, JG, IB, IG) competed in Gateshead in the first event of the season.

In addition, Emile Cairaess competed as an individual in the Senior Boys 1500m, becoming the event record holder with a time of 4 minutes 1 second. Other individual achievements include:

Ella Gill – Gold medal in Junior Girls 100m

Roisin Ramage – Silver in Intermediate Girls Shot Putt

Ella Moran, Ariana Galdins, Freya Bellamy and Ella Gill – Silver in Junior Girls Relay

Joe Riley – Silver in Intermediate Boys High Jump

Best placed team – Junior Girls, fourth

Junior and Intermediate Girls v Ampleforth and Hymers Saturday 23 April

For the first time we organised a girls friendly athletics meet against Ampleforth and Hymers at Spring Hall Running Track in Halifax.

Our Junior Girls and Inter Girls competed well, both winning their respective events.

Bradford Schools Track and Field Championships Wednesday 11 May

A number of BGS pupils competed on an individual basis in this event.

As a result of winning or coming second in their events the following Year 8 and above pupils were then selected to represent the District at the West Yorkshire Schools Championships. At this event Sam Berry also broke the event record for the Junior Boys 300m, completing it in 39.8 seconds.

Ella Gill – 100m

Lizzie Lucas – 100m

Daisy Bathily – Long Jump

Kate Mighell – High Jump

Laurenne Pickard – 200m

Sam Berry – 300m

Lui Shivtiel – Shot

Emily Fewlass Jones – 1500m

Kahlan Lee – Discus

Harrison Gill – 100m

Joe Riley – High Jump

Emile Cairaess – 1500m

Ella Moran – Hurdles

Freya Bellamy – 200m

Emile and Ella Moran went on to become West Yorkshire Champions in their events with Ella Gill and Milly Fewlass-Jones finishing in Bronze medal position.

In the Year 7 competition some future talent emerged with many of our athletes gaining first, second or third positions. Grace Dawson was the outstanding performer with a dominant 800m run.

Kate McNab – 100m 2nd

Pippa Threlfall – 1 lap 1st

Grace Dawson – 800m 1st

Beth Blacker – 800m 3rd

Anuli Okeahialam – High Jump 2nd

Independent Schools Girls' Championships Saturday 14 May

Barnard Castle hosted us along with Sedbergh, Durham, RGS Newcastle, Newcastle High School and Pocklington.

We competed in four competitions (Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10). After a great day of competition and winning performances we finished fourth, second, sixth and first.

Yorkshire and East Midlands Independent Schools Championships Thursday 9 and Tuesday 14 June

Our two Intermediate and two Junior teams competed at Mount St Mary's against QEGS Wakefield, Pocklington, Hymers, Mount St Mary's, Sheffield High School, Nottingham High School and Ashville.

Athletes competed in both individual and team competitions. The opposition was quality and for the Intermediates and Junior boys we didn't manage to achieve Gold in any individual events but had respectable performances all round with most competitors finishing in second or third position. Millie Ellison just missed out on a Gold medal in the long jump after equalling the distance of the first place athlete, unfortunately her second longest jump placing her in second. Overall the two Intermediate and Junior Boys teams all finished in third position.

The Junior Girls again were the highest achievers with 8 Gold medals.

Ella Gill – 100m and Relay

Eva Lockett – Hurdles

Grace Dawson – 1500m

Daisy Bathily – Long Jump

Hannah Crookes – Relay

Laurenne Pickard – Relay

Lizzie Lucas – Relay

In addition to this, the team made up with the aforementioned plus Glesni Jones, Kate Mighell and Cerys Ali were crowned champions ahead of Sheffield Girls' for the second season running.

Year 7 Girls Friendly v Queen Margaret's, York Saturday 18 June

Having spent the term learning and refining new techniques of track and field it was important to give all our keen Year 7 athletes, regardless of ability, a competitive fixture in which to test themselves.

With the Regional Final two days later and a Tennis fixture also running we were missing some of our more experienced athletes. This however gave rise to new talent. It was exciting to see previously untested pupils performing so well and demonstrating a high level of technical knowledge. We won the match and were particularly strong in the field events with outstanding performances from Zahra Hussain – High Jump, Zoe Harvey – Javelin, Mia Chutti – Discus, Beth Blacker – 1500m, and Parisa Darabi – 200m. This experience bodes well for continued success of the team next season.

Regional A Final, Harvey Hadden Stadium, Nottingham Monday 20 June

The Regional A finals took place in, at times, torrential rain.

The Junior Girls performed really well on the track again with high scoring runs from Gill, Dawson and Lockett and in form captain Hannah Crookes also adding a

Sport
continued ...

personal best and 21-point performance in the 800m. Unfortunately, we were below par across the board in the field events, finishing third in the Region which is a good achievement and shows real progress in Girls Athletics at BGS – something which we hope to build on next season in order to compete at regional level again and try to gain a spot in the National Finals.

The boys unfortunately lost the talented Peter Nix to a national maths competition and it is fair to say struggled to compete strongly with the competition at regional level. They ended the day eighth with the day's outstanding performance coming from Max Bradley in the 1500m.

**Bradford Athletics
League Finals
Thursday 23 June**

It was great to finish the season with BGS hosting the finals of the District League.

Our junior teams were both competing. Unfortunately, due to being on a Science trip, the Intermediates had been unable to compete in one of the qualifying events so despite being one of the highest points scorers in their other qualifying event neither team had gained enough to qualify for the final; this was a real shame, particularly for the Year 10 athletes who are a talented and committed group who won't be able to compete next year.

In the Junior Boys final were BGS, Woodhouse Grove, Beckfoot and Ilkley and in the Junior Girls, BGS, Woodhouse Grove, Skipton Girls' and Ilkley. Both teams competed strongly on the day culminating in the boys coming second to a strong Woodhouse Grove team and the girls becoming champions for the second time this season.

It was pleasing to see that in addition to our strong track performers our field events are now reaping the benefits of the technical work done throughout the season as the girls gained a first and second in Javelin with Eva Lockett and Glesni Jones, first and second in Long Jump with Daisy Bathily and Hannah Crookes and first and second in High Jump with Kate Mighell and Zahra Hussain.

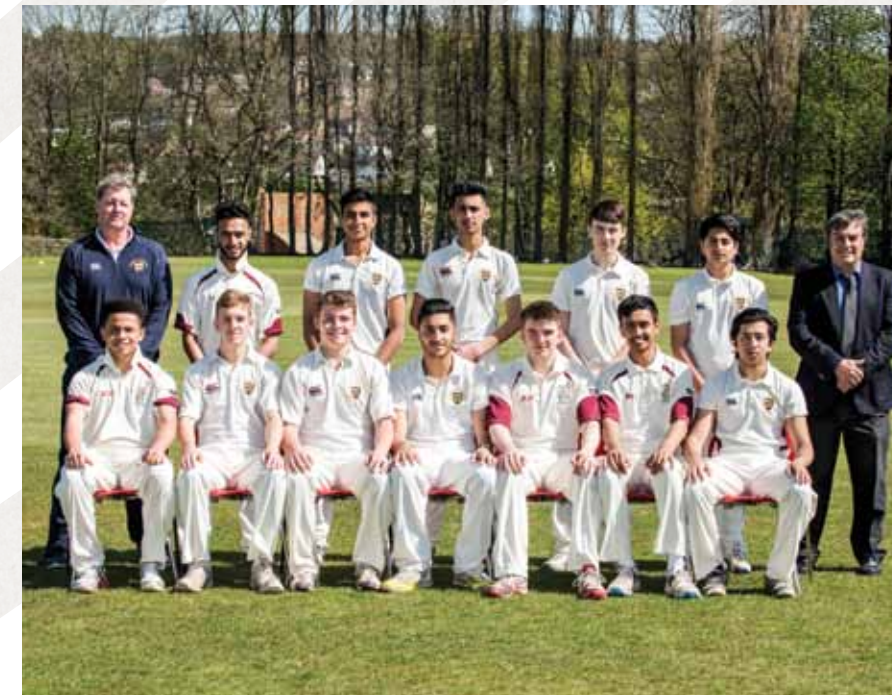


Cricket

1st XI

By A G Smith, Teacher i/c 1st XI Cricket

Played.....	16
Won.....	6
Drawn.....	1
Lost.....	9
Abandoned.....	3



Date	Opposition	Details	Result
April 6	Hymers College BGS 191-6 HC 165	Home Iqbal 29, Handy 23no Farooq 4-32 incl hat trick, Khan 3-36	Won by 26 runs
April 13	Ermysteds GS BGS 175-6 EGS 93	Home Williams 32, Croudson 22, Khan 20no, Heard 20, Ghafoor 20 Arshad 4-21, Khan 3-13	Won by 83 runs
April 16	Ashville College AC 169-5 BGS 124-9	Home T20 Khan 2-321 Handy 35, Williams 27	Lost by 45 runs
April 20	Notre Dame HS BGS 155-9 ND 81	Home T20 van Berckel 68, Heard 23 Farooq 3-6, Khan 3-20, Zamir 3-30	Won by 74 runs
April 23	St Peter's School, York BGS 187-7 St P 190-5	Away Iqbal 54, Croudson 52, van Berckel 25no	Lost by 5 wickets
April 27	Silcoates School SS 85-6 BGS 86-1	Away T20 Arshad 2-24, Khan 2-24 Williams 43no, Iqbal 23no	Won by 9 wickets
April 27	QEGS Wakefield QEGS 106-6 BGS 94-8	Away T20 Khan 3-27, Croudson 2-20 Williams 24	Lost by 12 runs
April 30	RGS Lancaster RGS 14-0	Home	Match Drawn (rain)
May 4	MCC MCC 230-3d BGS 77	Home Zamir 3-40	Lost by 153 runs



May 7	Woodhouse Grove BGS 152 WG 153-8	Home Williams 59, Croudson 21 Farooq 2-30, Khan 2-39, Arshad 2-41	Lost by 2 wickets
May 14	GSAL GSAL 180-6 BGS 139	Away Patel 2-30 Khan 39, Iqbal 30	Lost by 41 runs
June 11	Durham School BGS 138 DS 142-1	Away van Berckel 27, Croudson 22, Andrews 22	Lost by 9 wickets
June 18	Ampleforth College BGS 87 AC 88-3	Home Heard 39 Khan 2-4	Lost by 7 wickets
June 22	Saltaire CC SCC 169-5 BGS 127-5	Away T20 (Jack Sanderson Memorial Match) van Berckel 48, Croudson 21no	Lost by 42 runs
June 24	Old Bradfordians OB 241-5 BGS 242-7	Home D Groom 101no, Hinchliffe 45, Cockcroft 39; Patel 3-35 Williams 76, van Berckel 64, Heard 47no, I Walker 2-23 R Harland 2-30	Won by 3 wickets
June 25	Hymers College HC 139-9 BGS 140-3	Farooq 4-14, Brennan 2-34 Iqbal 57no, Andrews 26	Won by 7 wickets

The season ended quite bizarrely at Keele Services on the M6 when our proposed end of season tour to Bath was cancelled due to prolonged heavy rainfall in the South West.

Our return journey to Bradford enabled me to reflect on a number of symmetries that book-ended our season. A pre-season tour to Hull had also been cancelled due to the weather; we started and finished the season with two wins and our first and final opponents were Hymers. However, between these two periods the season was something of a struggle, predominantly resulting from our inability to put a decent total together, although there were also a couple of occasions where the game was there to be won but we were unable to finish off our opponents.

Planning for the season was dominated by trying to find batsmen who could consistently score runs in the top three. There was an abundance of contenders for the middle order but no obvious openers. This problem was to haunt us for the entire season, and as a consequence nine different players opened the batting in ten different combinations over 16 games. The notable exception was Waj Iqbal who settled to the number 3 role and contributed usefully throughout the season. Waj was one of the few batsmen to show the patience required to build a good score but even he found it hard to 'change gear' and often got himself out through frustration. Robbie Williams was the leading run scorer and, at times, batted with real authority, while wicket-keeper Scott van Berckel played a number of

exciting cameos particularly when opening the innings in the second half of the season. Both, however, lacked the patience and self-discipline required to enable the side to regularly post good totals. Will Heard and Oliver Croudson began the season as our opening pair but despite showing initial promise they struggled against the new ball and both were much more comfortable when batting in the middle order. Oliver enjoyed a decent first season and will, together with Robbie Williams, Charlie Andrews, Will Smith and Ben Merchant, form the basis of a decent batting line up over the next two seasons. Vice-Captain Matt Handy started the season promisingly but struggled to replicate his form of last season despite practising as hard as anyone in the team.

The bowling was a little more reliable although with most of the games being limited overs we sometimes struggled to find a reliable fifth bowler. Captain Yusuf Khan and Subhan Farooq formed an impressive opening partnership. Both bowled with good pace and were able to move the new ball both in the air and off the seam making life quite difficult for most opening batsmen. Milan Patel was the regular first change but while being accurate he seemed to have lost some of the pace and penetration of earlier seasons. He has, however, been a valuable and loyal member of the XI for four years. Taha Zamir proved an energetic and enthusiastic deputy when required although he needs to develop more variation to become a real threat at 1st XI level. Oliver Croudson worked hard to improve his bowling and produced some accurate spells of medium pace. Our only spinner was Hamza Arshad and he performed well in the early part of the season showing great control of flight and spin. Unfortunately, he was unavailable for the last few matches of the season, although Charlie Andrews showed some previously unheralded talent as an off spinner in the last few matches.

Having started the season with a victory over Hymers, in a pre-season game our hopes were raised when we easily beat Ermysted's and Notre Dame HS on consecutive Wednesdays. However, our Saturday form was not so impressive with our batsmen failing to post totals to seriously test some good opponents. Nonetheless we had our chances reducing St Peter's to 79-5 (chasing 187) and Woodhouse Grove to 70-8 (chasing 152). On both occasions we let our opponents off the hook although credit should be given to some determined batting from our opponents – the season could have been very different had we won those two games. We were less impressive in the games against GSAL, Durham and particularly Ampleforth (when we were fortunate to make 87 after being 8-5) as our lack of consistency in the batting department was clearly exposed. Remarkably this run of defeats was ended in spectacular fashion as we chased 241 to beat the Old Bradfordians with significant contributions from Robbie Williams, Scott van Berckel and finally an explosive unbeaten 47 from Will Heard. The following day we beat Hymers for the second time with a composed run chase led by Waj Iqbal's patient half century.

Despite our fluctuating fortunes on the field the side practiced as hard as any team that I can remember. There were a large number of winter sessions both in our own Sports Hall and at JMS Sport in Keighley, while attendance at the summer nets was excellent even during the exam period. The senior players, captain Yusuf Khan, Scott van Berckel, Matt Handy, Will Heard and Milan Patel, set an excellent example both on and off the field and I thank them for their efforts. The team never gave less than 100% on the field and our fielding effort (lead by the outstanding Will Heard) was of a consistently high standard. The boys loved their cricket and were never deterred by a disappointing performance; they always felt that they would do better next time. The last week was extremely enjoyable for not only did we finish with the two wins against the Old Bradfordians and Hymers but our A team (without some senior players) reached the final of our own Six-a-side competition losing a low scoring game to Silcoates from the last possible ball.

As ever the team received great support from a number of people. Coach Simon Kellett gave up huge amounts of time before, during and after School to run practices, while groundsman Scott Higgins performed miracles, particularly early in the season, to ensure that cricket took place at BGS when practically no cricket was played in Yorkshire. Finally, a great thanks to Val Summersgill who has been involved in providing catering in the Pavilion for over 20 years. We wish her very well in her retirement.

Sport
continued ...

1st XI Averages

M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Aver	Balls faced	SR	50	Player	Ovrs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Aver	Runs/over	Balls/wkt	BB	Ct	St
5	5	0	74	26	14.80	106	69.81		C R Andrews	15	3	41	2	20.50	2.73	45.00	1-13	1	
9	4	2	5	5	2.50	19	26.32		H Arshad	55.4	7	273	11	24.82	4.93	30.22	4-21	2	
4	2	0	9	5	4.50	20	45.00		D J Brennan	26	1	123	4	30.75	4.73	39.00	2-34		
14	13	3	182	52	18.20	303	60.07	1	O J Croudson	46.5	2	264	8	33.00	5.68	34.88	2-20	4	
15	7	4	16	6*	5.33	47	37.04		M S Farooq	87	17	381	17	22.41	4.38	30.71	4-14	2	
11	9	0	13	20	1.44	83	83.13		M D Ghafoor	3	0	9	0		3.00		0-9	2	
15	12	1	126	35	11.45	278	45.32		M D Handy	3	0	17	0		5.67		0-17	2	
15	12	1	183	47*	16.64	235	77.87		W E Heard	2.1	0	32	0		15.24		0-2	5	
14	13	2	266	57*	24.18	559	47.58	2	W Iqbal									2	
16	13	2	119	39	10.82	91	130.77		M Y Khan	91.3	8	450	24	18.75	4.93	22.83	3-13	4	
4	3	2	36	19*	36.00	31	116.13		B M Merchant									1	
14	8	4	28	7	7.00	53	52.83		M Patel	79	8	315	12	26.25	3.99	39.50	3-35	2	
1	1	0	6	6	6.00	24	25.00		A T Pulavarti										
4	3	1	27	12*	13.50	57	47.37		J A Shad									1	
3	3	1	14	12*	7.00	28	56.00		W F Smith									1	
16	14	3	308	68	28.00	380	85.56	2	S M van Berckel									10	
15	14	1	339	76	26.08	464	73.08	1	R G Williams									8	
7	2	0	1	1	0.50	7	14.29		T Zamir	37.5	4	228	7	32.57	6.08	32.14	3-30		

1st XI Awards

Full colours re-awards
M Y Khan, M Patel

Full colours new awards
**M D Handy,
S M van Berckel
R G Williams**

Club colours
**O J Croudson
M S Farooq
W E Heard
W Iqbal**

J B Gray Batting Trophy
R G Williams

T H C Balaam Bowling Trophy
M Y Khan

The Davies Cup (Player of the Season)
S M van Berckel

U15

By L W Hanson, Teacher i/c U15 Cricket

The U15 squad this year was small, but what the pupils lacked in numbers they more than made up for in terms of attitude and effort.

At one time or another all members of the squad played and all contributed; this is important in junior cricket as it is a sport where players can begin to feel they are there to make up the numbers.

The season began with a stern test against St Peter's, York. We bowled first and bowled too short. The ball sat up in the damp conditions and St Peter's punished us heavily. Their score of 187-5 from 30 overs was a formidable total and in reply we managed just 60 runs. It was a telling lesson in the need to bowl very full and as straight as possible in damp conditions. The chance for an immediate bounce back against RGS Lancaster was unfortunately washed out.

Local rivals WHGS were next up. We won the toss and batted first and there were strong contributions from Sam Murphy, 35, and Ajay Pulavarti, 24. Regrettably no other batsmen made significant contributions and the total of 113 all out never looked enough. To the boys' immense credit they bowled well and made life very difficult for the opposition. Ashwin Kumar, 3-22, and Tom Austin, 3-25, bowled superbly and although the target was reached, we took seven Woodhouse wickets and a lot of positives from the performance.

We built on the Woodhouse performance in our next game and gained an emphatic win against GSAL. We bowled the Leeds side out for 135 with strong contributions from Tom Austin, 3-22, and Ajay Pulavarti, 3-35. Our reply was magnificent and we reached the target with overs to spare. Ajay Pulavarti scored a fine 57no and was helped with some lusty striking by Fred Glover who blasted a quick-fire 36. We looked forward to facing QEGS but heavy rain meant the game was cancelled.

Defeat against Durham came next where we unfortunately revisited the bowling errors made against St Peter's. Durham made 213 and despite some spirited batting from Sam Murphy, 32, and Tom Austin, 29, we could only manage 161 in reply. A much closer game against Ampleforth saw us lose only narrowly. Pugnacious batting from Nathan Hadaway, 97, helped us set a challenging total of 212. We did bowl well but lost with overs to spare. The season came to an end on a high note with a stunning victory against Hymers. Sam Murphy scored a brilliant and aggressive 111 as we amassed 240-7 from just 30 overs. Ashwin Kumar, 4-22, was the pick of the bowlers as we dismissed Hymers for just 130 to claim what became an easy win. I was pleased the boys ended on such a high note as this was reward for their hard work and commitment over the season. Well done boys.

U14

By R Skelton, Teacher i/c U14 Cricket

What a wonderful season for a great team.

The weather was not helpful. The start of the season was cold and wet with games played in the rain; this was particularly difficult as the umpires struggled to keep score on mobile phone apps. The game against Lancaster Grammar School started in drizzle with poor light and finished in rain with bad light. No matter what, the boys played for each other, gave their best and took it in turns to produce game changing performances. The lads were the epitome of team spirit.

The first game was away to St Peter's which we should best refer to as a warm up fixture. The opposition were glad we fielded first and the rain arrived too late to rescue a very forgettable batting display.

From these early defeats, the team began to come together and grow in confidence. This was seen at an unforgettable clash away at Woodhouse Grove. The weather forced the match to be played on the artificial pitch. We managed to keep Woodhouse Grove to 154 runs from 30 overs with fantastic bowling from Adam Horrocks (who claimed 5 wickets). Our response was just not enough this time (we were all out for 149). We then suffered similar close shaves with Ermysted's Grammar School and GSAL (unfortunately both games were lost by the narrowest of margins).

The luck of the BGS U14 team changed on Saturday 6 June 2015 against QEGS (at home). With the team being continually updated and monitored on Firefly (in addition to regular meetings in the Newbould Room) discussing team tactics and analysing batting, fielding and bowling statistics and analysis, the way forward was becoming clear. Our opening batting performances were strong with the partnership of Nathan Hadaway and Ashwin Kumar achieving 101 runs (and Ajay Pulavarti adding another 38 runs). We achieved 189 runs for 8. QEGS could only respond with 171 runs (with a powerful bowling performance from Tom Austin who took 4 wickets for 18 runs). A well-deserved win from a hard won game!

Then came the Lord's Taverners Cup competition and the U14 Cricket team came alive! Playing away at Morley Academy in the first round was a real test of team spirit. With a forgettable batting performance from BGS (achieving 83 runs in 20 overs), Morley Academy believed they had won when they came out to field. With a strong fielding performance and great bowling from Ashwin Kumar (1 wicket for 11 runs and 2 maiden overs) and Freddie Glover (1 wicket for 4 runs and 1 maiden over). This was enough to win the game (Morley Academy all out for 80 runs).

Success in the Cup continued with a sweet victory at Woodhouse Grove. With a strong bowling performance from Tom Austin (3 wickets for 17 runs) and determined and sharp fielding, Woodhouse Grove only managed 117 for 3. Sam Murphy then delivered a captain's innings and scored 47 runs (partnered with Nathan Hadaway who scored 32 runs). A very fine performance!

We then found ourselves in the regional semi-final against QEGS (away). Unfortunately, with a heavy defeat against Hymers College at the weekend, the day of the Cup match proved too much for the U14 team. With a strong batting performance from QEGS (scoring 176 runs from 30 overs), our response was not quite strong enough this time (despite a good batting performance from Ajay Pulavarti with 35).

The season had more highs and lows and saw a metamorphosis of talent, team spirit and a determination to win. Well done to the team – an unforgettable season!

U13

By A Galley, Teacher i/c U13 Cricket

The squad had worked during the winter nets to develop their skills, but still after their previous year's results they entered the season nervously, however their positive approach and willingness to work hard culminated in a season that surpassed expectation.

The squad arrived in the summer ready to play cricket and to work hard at their training. The team was able to play very good cricket in every match, however, they consistently lost concentration in the latter overs of matches which resulted in teams doing better than they should have done.

There were memorable performances against King's Worcester, Woodhouse Grove and St Olave's during the season which saw notable individual performances and fine team performances. The squad strength and depth allowed us to play the Yorkshire Champions Birkdale and on the same day take a strong squad to Hull Collegiate.

Sport
continued ...

The team's individual honours can be seen on the honours board with the pleasing aspect seeing the number of U13 names on the board.

U13 Squad

Aneeq Hamdani, Will Luxton, Ahmed Naveed, Amrit Sharma, Lawrence Wade, Oscar Andrews, Ed Harrison, James Masterton, Habib Shafiq, Jamie Berry, Ben Carroll, Tom Celik, Abdullah Shier, Dylan Patel, Pranav Balahadan, James Bowmer, Sufyan Mahmood, Shaan Aziz, James Carroll, Ben Marsden, Bilal Faisal, Henry Sisley

Ashville College

Won by 78 runs

Lancaster Royal Grammar School

Abandoned

Woodhouse Grove School

Won by 9 wickets

The Grammar School at Leeds

Lost by 8 wickets

Queen Elizabeth Grammar School (QEGS), Wakefield

Cancelled

Durham School

Won by 6 wickets

St Olave's School, York

Lost by 35 runs

Birkdale School

Won by 7 wickets

Hymers College

Abandoned

The King's School, Worcester

Won by 4 wickets, On Tour

Chigwell School

Lost by 1 wicket, On Tour

Wetherby Preparatory School

Abandoned, On Tour



U12

By M Wilde, Teacher i/c U12 Cricket

Preparation for the summer of 2016 began earnestly on 13 January under the ever watchful eyes of Messrs Kellett, Wilde and Galley. Sessions were enthusiastically attended in good number throughout the term and although the 2016 cohort did not possess the star quality of their most recent predecessors, by the end of the Easter term I was very encouraged with the progress the boys had made.

Ten games and two tournaments had been played resulting in opportunities for over 20 boys to represent the school at either A or B XI level. Whilst I was delighted with the volume of opportunity the club provided it was a personal disappointment that due to the number of players unavailable throughout the term I never actually got to field what I considered to be the best side. Four fixtures were won, five lost and two games cancelled due to the weather. The season's highlights included a fantastic B XI victory over St. Olave's, York; a semi-final berth at the St. Olave's Invitational Super 8s; and a good cup despite its abrupt end.

Inclusion on the club's honours board rewarded individual performances. Runs scored had to be greater than the total number of overs of the innings and wickets taken had to be at least equal to a tenth of the total overs of the innings. Ten players made it with 15 (eleven batting and four bowling) significant contributions between them. This reflected our season succinctly: wickets were much harder to come by than runs!

Miller NG was the pick of the bowlers taking 4-6 v WHGS and 4-6 v Ermysted's GS. Nick bowled with great consistency but he needs to work on getting the ball through the air a little quicker if he is to trouble quality batsman. Fitzpatrick JJ took 2-13 and 2-28 in the very same matches. Joe's consistency will improve with age. Our lack of penetration as a bowling unit was really exposed in the defeats to GSAL and Birkdale School as their better quality batsman were never really troubled. Both these teams eventually contested the U12 David English Bunbury Cup final and it's those standards that the boys need to work hard to replicate.

Grimmitt BC was the side's leading run scorer; 48 v GSAL; 46* v Ermysted's GS; 59* v Horsforth ; and 36 v Durham School. Ben certainly enjoys playing his shots and I really enjoyed watching him bat when he was in full flow. However he will need to tighten up his technique and put a higher price on his wicket if he is to fulfil his potential higher up the school. Horsfield AL 41* and Voss CJK 14* guided BGS to victory over Ilkley GS. Archie & Charlie are both capable of hitting the ball hard but improvements in their concentration at the crease are key to future development.

Welsh R played a lovely supporting role in the match v GSAL. Ryan's 38* gave us a glimpse of what he is capable of and I hope to see his consistency improve next year. The game at Durham School was a real mismatch but runs still had to be scored. Kelleher FD 34 and Harrison B 27 enjoyed the delights of the North East. Finlay and Ben both took full advantage of the small outfield and the generosity afforded to them by the opposition's bowlers. I was amazed that in a total of 221 nobody actually made it to 50! On the final Saturday of the season Rohan M scored a well-crafted 52 v Hymers College. Mo rotated the strike really well and kept his cool as wickets fell regularly at the other end, which enabled us to post a competitive but not insurmountable total.

At the end of an enjoyable season my thanks: to all the players too numerous to mention here; the parents, who have supported the team loyally; John Oakes for his valuable coaching and umpiring skills and to Mr. Scott Higgins and his team who continue to produce schoolboy pitches of the highest quality, in often testing conditions.



Cross Country

By S Harris, Teacher i/c Cross Country

This year has seen some impressive individual successes by some of our most talented and dedicated runners, some promising signs for the future from some of our younger runners and continued commitment and enthusiasm from some of the stalwarts of the club.

Some splendid runs in local races from Beth Blacker, Pippa Threlfall, Will Westlake and Ben Grimmet, together with a strong commitment to lunchtime training by Ailsa Hellewell-Weir, Sumayyah Mahroof, Nithila Sampath, Lorna Nelson and Louise Nelson, all in Year 7, show that the cross country club has a promising future. Will Craske, Jacob Midgely, Ben Marsden, Sam Young, Lorcan Hanafin, Tom Howson, Luke Moran, James Carrol and Ben Carrol continue to run strongly in local races and have a lot of potential as a team with plenty of strength in depth. Rabia Bashir in Year 10 demonstrated her commitment to competition and training when completing her 50th parkrun. Rabia first took up running in Year 8 at BGS.

Now in his final year at school and preparing to start University in October, Emile Cairess has been our stand out runner since he first started the Junior School at BGS. This year he became Yorkshire Cross Country Champion and West Yorkshire Schools Cross Country Champion, he finished in the top 10 in English Schools Cross Country Championships and Inter-Counties Cross Country Championships, and he represented England in an International Cross Country Race in Spain. He was the first Bradfordian in over 40 years to represent England at cross country. He also won a team gold in the Senior Men's Northern Cross Country Relay Championships and is currently ranked 5th in the UK over 5000m in the U20 group.

Our stars of the future, both showing the same kind of promise at a young age, are Alex Flaherty and Grace Dawson. Grace won a bronze medal at the West Yorkshire Schools Cross Country Championships and a team bronze medal at the National Year 7 Cross Country Championships. Alex became the Bradford and West Yorkshire Schools Cross Country Champion, won a bronze medal in the National Year 7 Cross Country Championships and team gold whilst representing Yorkshire in the Inter-Counties Cross Country Championships. He also represented Yorkshire in the London Mini-Marathon, and he has run under 19 minutes several times for 5k on the road.

Some of our current Year 12 students have been dedicated cross country runners since Year 9. Jonathan Winnard, Pavendeep Sandhar, Nathaniel Davey and Shihab Basit all still run regularly. Jonathan has taken part in several Bradford parkruns, Pavendeep Sandhar finished 3rd in the Keighley and Craven Cross Country League, and in addition to winning the Keighley and Craven Cross Country League, Oliver Daffern became Bradford Schools Cross Country Champion.

Another runner who has shown great commitment to the club since Year 7 is Milly Fewlass-Jones. Now in Year 10, Milly has enjoyed notable success this year with a silver medal in the Bradford Schools Cross Country Championships, followed by a bronze medal in the West Yorkshire Schools Cross Country Championships. This achievement resulted in Milly being selected to represent West Yorkshire in the English Schools Cross Country Championships, a prestigious and historic event in the national cross country calendar.

As ever, thanks go to all the members of staff who take pupils out running at lunchtime and accompany pupils to races. A special mention should also go to former Bradford Grammar School teachers Tony Kingham and Selby Brock, who after running the cross country club at BGS for many years, now continue to volunteer many, many hours of their time organising local and regional cross country and athletics events.

Girls Tennis

By M Harling, Head of Girls Tennis

Another busy tennis season for most of the girls age groups at Bradford Grammar School. This has been a season of mixed results, but one where many players improved technically, physically and tactically.

All the usual BGS invitational tournaments took place where the strength of the U12s was highlighted when they managed to achieve second overall in their tournament, the best this year! They also managed to pull off an 8-0 victory against Leeds Grammar! The U13s and U15s were again involved in the AEGON National Schools Tennis competition, where tough opponents were faced especially for the 'A' division squads. The U13A squad only had to face Leeds Grammar – home and away, which they did commendably. The girls won the away fixture which gave them a real sense of achievement and belief in their ability but then the home equivalent went to Leeds so it all came down to a championship tie-break. It was a close affair filled with tension but the honours went to Leeds. It must be said that Antonia Robson (U13 captain) throughout these encounters encouraged her fellow squad members to do their best, this continued during the season, most commendable!

The U15s had the most fixtures, with Anna McCash captaining the squad which wasn't easy as many of the players had other commitments during the season including Duke of Edinburgh. In the AEGON competition the 'A' squad had tough fixtures especially against schools that had all year round club players. In regards to the Division 2 fixture it all came down to the last fixture against Beckfoot who had won 2 and so had BGS. This was the decider to see who would go through to the next round. Unfortunately, after losing the first 3 singles games and then Megan Bulmer playing out of her skin in her singles match to then eventually lose, the girls played one of the doubles games for pride. BGS girls don't give up, which showed when Anna McCash and Polly Shaw won their doubles match. A proud moment of the tennis season!

It was a difficult season in regards to selection as again many girls were playing in Games lessons and at lunchtimes. The aim was to give most players an experience of match play during the season, which was nearly achieved, but more opportunities will be given to all next season. One highlight has to be taking 14 girls to the inaugural St Peter's Tennis Festival, York, a couple of weeks before the end of term. This festival gave the opportunity for the girls to play on a selection of surfaces such as grass, astro-turf and hard courts. A day long tournament with lots of sunshine, games played, strawberries and cream eaten, a big thank you must go out to our hosts St Peter's for organising such a successful day! Then at the end came Eton Independent Schools Tennis Tournament. This year was slightly different for us as the school broke up for summer holidays the day before this started. This meant that a few of the tennis players who were invited to attend this tournament couldn't make it due to going on holiday, so for the first time we were unable to take a full entourage of players especially in regards to the senior players. This didn't deter us as we still took 14 boys and girls to represent BGS at one of the top schools tournaments in the country. Two of the girls' captains were amongst those selected to go and they relay what the experience meant to them. So let me hand over to the best people to tell you about the 2016 tennis season, the captains;

U12 **Rebecca McCash**

U13 **Antonia Robson**

U14 **Grace Lancaster**



U14 Captain's Report

By G Lancaster, U14 Captain

This year each player has seen massive improvement in each of their techniques and within our pairs have learned to gel and work together efficiently.

Some of the most memorable moments this year have been when one of us (naming no names) hits the ball out so far that it's in two courts away! On match day I have wondered if we would pull a victory out of the bag, but each player puts their heart and soul into every point. Another highlight of the season is beating Woodhouse Grove 7-1.

There have been a few tournaments this season and I think this is when we gel as pairs and really grow as players individually and as teams. The atmosphere that comes with playing in a team is truly unbeatable, if one player is a bit down or not quite up for it the rest of us will cheer them on and get them excited for their next match. For next year we need to work on tactical strategies and learn how to pick ourselves up if we're losing. Even if it's 5-0!

The Saturday we broke up for Summer I had the pleasure of going to the Eton Independent Schools Tennis Championships with the U15s. The standard for the matches was incredibly high and we learnt a lot from playing against the other schools such as Millfield, Eastbourne and Sir William Perkins.

On the Monday a group of us had the opportunity to go to Wimbledon, naturally I said of course I'd like to go and the 4.30am wakeup call seemed like a small price to pay in exchange for such a great time. We made it onto court 3 and saw Radwanka play against Cibulkova, the atmosphere was so intense and energy was high. Towards the end of the long day we headed over to Murray's Mound with the rest of the group and watched him play, after we had watched Serena Williams' amazing victory.

On behalf of the U14 girls team I would like to thank all the staff who have made this season's tennis possible and I'd like to thank all the players for giving 100%, even if we're losing but doing so with a smile on their faces.

Overall this season has seen a good number of girls enjoying the game of tennis whether it be in Games lessons or at lunchtime practice or in a tournament or tennis festival or on courts of one of the most prestigious schools in England. I would encourage all our players to continue to play this great sport all year round! The future of girls' tennis is a healthy one at BGS which can only lead to more girls playing and more importantly more success! Finally, a BIG thank you must go out to Miss Bloomfield who has been a big help with girls tennis the last two years, she will be sorely missed!

U13 Captain's Report

By A Robson, U13 Captain

I have been the Year 8 Tennis captain this year and I feel very honoured to have been chosen for the position. The U13 team has performed very well this term and I am proud to have been a part of it and to play for BGS.

We have had some funny practices, big wins and ridiculously large losses. Our squad has had comical moments on the bus to matches, at home practising and great fun on the courts. The team has improved this year and we have developed a greater understanding of the game.

I and Natalie Griffiths were recently selected to represent BGS at the Eton Independent Schools Tennis Championships. We had a fantastic time playing against some very strong opposition from schools all over England including St Swithins, Queenswood and New Hall. We may not have won as many matches as we wanted but it was an amazing experience! We improved our skills and had loads of fun in Windsor and at the hotel we stayed in.

I have had an exciting and fun time this season growing my own tennis skills and trying to help others, as well as making some close friends along the way. I am looking forward to summer 2017 season!

U12 Captain's Report

By R McCash, U12 Captain

We started off the season with a 4-4 draw against Hymers that left us determined to win the next fixture. And sure enough we went on to thrash GSAL, 8-0!

We then had a close but victorious fixture against Queen Margarets, 5-4, when we were missing two strong members of the squad! We also played in two invitational tournaments, unfortunately not winning anything but never giving up! In the mixed doubles tournament we made it into the plate competition and then by games difference we came second in girls' doubles.

Grace Cogan and Pippa Threlfall were selected to play at the Eton Independent Schools Tennis Championships in the above age group. We all wished them luck to do very well there.

We have had a great time this season, despite players falling over multiple times on court and chasing after shots that were completely missed or bumping into your partner because there was a lack of communication. Every member of the team improved, and we all love playing with each other. I look forward to moving on into the U13s!

Hockey

By H Boughton, Head of Hockey

In the 2015-16 season we had 105 girls playing and representing BGS in fixtures. They played 130 fixtures (not including those in tournaments) of which they have won 64 of them, drawn 12 and lost 54. This puts the overall percentage of wins at 49%, a figure that any coach should be proud of, the Hockey staff at BGS certainly are.

The weather, as always, took its toll on fixtures this season with a few being cancelled due to high winds in December when we were scheduled to play Hymers, or a frozen pitch in January when we were supposed to play GSAL. This is always disappointing yet at least the early call ensured we didn't waste valuable time travelling to fixtures to find out the pitch was unfit. This being said we have only had to revert to playing indoor Hockey on a couple of occasions in lessons – even if this has meant some girls have ended up with webbed feet from running around in the rain.

1st XI

At BGS we hope to give every girl the opportunity to play and enjoy Hockey. To learn about the basic principles of game play, to understand the need for physical fitness and endeavour, and to experience teamwork, decision making and leadership.

The 1st team have been coached by Demy Dowley, England Hockey National Age Groups coach, for some of their sessions. This has meant they have experienced practice design that is contextual and of high intensity. Above all, they have been encouraged to make decisions under pressure and this has led to creativity and independence in matches.

They had a good season and have played some great Hockey to watch. In total they won four matches, drew three and lost ten. The first game of the season was against local rivals Silcoates which ended in a 0-1 loss. This was a game that we should have easily won by half time, yet we squandered

loads of scoring opportunities by putting the ball wide and not even testing the goal keeper. The 1st XI went on to have several other close games such as a good 3-3 draw with Hull Collegiate and a 1-1 draw with Mount St Mary's. As the season progressed the girls took on board advice from Demy and converted more of the pressure on the pitch into goals. This rewarded them with wins that they thoroughly deserved.

Whilst the girls have struggled against some of the big Hockey schools, for example GSAL, they have played competitively and have been in close matches. They have been fitter than many of the teams they have played and have shown impressive technical ability in tackling and defending. They have been able to represent the current style of Hockey which is fast, flowing and aggressive. Many of the girls have benefited from some outreach by attending an elite academy at Ben Rhydding Hockey Club and some will go on to play representative Hockey over the coming months.

U18 National Schools

In the National Schools competition, it was decided to run the event as a round robin. Unfortunately, due to injury, Fiona Holdsworth our 1st XI goalkeeper was unable to play.

Luckily for us though we were in a fortunate position this year that Holly Hellowell, our 2nd XI keeper, is also of an exceptional standard. We fared quite well in the games but goal scoring again was the thing that stood between us and a place in the next round. In the game v Greenhead College we were slow to react to a poor umpiring decision in our attacking circle which then led to a quick attack by Greenhead ending in a converted penalty flick in our defensive circle. This cost us a place in the next round, where two teams go forward. We went on to draw 0-0 with Wakefield Girls and Silcoates, beat Rishworth 1-0 and lost to the overall winners GSAL 0-3. Frustrating to say the least but some fantastic play and good team ethic was shown by all.

Sport
continued ...

Captain's Report

By Charlotte Horsman, 1st XI Captain

The season of 2015-16 for the 1st team here at BGS has been exciting to say the least.

We gained some talented players from Year 11, such as Bea Taggart and Charlotte Pickard who have played a vital role within the team. The highlight of the season was not only our 2-0 win against Ashville, but also our well earned victory over the teachers where we really proved we were able to work together and fully enjoy ourselves. Although this was an exhilarating moment, it also marked the end of the season which meant we were soon to lose some key figures within the team. Nevertheless, I look forward to what next season holds and hope it will be as successful and enjoyable as this one.

1st XI Awards

Player of the Year **Maria Campean**

Players' Player **Fiona Holdsworth**

Most Improved Player **Rosie Ogden**

2nd XI

The 2nd XI had a great season, winning over half of their games against some tough opposition. They show good team spirit and have really gelled as the season has gone on.

They are very lucky to have been led by two experienced players in Holly Hellawell as Captain, who is a talented and brave goalkeeper who denies the opposition very many scoring opportunities. Katy Boden as Vice-Captain is also extremely well organised and has the ability to make sense of every situation. She is dedicated to the core and this rubs off on those around her making for great team spirit.

The majority of the games have been won or lost by a small margin, scoring 20 goals and only conceding 16. They have adapted well to the new formation and have been a real pleasure to coach. Some of their more memorable wins include beating Silcoates 4-1, Rishworth 2-0 and Mount St Mary's College 4-0.

Captain's Report

By Holly Hellawell, 2nd XI Captain

The 2nd team have shown some great progression over the course of the season with each individual player developing their own skills on the ball and their ability to thrive within the team environment.

The most impressive goals stemmed from controlled and precise passing around players and the keeper and they were often built from defence where the backline had faith in the team in front of them. The most positive aspect of the season has been the development of the confidence and composure of the players and the sense of enjoyment that was expressed, win or lose. The tactical side of the game has really been enhanced with people aiming for feet in the D, giving full effort until the final whistle and the planned executions of short corners in training proving fruitful in match situations. The marking really improved, from an admittedly dodgy start (!), along with the communication and teamwork. Thank you for an enjoyable season!

2nd XI Awards

Player of the Year **Laura Barnett**

Players' Player **Katherine Skelton**

Most Improved Player **Eleanor Moorhouse**

This year sees many of our key figures from across the 1st and 2nd XI teams moving on to pastures new.

Holly Hellawell, Becky Stevens, Annabel Smith-Moorhouse, Katherine Skelton, Hope Silver, Alisha Hussain and Zenah Al-Jawad will all be leaving us at the end of this academic year. We wish you all the best for your A Level exams and hope you all continue to enjoy playing Hockey for many years to come. All the very best.

Another sad piece of news is that Demy Dowley will also be leaving us at BGS this year to commit herself full time to England Hockey. It has been a real experience for us to work alongside Demy for the past three years and I'm sure our senior players have all appreciated her wealth of knowledge which will be sorely missed. We obviously wish her every success.

We are delighted to announce that we are running the second BGS Senior Hockey Tour, when we will travel to Holland in October 2016. Holland is arguably the best place in the world to play Hockey. We are lucky that it is on our doorstep (compared with other major Hockey nations) and despite the inaugural tour also travelling to Holland, we feel that the quality of play, the enthusiasm for the sport and the culture surrounding Hockey in Holland, into which we can immerse ourselves, will provide us with new and exciting challenges and opportunities for a second tour there.

U15 XI

By K Priestley, Hockey Coach

The U15 team have had a challenging season, winning or drawing a third of matches played.

However, they have continued to strive to improve and have covered a range of defensive and attacking techniques in lessons and coaching sessions. Fitness has been an area of which we have stressed the importance; the pyramid fitness testing before Christmas was not very popular but did highlight how much it is possible to improve. The fastest in the test were Milly Fewlass-Jones, Katie Elmore and Esther Jackson whilst the most improved were Jenny Lord, Atheeya Mohmin and Henna Rasodha.

The U15 teams' better performances were beating Rishworth twice 1-0 and 2-1 respectively. Beating Ashville 2-1 and Queen Mary's School 1-0. They suffered a couple of heavy defeats against some of our local rivals, yet they never let their heads go down.

It is unfortunate that the change to the structure of lessons on a Wednesday afternoon mean that they will have to wait for the opportunity to combine squads and represent the senior Hockey squad for another year.

Captain's Report

By Emerald Hellewell-Weir, U15 XI Captain

This year the U15 team has had a good year, we have won five matches and drawn one. Despite several cancellations the spirit has been high and we have enjoyed training and playing together.

The team was a little disappointed about next year's arrangements but we are looking forward to seeing what can be done. The team has improved on their spacing and fitness hugely, and we are expanding our variety of skills used in game play. I hope that next year's captain continues to make these improvements.

U15 XI Awards

Player of the Year **Katie Elmore**

Players' Player **Esther Jackson**

Most Improved Player **Millie Thomas**

U14 XI

The U14 girls are one of our most competitive teams who thrive on any challenge set. This is particularly apparent when Freya Bellamy and Alicia Cumberland or Neesha Khan and Izzy Moorhouse go head to head.

The team have had some great results, winning 13 out of the 20 games played. Some of these victories were won by quite a large margin. The U14 National Schools competition hit us early in the season and we had too many narrow losses such as 0-1 against GSAL, to allow us to progress further in the competition.

Scoring goals is not a problem for this team. They have put a total of 49 goals in the back of the net, the largest scoreline being an 8-0 victory against South Craven.

In the Bradford Schools tournament, the U14 girls were dominant on pitch and converted this pressure into goals, winning all matches in the round robin competition and thus were crowned champions.

Under 14 National Schools

In the National Schools Competition we came a creditable third overall. Scoring goals didn't come as easily to us for some reason and it was this that prevented us from going on to the next round with too many draws and a narrow 0-1 loss to GSAL. Throughout the afternoon the girls played some great linking Hockey, successfully transferring the ball when channels appeared blocked. This is certainly a team to keep a watchful eye on in the future.

Captain's Report

By Amy Claxton, U14 XI Captain

This season the U14A team have played well considering the poor weather. Our statistics show that we have won 13 matches, with the highest victory being an 8-0 win against South Craven School. Unfortunately there have been six defeats, with the highest being against Wakefield Girls' Grammar School with a 0-7 loss. A friendly well-contested game with Ashville College ended in a 1-1 draw. At the end of the season, three girls were given a trophy. All members of the team have played exceptionally well, improving in fitness and skills. We are all looking forward to the next season to improve more together.

U14 XI Awards

Player of the Year **Freya Bellamy**

Players' Player **Alicia Cumberland**

Most Improved Player **Neesha Khan**

U13 XI

The U13 girls have played the majority of the season as 7-a-side A and B teams. This suited the style of play for the A team.

Out of 20 matches the U13A have won 14 matches and lost only six, scoring a massive 67 goals and have a positive goal difference of 29! This makes them our second most successful team behind the U12A team.

The U13A team won the Bradford Invitational Tournament by winning all their games but this was made hard by a close 1-0 victory against our very own B team.

The U13B have had a tougher season, which is generally down to them playing other schools' A teams, yet have managed to win two and draw two out of their nine games. They have really gelled as a team this year and put up a good fight in the Bradford Invitational Tournament coming 5th overall.

Captain's Report (U13 XI A)

By Lucy Spencer, U13 XI A Captain

Our season did not start as well as we hoped with our first game losing 5-2 against Queen Mary's School and 6-0 against Sedbergh.

With help from our great teachers, we managed to progress and develop our skills. As a result, we won almost all of our remaining matches. We won the Bradford Invitation Tournament scoring nine points, conceding only one goal and beating South Craven 10-0. Through training, we became a strong team and we made many memories together.

U13 XI A Awards

Player of the Year **Laurenne Pickard**

Players' Player **Laurenne Pickard**

Most Improved Player **Antonia Robson**

Captains' Report (U13 XI B)

By Beth Norton, U13 XI B Captain

This season we have had a lot of fun while becoming one team. We have learnt how to support one another and that resulted in some good wins. Although we had a few losses we have overcome some problems and really built a promising future. Now we are ready for next season and can't wait for the first game.

The games the U13 team played as an 11-a-side team on a full pitch took a bit of getting used to, as communication to each other was tested and we had an early defeat against Wakefield of 0-5. This was rectified in the latter part of the season and we won convincingly against Rishworth 4-0 and St Bede's 2-0.

In the Mini Hockey Nationals, we fared quite well, with some very tight matches in which just one goal would have made the difference. Drawing 1-1 with both Rishworth and Silcoates put us in third place overall. I'm sure this will come together next year when we play in the U14 Nationals competition.

U13 XI B Awards

Player of the Year **Beth Norton**

Players' Player **Beth Norton**

Most Improved Player **Lily Orton**

U12 VII

By Katie Priestley, Hockey Coach

The U12 team has had a good season. We have had lots of players attending lunchtime practice and were able to enter three teams into the Bradford Invitational Tournament towards the end of the season.

In this tournament, out of the seven teams attending, our A team were winners with the B team coming 4th and the C team 5th. It is brilliant to see so many girls enjoying Hockey and finding success and progressing at the same time.

The B team, captained by Amber Kenyon and Ella Town, played 14, won seven, drew three and lost four. The four losses came right in the middle of the season, in a mid-season wobble, but the team were soon back on track with some key results being a 4-4 draw with Stonyhurst, a 3-3 draw with Wakefield Girls' High School and a 6-0 win against Ashville. Looks like scoring goals is a bit of a habit for the U12 B team.

Captain's Report (U12 VII A)

By Grace Dawson, U12 VII A Captain

I think that the Hockey season went well because it was well structured, and we always knew what the aim and point of the drill was, and we didn't get bored waiting!

I can't really think of any cons! Next season we could maybe play more games during practice? Overall, Hockey at BGS has been an awesome experience and the teaching has been superb! Lots of my friends who weren't that into Hockey have been really excited about the mixed practices on Friday!

U12 VII A Awards

Player of the Year **Anuli Okeahialam**

Players' Player **Naina Krishna**

Most Improved Player **Grace Dawson**

Captain's Report (U12 VII B)

By Ella Town and Amber Kenyon, U12 VII B Captains

This year has been successful for the Hockey team. We've had our fair share of wins and losses, but we always tried our best, which makes it all worthwhile.

We entered three amazing teams into a tournament and came first, fourth and fifth. The teamwork has been outstanding and we couldn't have asked for more. The whole team has tried so hard, so we'd like to thank them, but most of all, we'd all like to give a massive thank you to Miss Boughton, Miss Priestley and everyone that has helped us throughout the season.

U12 VII B Awards

Player of the Year **Becky McCash**

Players' Player **Amber Kenyon**

Most Improved Player **Ailsa Hellewell-Weir**

The U12A team played 19, won 12, drew three, lost four.

The A team had a slightly shaky start to the season but were soon into winning ways, scoring 63 goals and conceding 25, putting them as our most successful team in front of the U14 team. After 21 November the team did not lose a game under Captains Naina Krishna and Grace Dawson. The team had a hard-fought 1-0 win against GSAL on a freezing cold night here at BGS. At the Bradford Invitational Tournament, they scored 13 goals and conceded none.

We really do look forward to seeing the two U12 squads combine into a full 11-a-side squad for Saturday fixtures next year as they have demonstrated a lot of potential.

Parents Hockey

This was again a highlight of the year for the parents. However, this year they took it all a little more seriously with three evening training sessions, one of which was taken by Demy Dowley.

The event is growing year on year and gives the opportunity for our BGS Hockey players to showcase their skill, speed and fitness whilst competing against their parents. The matches were again highly competitive at all levels yet were all played with the right spirit. The 1st XI v parents match ended in a draw so went to penalty flicks. After again being drawn on flicks the game ended on sudden death flicks. On this occasion the parents were the winners.

Staff v Pupils

The final match of the Fun Hockey Afternoon was Staff v Pupils.

The 1st XI looked strong from the start and put away an easy goal whilst Mr Darnbrough was busy tripping over his own feet in the goalkeeping kit. The final score was 2-1 to the pupils, winning the 'Broken Stick Award' for the first time. Through gritted teeth the staff were pleased for the 1st XI yet relish the challenge to reclaim the title next season.

Spring Fair

Following on from the success of the stall at the Spring Fair in 2015 the Hockey Club decided to run a stall in the 2016 event.

The pressure was on though, after the Alice in Wonderland-themed Clock Croquet went down so well. With a little help from the DT department another fantastic centrepiece was created in line with the Parents' Association theme of the Rio Carnival. The Hockey obstacle course drew the crowds and the mocktails were very popular. Huge thanks to Votre Vacances for their kind donation of a five night stay in the Vendee, which made the Hockey raffle very appealing at only £1 a ticket. Here's looking forward to next year already!

Girls Representative Honours West Yorkshire, Junior Academy Centre (JAC)

U17 Charlotte Horsman, Maddy Oliver

U16 Milly Fewlass-Jones, Emerald Hellewell-Weir

U15 Grace Lancaster

U14 Freya Bellamy

U13 Alice Barnes, Lucy Spencer

U12 Bella Barton, Grace Dawson, Amy Dixon

North, Junior Regional Performance Centre (JRPC)

Freya Bellamy

Charlotte Horsman

2016-17 Captains

1st XI Captain Maria Campean

1st XI Vice-Captain Rosie Ogden
Bea Taggart

U16 XI Captain Esther Jackson

U15 XI Captain Neesha Khan

U15 XI Vice-Captain Zainab Yasin

U14 XI Captain Laurenne Pickard

U14 XI Vice-Captain Beth Norton

U13 XI Captain Anuli Okeahialam

U13 XI Vice-Captain Amy Dixon

Well done to those who have represented School at Hockey this year and thanks again to all those staff and parents, without whose contributions the Hockey at BGS would not be the success it is!

Netball

1st VII

By D L Bloomfield, Teacher i/c U15 Netball

The 1st VII this season has been by far the most talented group of girls I have had the pleasure of coaching.

Having brought in new tactics and playing positions for some of the players, they have adapted, listened, taken on board every piece of feedback and become stronger and stronger as a result. They performed well at National Schools narrowly missing out on a place in the regional round to GSAL and Greenhead who both went on to compete in National Finals where GSAL became champions, proving how tough the competition was.

The best performance however came when they faced Sedbergh in the Independent Schools Netball Club (ISNC) Plate. As a coach it was one of my proudest moments to see every girl on court playing the best they have done all season and to the highest of standards.

I know that should the girls have performed like that at the start of the season at National Schools they would have made it to the finals.

Tamara Smith has been a world class defender all season and is just an example of one of many of these girls who is a wasted talent. I know she has the potential to go on and be super successful in netball but for now we are happy she performs as well as she does for BGS. Izzy Austin is one of the quieter players on the team but her shy and timid character soon disappears when she steps on court. She is an integral part of the first team defence and she and Tamara have formed a formidable unit in the circle for any attackers who try and take them on.

Becky Ashurst has a very unorthodox jumping shooting technique but is always consistent. Becky has come on leaps and bounds this season; she has grown in confidence and like Izzy and Tamara has formed an exceptional attacking unit alongside her teammates. She is one of those players who you know as soon as she gets the ball will sink it, and as a centre court player there is no better feeling than having a reliable shooter who you know you can turn your back to go back to the centre and trust that the shot has gone in, which she has done all season.

Izzy Wellings is another player who I know has the ability to go further with netball outside of school. She plays a position that can at times go unrecognised and she works her socks off 100% of the time whether that's matches or training. She is a centre court superstar. Ellie Rayner possesses a certain quality as a player where she immediately gains the respect of her teammates and when you have such a mix of personalities this becomes so beneficial and she has been an asset to the 1st VII this season.

She is one of those players that doesn't necessarily come out with 'hunter' style interceptions, or have the showmanship of Pascale but she is consistent, she never makes a mistake and she is always an option, and for that she becomes one of the most valuable members on the team. Abbie Spencer ended the season last year as borderline starting seven and after an outstanding performance against Sedbergh she has earned her role as captain next season.

When Abbie is on form in training everybody else steps up their game, but when she's not everyone else decides to take their foot off the gas. I know she will continue to play out of her skin and will only get better. Pascale Fisher is one of the most talented individuals I have ever had the pleasure of coaching. She is so skilful and ridiculously outstanding. Pascale has every potential to pursue a netball career with England and train with the country's best.

Every school we go to have nothing but high praise about how brilliant she is along with all the younger players at this school. She is simply a role model to the students here and is looked up to by those in the lower year groups and her peers, and even the boys when they played against her in the rugby vs netball match. She may not shout the loudest but she leads by example and she will be a huge loss to the school when she goes on to bigger and better things.

1st VII Awards

Most Improved **Abbie Spencer**
Player of the Season **Tamara Smith**
Players Player **Pascale Fisher**
2015-16 Captain **Sarah Varley**
2015-16 Vice-Captain **Talia Goode**
2016-17 Captain **Abbie Spencer**
2016-17 Vice-Captain **Tamara Smith**

2nd VII

The 2nd VII this season have trained and played extremely hard, they have had a mixture of results, but I feel confident that every girl has made huge progress in terms of their knowledge and playing ability. We had a great start to the season over in Manchester for a pre-season training/team building weekend where the girls bonded both on and off the court.

Fran Berry is one of the quieter members of the squad but extremely hard working and will try and put into practice every bit of feedback you give her. Sarah Varley has been one of the most assertive, hardworking and determined people I have ever come across. She has been extremely supportive of her team this year, constantly giving me feedback and suggestions for improvements and is dominating on and off the court physically and vocally. I know she will do a fantastic job next season as captain.

Talia Goode has been fantastic this season, she plays consistently well in every match and dominates in centre court. Not only Talia, but also Sarah, have been life savers when it comes to fundraising, particularly with the fashion show. Philippa Bailey has played in the starting seven for nearly every game and in her second position. She is extremely versatile and knowledgeable in attack and defence and when pushed has worked extremely hard. Roisin Brophy has been 100% committed and has clearly enjoyed playing netball and has had a good season in defence for the 2nd VII.

Catherine Lathom-Sharp only joined us this season and I know has had so much fun. After she managed to master the footwork rule she has performed really well in games and it was only during our netball vs rugby match at the end of the season that we discovered she should have probably been playing defence rather than Wing Attack (WA). She was a superstar at the Fashion Show and helped choreograph multiple scenes and has been a pleasure to coach.

Alex Christian, having juggled so many different things this season, has been outstanding. She has played in both the 1st and 2nd team and despite all of her other commitments to music, head girl and many others, has been extremely committed. She is a valued member of the squad and always gives 100%. Defensively she has made huge improvements. When she plays it has made it impossible for me to bring her off. Lizzie Winn was told at the end of last season that as a centre court player she needed to improve her fitness and work harder if she wanted to remain in that position, and her hard work has not only been recognised by me but clearly by her teammates.

She has been such a star this season both on and off the court and I am really proud of her. Holly Dixon has been an outstanding captain this year and a pleasure to coach, she has been a consistent shooter in every match and has made it impossible to bring her off the court. Harriet Hoban has been an extremely valued member of the squad, she works hard and takes on board every piece of feedback you give her. She has a sharp eye for feeding the shooters and always gives an accurate ball.

It has been great to see how quickly these girls came together as two separate age groups and encouraged each other in both training and fixtures. They have been motivated to improve week in week out and have constantly provided feedback and suggestions for training to ensure they are pushing themselves to be the best they can be.

I know those in the Lower Sixth will continue to play and train with this determined attitude next season and will only continue to improve.

2nd VII Awards

Most Improved Player **Harriet Hoban**
Player of the Season **Sarah Varley**
Players' Player **Lizzie Winn**



U16A

By C Taylor, Teacher i/c U16 Netball

The A team have spent much of the season training with the 1st team, which has been hugely beneficial and successful for them.

They have been pushed hard by the quality of the first team players and really had to think about different tactics and where they would be best used. The introduction of the blanket has been really useful and their continued efforts with the wall have been extremely effective.

The full court zone is brilliant and the girls work really hard to make it work – I lost count of the interceptions made from this set play in many games. We started the season with a strong win against Stonyhurst, and followed this with wins against Sedbergh, Woodhouse Grove and Sheffield High. Just before National Schools, we played Crossley Heath and had a bad day at the office. We lost by quite a few against a strong team, but one that we knew we could beat.

The week after we met Greenhead College, who are nationally strong, so we knew it would be a tough game. Given that it was the week before National Schools and we had suffered the defeat the week before, I knew that we needed a win to build our confidence. We got to the dark sports hall in Huddersfield and set our stall out from minute one. The shooters were outstanding, so much so that we could afford to bring Sally off in the last quarter. Hannah was outstanding, with a 96% shooting record and picked up player of the match that day. We won the game 44-17 and everyone was really up for the Nationals the following week.

I am lucky to have three fabulous shooters in this squad. Sally has perfected the art of holding her space in the circle and has always been one of the best in school. This year though, I have worked hard on bringing Sally out of the circle a bit more and making use of the skills around the circle as well as in it. She was unsure at first, and it brought her out of her comfort zone

somewhat. However, the girls have so much confidence in her that she will find the space and always catch the ball that it didn't take long for her to feel comfortable.

She has also improved with her body position in the circle – she switches her feet now and puts the defender on her back more often than not. Even though everything Hannah does is at pace, it has no negative impact on her skill level. She is quick with her passing and loves to play one to two's with Zoe and Phoebe on the edge of the circle. She has also been using bounce passes much more this season in and out of the circle and considering she is one of the smallest members of the team, she has a huge presence on court and demands the ball. Our third shooter, Niamh, has made some huge improvements this season. She has stepped in to a number of different positions and enjoyed them all. When she is shooting, she very rarely misses and although she doesn't have a textbook shooting technique, it certainly works for her!

The Nationals tournament was fantastic and we had a larger squad than normal, as we used three U15 players to add strength to the squad. We had a great day, with outstanding performances through the centre court from Zoe and Phoebe particularly. With our first game in the bag, we met Crossley Heath, who we had lost to 2 weeks earlier. The girls had something to prove and that they did! We won by 5 goals and Lydia and Claudia in defence were phenomenal. We continued to play well and came runners up, meaning we went through to the regional round of National Schools.

In defence, Lydia plays Goal Keeper (GK) and I think it would be safe to say that she is a GK through and through. Lydia is a very clever player who demands respect from her opposition – and if she doesn't get it she bullies it out of them! She is clever in more ways than one. She knows when the

umpire is looking and not looking and she knows better than anyone what she can get away with!

She can also read the game from the back of the court extremely well and leads Claudia in most situations. In the latter part of the season, she was leading Phoebe in defence, but I'll come onto that later. Lydia has been a huge asset to the team.

Claudia plays Goal Defence (GD) and again has had a fantastic season. As you know, Claudia has been captain and this was a role given to her based on her contribution last year. She thoroughly deserved it and has done a great job. Claudia makes some fantastic interceptions and her reach when marking a shot is brilliant. We miss her when she's not on court, which she wasn't for the latter part of the season as she broke two ribs at National Schools!

Katie is our other defender, and plays Wing Defence (WD); a position that sometimes goes unnoticed. But not in this team. Katie is a feisty player who is very switched on and is another one who uses the set plays with ease. She makes the wall on a centre pass look easy and her communication skills improve game by game. She is also very effective on the attacking zone and does a lot of work off the ball to prevent her opposition getting to the edge of the circle.

In early January we went to play against Manchester High School, and turned up there to a court full of puddles. We were unhappy with the girls playing in those conditions given that they had the regional round of National Schools the week after so we played inside, which we all prefer. It was a great game against a very strong team, and we drew 17-17 in the end. In this game, Zoe shone through centre court, finding space left right and centre, which she does a lot. Zoe is vocal on court and off and has stepped up to play centre in the latter part of the season.

She is a very natural attacking player, who finds space where there is none and drives into it with flare. Her vision into the circle is second to none and the relationships forged in the attacking end of the court will be hard to replicate next year as the senior teams are developed. Phoebe is the last player for me to talk about, and she is one of the most versatile players we have. I know how desperate she is to be a shooter, and that she practices hard, but this season she has played a more defensive role. She has played Centre (C) for the most part, but when Claudia got injured, she didn't think twice about stepping into play GD.

She did play there a few times when I had them at U13, but at that point, we didn't use tactics such as the wall or the attacking zone. Phoebe knew exactly what to do in both situations, which was no mean feat considering she was out of position. When she plays in centre court, she is brilliant – springy, committed to the ball and totally reliable. Nothing changed in defence, whether it was at GD or WD, which she played a few times in nationals. She is a real pleasure to coach.

After the girls had finished their mocks, we played Hymers. I won't mention the result, or the performance actually, but it would be safe to say that they were relaxing after finishing their exams and their minds may not have been on the game. They made up for it over the next few weeks though with wins against Ashville and Bury, who we beat by one goal. This was a fantastic result for them as it was their last game as a squad.

The next challenge for some of the girls will come down under when we travel to Australia in the summer. I know they will train hard over the next few months and will gain a lot from playing against some of the best netballers in the world. I look forward to seeing what they bring back, and I look forward to seeing what they can offer to senior netball next year.

U16A Awards

Most Improved Player **Niamh Sedgwick**

Players' Player **Katie Robertshaw**

Player of the Season **Sally Bertrand**

U16B

By C Taylor, Teacher i/c U16 Netball

I was very excited to be taking on the Under 16s this year. We started really positively and we all discussed what we wanted to get out of the season. We hit the ground running in September with lots of training and the U16's trained with the first team which did them the world of good.

I was so impressed with the U16B team because as usual it is difficult to find schools to play against as not many schools can offer B team fixtures at U16. However, they started the season really well with a 10-9 win against Woodhouse Grove. We had a few more wins over the season including beating Cheadle Hulme and Nottingham high school. The girls have been committed to training throughout the year and have enjoyed sessions at Manningham Sports Centre with the 2nd team.

The best sessions we have had though were at school in the sports hall when it was just them – they bounce off each other's enthusiasm and know where the line is between having a laugh and getting down to business! This team has been a pleasure to be around and spend time with and they're always wanting to learn more and improve their skills. To go back to the results, I have seen a marked improvement in their tactical awareness this year and the set plays have been successful.

Elisha has suddenly grasped the idea that migrating out of the circle to receive the ball may be beneficial. She left it quite late in the season to try this and to see how successful it could be but there's no stopping her now. Kiran, as always, is a very reliable shooter. The girls can always depend on her to receive any pass given and shoot the ball. Kiran is a very clever player and thinks about everything – this is a great asset to any team.

Last year Jemima played Wing Attack (WA) for the majority of her time on court. This year she has stepped up and played centre on a number of occasions as well and has given 100% wherever she is on court. Her vision into the circle is fantastic and she works very hard. Another hard worker is Fiona who also plays WA. Fiona is better than she thinks she is. I would love to see her have more confidence in her own abilities. Antonia is another one who needs to have more self-confidence. She has played through centre court and has worked hard to gain an understanding of tactical moves on court. Lulu plays centre and on occasion this season has played WA. Lulu is a very laid-back player but she is consistent with the feeds into the circle and the girls seem to gain confidence when she is on court.

Izzy has captained the U16 B team this year and has done an absolutely fantastic job. She has been committed to training, fundraising and fixtures throughout the season and always does everything with a smile on her face. This hasn't always been easy but she has led by example and has been a great captain. Hannah and Naiha both play in defense and have made improvements throughout the season, both in terms of positions and ball handling. Maisie is leaving us this time and we wish her all the luck in the world as she moves on to pastures new. Maisie plays Goal Defense (GD) and has got a number of player of the match awards throughout the season. She is somewhat of a game changer with her turnover of the ball and good special awareness.

Sana has been an absolute pleasure to coach this year. She is desperate to learn more and is constantly asking questions in order to improve. She has improved massively. A huge turning point for Sana was against Saint Peters in February where she really gave the Goal Shooter (GS) a run for her money. She has even had a go at the other end of the court and enjoyed some more freedom playing GS herself.

U16B Awards

Most Improved Player **Sana Hafeji**

Players' Player **Jemima Lee**

Player of the Season **Maisie Lawrence**

U15A, U15B and U15C

By G K Jones, Teacher i/c U15 Netball

I have enjoyed this season seeing the U15 squads mature as both players and people.

Overall their attitude and the manner in which they train has become very positive and they have demonstrated a desire to improve. Due to the number of girls playing netball last season we entered two teams into the Bradford League so that we could run an A, B and C team and give all the girls playing opportunity.

The C squad have competed in the B division of the Bradford League and it has been lovely to see all the girls playing competitive games. They have had four games, won two, drawn one and lost one with Bradford Girls' withdrawing from the league. This places them second in the division. Although for some of the girls this is an addition to their Saturday fixtures with the B team there are a few who have taken to the court only in these games and for Umaira the first gameplay experience in her BGS career. It has been great to see the girls competing well against A teams from other schools and equally good to see those B squad players playing in the C team excelling within the team.

The B Squad have competed in both the Bradford League in division A against A teams from the strongest schools in the District as well as competing on some Saturdays. Again this squad has been fluid with some girls' moving between A team and B team so I have tried to reward current form. In the Bradford League they have won three, drawn one and lost two games playing at times some really high standard netball.

Highlights of the Saturday fixtures programme have been beating Woodhouse Grove and also the way we competed at B team level with GSAL, giving them a really tough day. I feel that the girls have made both personal progress and progress as a team but they do need to find a way to play with more consistency.

The A squad have also had a mixed season with fantastic performances against Sedbergh, Manchester Girls', Stonyhurst (2nd time) and Ashville in the Independent School Netball Cup (ISNC) and disappointing losses against Stonyhurst (1st time) around Wilmslow and GSAL. One of the frustration with these girls is the lack of belief and trust they have in their own and teammates ability when pushed outside their comfort zone. They play some great netball against teams of a similar ability to them but when pushed by outstanding teams they go back into their shell. In order to become an outstanding team, they will next year have to try to take greater risks in both training and games and learn from the successes and failures of their actions when pushed outside their comfort zones.

U15A Awards

Players' Player **Ava Hepworth-Wood**

Most Improved Player **Sophie Holden**

Player of the Season **Ava Hepworth-Wood**

U15B Awards

Players' Player **Anna Marsden**

Most Improved Player **Hannah Misbert**

Player of the Season **Izzy Robinson**

U15C Awards

Players' Player **Izzy Robinson**

Most Improved Player **Umaira Waheed**

Player of the Season **Misbah Khan**

U14A, U14B and U14C

By D L Bloomfield, Teacher i/c U14 Netball

U14A

This team are the future stars of BGS. This is one of the most talented squads we have in the school most of the players also play outside of school and it makes such a difference.

Their skill level has progressed so much and it makes coaching so much easier as we can focus on tactical and more advanced netball rather than landing and turning on your outside leg and the split drive down court.

The squad took a massive hit mid-season away at Wilmslow when one of our star players, Georgia Rayner, went down with an ankle injury which saw her resting for part of the season, including national schools. We were all praying the weather would delay the tournament in time for her to recover but luck was not on our side. I know Georgia will continue to shine in netball both at BGS and outside of school and she will soon be part of our England regional set up. She will also become a role model to those lower down the school and I know she will lead by example.

Ella Moran and Eve Wellings are to be commended on how they have stepped up in defence and come together to form a great team, now we have managed to get Ella shouting. They have come out with super interceptions and have been awarded player of the match in numerous games. Lizzie Hamer and Millie Stephenson have perfected the wall on centre pass, not that Lizzie has a choice when Millie is screaming at her, but their confidence and ball handling have come on tremendous amounts. Melody made her mark during the West Yorkshire tournament when she dominated the zone from a backline.

Millie Wadsworth has been the backbone of the team this year and a great captain. She is reliable, passionate about netball, extremely talented and I know she will continue to get better. Lily Robinson has been my greatest surprise this year. For the past two years I have watched Lily in training and been so frustrated at what seemed to be a lack of desire to improve, she seemed quite happy to plod along. But this year she has shone. As staff we feel we have got to know Lily more and she has become more outgoing, trains and plays hard and has strengthened the A squad significantly. Jaya Krishna, like her sister has a natural ability for netball. I feel like this is the start for Jaya and like some of these girls I expect big things from her in the future.

What we have with this group of girls, isn't a strong starting seven with a couple of subs we have a strong squad, who can all play numerous positions and when they do, it doesn't weaken them in the slightest. They all have a great sense of humour and a fantastic work ethic and I look forward to hearing about their success in the future.

U14A Awards

Players' Player **Eve Wellings**

Most Improved Player **Lily Robinson**

Player of the Season **Ella Moran**

2016-17 Captain **Millie Stephenson**

2016-17 Vice Captain **Lizzie Hamer**

U14B and U14C

The B and C team have done extremely well this season and now with some of the girls playing outside of school they have made our Year 9 squad even stronger and are fighting for positions.

Maia Hammond, Sama Rafaquat and Hanna Panni have joined the C team this year and have brought a breath of fresh air to the training and fixtures. Emily Conn has shone in training and matches and it is clear how much playing outside of school has contributed to her progress, not only this but she is well respected by her teammates and I know she will be fighting for a position in the B team next season. Georgia Pope, Nimrita Mangat and Hadia Arshad have dominated in defence and Anika Malik and Armani Mir possess something which none of the shooters in this year offer – which is height. They have become a force to be reckoned with especially when we have had the rugby pads out in training sessions. Francesca Grace has managed to play up into the B team for some of the matches and has stepped up to the tougher competition without any struggle whatsoever. Zaarah Yousef has pushed herself to her limits in training and matches and will play any position you put her in. Nancy Stainton has performed consistently well throughout the season and has taken on a leadership role in training sessions.

Our B team had a strong start to the season representing BGS alongside the A team in the West Yorkshire Schools tournament and an even stronger finish where they played the A team in the final of the Bradford School's Tournament. It just goes to show how talented this year group is. Sophie Clough and Grace Lancaster have dominated the circle and have been crucial to the team's success. We offer height in defence with Catherine Chapman, Amber McAllister and Lucy Sherwood and they always step up when it comes to matches. Our nippy centre court players Nancy Rae, Ariana Galdins and Laura Fitzpatrick have shone in centre court and I know any of these girls could give the A team a run for their money when it comes to fighting for a position next season.

It has been great to see so many girls' eager to play netball at BGS and despite not having a lot of fixtures this season they have all remained committed and continue to show dedication to improving their netball which I know will make our selections difficult for the staff. So keep going, keep pushing yourselves and never settle for anything less than perfection because losing is never an option.

U14B and U14C Awards

Most Improved Player

Maia Hammond, Sophie Clough

Players' Player

Emily Conn, Lucy Sherwood

Player of the Season

Emily Conn, Grace Lancaster

2015-16 U14B Captain **Grace Lancaster**

2015-16 U14B Vice-Captain **Ariana Galdins**

2016-17 U14C Captain **Maia Hammond**

2016-17 U14C Vice-Captain **Zaarah Yousef**

U13A

By C Taylor, Teacher i/c U13 Netball

Two members of the A team, Glesni Jones and Eva Lockett have been selected into the County Development pathway, which is a fantastic achievement.

There are a number of other girls who have been selected to represent Bradford, and their training has undoubtedly helped them with their school game. The girls selected are Anna Cooper, Eve Murphy, Hannah Crookes, Mahum Sheraz, Lara Baines and Natalie Griffith. They have the challenge of National Schools next year, which is very exciting and training has already started for that.

Sport continued ...

In the attacking end, we have had the luxury of three very good shooters this season. We reluctantly lost Eve to the B team, but this gave Vicky an opportunity to step up – and that she did. Vicky has played extremely well in the circle and her shooting is very accurate. We need to work on her movement outside the circle now, but she is showing huge potential in the A team. Mahum is a force to be reckoned with, her shooting accuracy is fantastic.

She plays well at either Goal Attack (GA) or Goal shooter (GS) and has just seemed to grasp what space she can use and how to use it to her advantage. Glesni is our other super shooter, who can also play defense and has done so on numerous occasions when we've needed her. Glesni has also captained this year and has been a fantastic captain. She is very passionate about netball and has an extremely competitive nature. She wants to win, and will always do what's best for the team, so although I know how much she wants to shoot, there has been no arguments from her when I've asked her to step into defense. This is a sign of a real team player.

In centre court, we have Eve, who plays Wing Attack (WA). Eve is such a hard worker – she is one of the best 'trainers' we have and she has a very positive influence on the other players in this regard. She is a joy to coach and it's lovely to see her making so many improvements as the season goes on. Hannah has also played some WA this year, as well as Wing Defence (WD). She too has improved hugely and what I love about Hannah is that if she doesn't understand something, she is not afraid to ask. This has helped her immensely through the court and she is switched on so her tactical awareness is very good.

Lizzie plays centre and has come on leaps and bounds this year. I think she gets a bit tired of me saying her name during training, but I only do this because I know she can push herself to do better. She needs to switch her speed dial up slightly in game play, but we really miss her when she's not on court, and that says a lot. She has played with the idea of playing some

Goal Defence (GD) and Wing Defence (WD) this year too, and has performed well. We have newcomer Ella Gill who joined us in October, and she is like a little whippet.

Her speed is phenomenal, so much so that on occasion she gets carried away on court and takes a few too many steps! But she has been an asset to the team and I know she has a lot more to give. Natalie and Lara have both played WD this year. Lara has stepped up from captain of the B team and has played in the A team for this season. Lara is also a very clever player who listens and can put any tactical plans into play with ease. She is particularly good on the wall on a centre pass. Natalie has made massive improvements this year, especially with her passing.

I know she can be erratic at times but I now see her stopping and thinking about where to place the ball rather than just throwing it and hoping for the best. Eva plays GD and forges great partnerships with Anna and Glesni in the circle. She reads the game extremely well, makes flying interceptions left right and centre and attacks the ball. All whilst pointing her toes and looking elegant. Anna has worked really hard on her positioning this year and as a Goal Keeper (GK) can now read the game much better. Her positioning for rebounds and her passing have both improved too.

U13A Awards

Most Improved Player **Mahum Sheraz**

Players' Player **Eve Murphy**

Player of the Season **Eva Lockett**

U13B and U13C

By C Taylor, Teacher i/c U13 Netball

I've seen a lot of movement this year with the U13's, and even the introduction of the U13C team. Players have moved between teams, and a few original B team players have cemented their place in the A team.

The B team started the season well and have continued to improve throughout. They have won about as many as they lost, but they gained a lot from the losses and came back fighting in every game. In fact, they generally tended to perform better in the second half of their games. Izzy Kenyon played Goal Shooter (GS) last year and started the year back in that position. She has ventured out of the circle a few times and has now played Wing Attack (WA) and Goal Attack (GA) as well.

She is a very clever player who knows when to give certain passes, depending on who is on court with her. She's a real asset. Eve Atkinson has played in the B team for most of the season and has enjoyed the vibe in the team. She too is a huge asset and is very accurate with her shooting. We now have Kate available to play on Saturdays, which is great for us and if she carries on the way she is, she will be breaking into the A team before long.

Kate plays a few different positions, all in attack and always makes an impact when she is on court. Cerys plays centre and is extremely springy! She makes interceptions when you would least expect it and her vision into the circle is second to none. Emily and Fumni play in defense and have both done a great job this season.

Emily plays Goal Defence (GD) or Wing Defence (WD) and is extremely fit so can run up and down the court for hours! She just needs to believe that she is as good as we think she is. What can I say about Fumni? We always have lots of fun in training but I think it would be fair to say that fitness training is her worst nightmare. I'm not sure I've ever seen her out of breath, but the impact she has on court is huge and she has had a very successful season. She has stepped up to captain most games and she has done a great job.

The C team have played in the Bradford League this year and have made some huge improvements. A few of the girls have played regularly for the B team on Saturdays and the results have gone up throughout the season. The players in the Bradford League have been mixed up somewhat in teams, so some players may have played for both teams.

I'll start with the attacking players. Leeza and May have both improved over the season and have grown in confidence. They both work hard on their shooting technique and have performed well for the C team. Sofia has stepped up and played for the B team on a Saturday on occasion and plays either centre court or in the shooting circle. Her tenacity on court bodes well as she drives the ball into the attacking circle.

Kara has stepped up to play GA this year and has been fantastic. She only really stepped into that position when we had an injury but she has never looked back. Tabi plays Wing Attack (WA) and has developed her feeds into the circle. She plays regularly for the B team in the Saturday fixtures and continues to improve. Onto centre court and the defense. Gowri and Daya both play Wing Defence (WD) and have different strengths.

Gowri is like a little terrier snapping at your ankles around the court. She is aggressive and always wants the ball. What Daya lacks in that aggression, she makes up for in presence and accuracy on court. She makes lots of interceptions and really looks after the ball. Zerah has made huge improvements this year, considering she had hardly played netball at all last year. She has a natural understanding of the game and works very hard. The same can be said about Imaan, who plays Goal Keeper (GK). She reads the game well and is becoming more confident in going for the ball. Nehal too plays GK and has a positive impact on a competitive situation. Both of them have improved their passing hugely, especially on the backline.

Although the C team have only had a handful of fixtures in the Bradford League, they have represented BGS with pride and I thank them for that. They had some very close games, only losing by two or three goals, but they improve in every game. The final game of the season against Bingley Grammar School brought them their first win, with a decent score of 11-9.

U13B Awards

Most Improved Player **Emily Mellor**

Players' Player **Cerys Ali**

Player of the Season **Cerys Ali**

U13C Awards

Most Improved Player **Zerah Khan**

Players' Player **Zerah Khan**

Player of the Season **Kara Hickman**

U12A and U12B

By G Jones, Teacher i/c U12 Netball

The U12 squad as a whole have been a very exciting prospect this year.

It was clear from the taster morning at the beginning of September that there was an enormous amount of talent on show – some of the girls clearly having been coached and others at that point un-tapped potential. As a result of the big number of girls who have committed to regular training, we have had two large squads with the girls having to be adaptable and versatile which they have coped with very well.

U12A

The A team have been a very tightly knit squad of 11 players who have worked extremely hard to have the success they have gained this season. They are very talented but they are also willing to challenge themselves and push themselves to achieve – something that they will have to continue to do if they are to live up to our high expectations. They will have the Independent Schools Netball Cup (ISNC) to get their teeth into next season, giving them the chance to test themselves against the best teams nationally.

I would like to highlight some individual achievements, as well as playing for junior club teams Bella, Anuli, Grace, Zahra and Naina were selected for the U13 District team a year early. From there Zahra and Naina have impressed so much that they have in the latter stages of the season been pushed through to train with the County Satellite Squad. In addition to this Naina was also selected for the 'Junior Jets Talent Group'.

Also huge thanks to Grace and Amelia who have captained the squad extremely well throughout the season. This squad have a lot of character and spirit. With the height and athleticism of Zahra and Bella, the tenacity and energy of Anuli, Becky, Amelia and Ava, the level headedness and on court intelligence of Isabel, Grace and Naina and the physicality and work ethic demonstrated by Mia and Emryss, we have a really well balanced squad.

The results this season have been fantastic with 100%-win rate until the last game of the season against Bury where six of the squad were unavailable due to alternative school commitments. They have won the Bradford Schools Tournament and League and beaten high calibre opposition such as Cheadle Hulme and GSAL.

U12A Awards

Players' Player **Grace Cogan**
'I am really pleased that this players' immense contribution has been recognised. She is incredibly switched on and has been named PoM on many occasions, she was new to the school in September and has settled in seamlessly.'

Most Improved Player **Mia Chutti**
'This player is an entirely unassuming character which is why her 'in your face' style of defending is such a surprise and delight to see. She is going to be the thorn in many an attackers side and for me has improved the most in terms of understanding what is required tactically of her position on court.'

Player of the Season **Naina Krishna**
'This player has played in various positions throughout the season and has been outstanding in all of them. She influences the game when she is on court and is fully committed and reliable showing real class.'

U12B

The B team have had a mixed season in terms of results but an excellent one in terms of development and the emergence of talent. Throughout the year I have witnessed their skill level and understanding of the game improve hugely which will stand them in good stead for future seasons.

Although I can't talk about every individual in the squad, as there are so many of them, there are some performers who I would like to mention. The two captains – Maddie Nix and Sana Khan have been incredibly dependable, motivating and astute both on and off the court, I have been really impressed with the maturity which they have both shown, which I would like to thank them for.

There are also a group of players some of whom came to the school lacking either playing experience, confidence or both and have worked hard to become some important players within the squad. Others have gained their first match play experience towards the end of the season. Well done in particular to Pavan, Maya, Lorna, Louise, Amber and Sonia.

I would also like to congratulate the girls who are working hard to challenge for places in the A squad, the likes of Pari, Emily, Sana, Maddie, Nithila and Kate who have all performed consistently well in both training and games.

U12B Awards

Players' Player **Maddie Nix**
'This player has already gained a mention. It is good to see that her efforts are appreciated and applauded by her team mates as well as myself. She is terrier like on court and the personification of enthusiasm off it. Tenacity should be her middle name.'

Most Improved Player **Pavan Shergill**
'She arrived at school keen as mustard, but clearly didn't have a high opinion of her own ability. It was clear that she had some good movement skills and an eye for goal but her handling was suspect at the start. She has improved in every aspect of her play, not least her confidence in herself and I look forward to seeing her continuing her improvement next season.'

Player of the Season **Emily Hartley**
'This individual has performed consistently well all season. She has been given the most PoM awards throughout the year and has been a reliable shooter in any circumstance, she definitely has the potential to play in the A squad – which she demonstrated against Bury when making her A squad debut.'

Orienteering

By D Alcock, Teacher i/c Orienteering

For the second successive year, a BGS team was entered into the British Schools Orienteering Championships.

In November 2014, we had one placing in the top half of an age group (Joshua Poulsen), but we improved significantly on that performance a year later, thanks to a longer period of training and the input of some fresh blood!

On Saturday 15 November, a dozen students completed two trial races at a rainy Roundhay Park, before travelling to Sandringham, Norfolk, for the British Schools Orienteering Championships the next day. We set up the team shelter on the finishing straight, and our competitors set off with time gaps of approximately ten minutes between each other, to prevent following. Despite practice sessions on the BGS stumping grounds of Lister Park, Heaton Woods and beyond, some boys found visiting up to twenty controls in an unfamiliar forest very challenging, and Armaan Malik was remarkably calm after having taken two hours to complete the 3km loop! However, good runs from Alex Flaherty, George Worthington and William Westlake brought the Year 7 boys team home in 4th, and the Year 8 boys team (Luke Moran, Max Bradley and Toby Logan) was 5th. Alex, George, Luke, Max and Toby all made the top 20 in their age class and Laurence Smith was in 10th in the Year 13 boys category.

Overall, the runners above and our other competitors – Jacob O'Connor, Jacob Midgeley, Ben Marsden and Thomas Howson – helped BGS to come 8th in the large secondary schools category.

Congratulations to all.



Rugby

1st VII

By D Scarbrough, 1st XV Coach

Played.....	14
Won.....	11
Drawn.....	0
Lost.....	3
Points For.....	367
Points Against.....	144
Points Difference.....	223

Date	Opposition	Result	Score	Tournament
Feb 7	Worksop College	Canc.		MSM – Group Match
Feb 7	Durham School	Canc.		MSM – Group Match
Feb 7	Sedbergh School	Canc.		MSM – Group Match
Feb 27	The King's Priory School, Tynemouth	Won	59-0	Durham 7s – Group Match
Feb 27	Kirkham Grammar School	Lost	10-28	Durham 7s – Group Match
Feb 27	Ampleforth College	Won	26-7	Durham 7s – Group Match
Feb 27	Yarm School	w/o		Durham 7s – Group Match Durham 7s – Bain Cup Quarter
Feb 27	Durham School	Won	19-15	Final
Feb 27	Gosforth Academy	Won	26-17	Durham 7s – Bain Cup Semi Final
Feb 27	Kirkham Grammar School	Lost	0-12	Durham 7s – Bain Cup Final
Mar 9	Old Swinford Hospital	Canc.		KSW7s – Group Match
Mar 9	Warwick School	Canc.		KSW7 – Group Match
Mar 9	Ellesmere College	Canc.		KSW7s – Group Match
Mar 9	Hereford Cathedral School	Canc.		KSW7s – Group Match
Mar 9	Bishop Vesey's Grammar School	Canc.		KSW7s – Group Match
Mar 16	Clifton College	Won	21-7	N7 Vase – Group Match
Mar 16	Norwich School	Won	47-5	N7 Vase – Group Match
Mar 16	Christ College	Won	29-7	N7 Vase – Group Match
Mar 16	Brentwood School	Won	48-12	N7 Vase – Group Match
Mar 16	St Peter's School, York	Won	24-10	N7 Vase – Elimination
Mar 17	The Oratory School	Won	22-5	N7 Vase – Group Match
Mar 17	Tonbridge School	Lost	14-19	N7 Vase – Group Match
Mar 17	Felsted School	Won	22-0	N7 Vase – Group Match

1st XV

By Dan Scarbrough, 1st XV Coach

It was evident that a small, yet special group was coming through into this year's Upper Sixth Form, and for the third year running the 1st XV have managed to improve on the previous year's successes, finishing 15th in the National League tables.

The season was a tale of immense highs and lows summed up superbly below by the team's inspirational Captain, James Pinder.

The season commenced with a successful pre-season camp at Newcastle, which culminated in two senior fixtures against Edinburgh Academy at Kingston Park. This set the tone for our two victories against Cardinal Newman from Buenos Aires, giving us the momentum to open our season with a comprehensive 85-0 victory against our traditional rivals Hymers College.

Confidence and spirits were high as we took on 'The Browns' of Sedbergh at Fortress Frizinghall, in an epic encounter in the Champions Trophy, in front of a large and enthusiastic crowd. Playing some of our finest rugby of the season, the Geese flew into a 15-0 lead at half time. Unfortunately, due to injuries, in particular James Callender in the front row, and the opposition's fitness and strength in depth the final outcome was a narrow loss.

After a good period of preparation, the Sevens season got underway at the annual Durham Sevens tournament, for a team full of high aspirations.

The team scored 21 tries in six games, conceding only 11. The team beat King's Priory School, Ampleforth College, Durham School and Gosforth Academy, but sadly finished as runners up losing twice to a very strong Kirkham Grammar side.

Sadly, many other tournaments were cancelled due to flooding and poor conditions. So in order to prepare further for Rosslyn Park, Giggleswick School kindly put together a mini tournament against local opposition and some from further afield in Wales. BGS showed real strength in depth, dispatching every team they came across with ruthless accuracy and dominant performances.

At the Rosslyn Park National Sevens, the team did remarkably well competing against 172 teams nationally, winning seven of their eight matches, beating some of the country's heavyweights. The team made a fantastic start whitewashing their group which included notable opposition; Clifton College (21-7), Norwich School (47-5), Christ's College Brecon (29-7), Brentwood (48-12). Topping the qualifying group, 'The Geese' won an eliminator against local rivals St Peter's York to fly into to the main competition on day two.

Reaching day two meant that the 1st VII had reached the last 16 of 172 teams, which was then split further into four groups of four. BGS started very well with a good win against Oratory School (22-5) but after a strong start to the game going 12-0 ahead, eventual cup winners Tonbridge just overcame us (17-22). The game also saw captain James Pinder injured, which meant he was unable to take any part in the final game. BGS knew they needed to beat Felsted, who were at that point unbeaten and who had a side consisting of 3 England players, by at least 15 points. The team spirit and strength of character inspired an incredible performance stunning the tournament favourites and coming away winners by 22-0! Sadly, the score line wasn't enough with Tonbridge having smashed Oratory in their final game. A tired and emotional team were devastated that their dreams were over with them finishing second on points difference! I think most observers ranked us within the top three teams in the tournament and the lads felt they had given their all, leaving coaches and parents incredibly proud.

It would be wrong to mention one player above the rest as this truly was a squad small in number but big in stature, with great pride in the jersey.

Throughout the season the group have played and beaten schools that clearly have Rugby at the heart of their brand, with more boys to pick from and much more resources. For this particular age group to achieve so much throughout their time at BGS is immense. It is clear that this season they have achieved a place in the top 15 schools at both XV and VII Rugby across the whole country.

'Attitudes are contagious, is yours worth catching?'. Theirs certainly were!

Sport
continued ...

Played.....	13
Won.....	7
Drawn.....	1
Lost.....	5
Points For.....	328
Points Against.....	174
Points Difference.....	154

Date	Opposition	Result	Score	Tournament
Sep 12	Hymers College	Won	85-0	Daily Mail Trophy
Sep 16	Sedbergh School	Lost	20-32	NatWest Champions Trophy – Round 1
Sep 19	Crossley Heath School	Lost	12-20	Daily Mail Trophy
Sep 20	Stonyhurst College	Draw	19-19	Daily Mail Trophy
Oct 03	Nottingham High School	Won	52-15	Daily Mail Trophy
Oct 09	Woodhouse Grove School	Won	21-3	Daily Mail Trophy
Oct 17	The Grammar School at Leeds	Won	31-14	Daily Mail Trophy
Nov 07	Pocklington School	Won	26-15	Daily Mail Trophy
Nov 14	Trent College	Won	15-0	Daily Mail Trophy
Nov 21	Queen Elizabeth Grammar School (QEGS), Wakefield	Lost	7-14	Daily Mail Trophy
Nov 28	RGS, Newcastle	Lost	7-18	Daily Mail Trophy
Dec 05	St Peter's School, York	Lost	21-24	Daily Mail Trophy
Dec 12	Ampleforth College	Won	12-0	Daily Mail Trophy

Suffering from a Sedbergh hangover, battered and bruised we took on Crossley Heath three days later, which produced a disappointing result. This was backed up with a 19-19 draw against the traditionally strong Stonyhurst. We hold no grudges towards Will Bowie and James Liu for jumping ship at half time to watch some of the World Cup minnows battle it out at Elland Road!

The half term, however, finished very strongly with two local derbies against Woodhouse Grove and GSAL respectively. Playing Woodhouse on a Friday night, under lights, kindly hosted by our friends Bradford Salem. This was definitely one of the highlights of the season for the whole squad, with support from all years at BGS past and present, Salem was rocking, inspiring us to a 21-3 victory. We backed this up with a comfortable victory against GSAL.

After a good break over the holiday we reassessed our goals for the season and felt it achievable to go for an unbeaten run to the end of the season. Beating two strong sides in the shape of a pumped up Pocklington School and a strong Nottingham Trent side. I was privileged to witness our very own football convert James Webb 'turning the screw' in the front row against an experienced Trent side. His stalwart work in the front row set the platform for our backs to run riot. Struggling with injuries due to a small squad, yet feeling confident we came across a fired up QEGS Wakefield outfit who were seeking revenge for the previous two years' defeats. Sadly, QEGS outmuscled us on the day and in doing so almost knocked the stuffing out of us for the rest of the season. However, the calibre of opposition was evident as QEGS went on to reach the final of the NatWest Cup.

It has been an honour to Captain such a driven and talented group of players this season with plenty of help from other senior players such as Adam Waring and Ross Kirtland. Warm up Captains Callum Manchester and Struan Mackenzie ensured we were ready to take on anything. Our game changers James Liu, Harry Sagar (when not rehearsing for the school plays) and George Cockcroft were often the providers of a much needed X factor. I thoroughly look forward to the upcoming Sevens season, in particular Isaac Greene's so called 'Magic feet'.

A final thank you to our superb coaching team of Dan Scarborough (England legend for those who don't know), the inseparable twins of Galley and Wilde and guest coach Phil Nilsen visiting from Yorkshire Carnegie. Special thanks go to our trusty stat man Private Ian Walker (Rtd) who courageously led us to our famous Woodhouse Sevens victory at U13. A huge thank you also must go to the support of the Old Bradfordians Association who provided our match shirts for the season.

Particular highlights for the Coaching team were the first half performance against Sedbergh in the Champions trophy, Friday night lights against Woodhouse Grove (in front of around 500 people) and playing Ampleforth into submission in the final game of the year – over 55 minutes in atrocious conditions of cold, rain and eventually floods.

The opportunity to watch World Cup rugby in England, coupled with a much smaller squad than in previous years, meant we had some tough times, however, I am sure the pupils will be stronger for the experience and will enjoy talking about their rugby at BGS for years to come. This was a fantastic group of players who were a pleasure to coach. So much so that to their detriment I could not help but join in on some of the touch and pass sessions. This year group have a true competitive edge and will do very well in life and rugby, they leave the School having really put BGS rugby back on the map, so thank you!

I would like to extend a big thank you to the RPA, the OBA (in particular Chairman James Williams) for sponsoring the 1st and 2nd team jerseys. Also former pupil James Parker for providing the school with an electronic scoreboard for the 1st XV pitch. It is a fantastic addition to the facility which helps to make the 1st XV pitch a special place to play.

Well done to all! #Geese

2nd XV

By James Webb, 12JRP

It is always hard to know how a season will go, especially following on from one where a number of senior players moved on to better things. After our pre-season camp on north Tyneside and a warm up game at Newcastle Falcons against Edinburgh Academy, we faced a strong traditional rival in Hymers College.

We outclassed them and ran in some super tries. We came through a close game against Crossley Heath Grammar School only to begin a series of losses, closing with a dismaying performance away at GSAL. It seemed that the season might prove to be a very long one, but upon return after half term the squad began a three game winning streak.

Date	Opposition	Result	Score
Sep 12	Hymers College	Won	56-0
Sep 19	Crossley Heath School	Won	19-17
Sep 26	Stonyhurst College	Lost	7-62
Oct 03	Nottingham High School	Lost	5-28
Oct 10	Woodhouse Grove School	Lost	0-55
Oct 17	The Grammar School at Leeds	Lost	7-24
Nov 07	Pocklington School	Won	21-17
Nov 14	Trent College	Won	61-10
Nov 21	Queen Elizabeth Grammar School (QEGS), Wakefield	Won	21 - 17
Nov 28	RGS, Newcastle	Lost	7-21
Dec 05	St Peter's School, York	Lost	7-45
Dec 12	Ampleforth College	Canc	

This was undoubtedly a consequence of enthusiasm and a desire to improve. There were certainly some very useful sessions with Mr Wilde on Wednesday afternoons that helped to develop structure in both attack and defence. The team was not helped by regular call ups to the 1st XV and the odd injury. That, however, is the nature of senior squad rugby.

Without doubt the finest moment of the season came in our oldest school fixture against QEGS Wakefield. QEGS were certainly eager for revenge after two previous defeats and perhaps our poor form, running in to half term, deceived them into underestimating the task they faced. The brave men of the 2nd XV delivered an outstanding performance running in dancing tries and maintaining a rugged defence that just about held up, as wave after wave of QEGS attacks came in during the second half. This really was 2nd XV rugby at its best from both teams; competitive, committed and exhilaratingly close.

Sport
continued ...

The season closed in rather farcical fashion, as Ampleforth College insisted on our honouring a fixture on a day when snow had closed Sutton Bank and non-stop rain came in horizontally! The fact that the lads were actually distraught that the field and the weather were both unplayable upon arrival says it all about the spirit in the squad. As the frustration of that day subsides, it is perhaps replaced with an embroidered tale that ultimately becomes a piece of BGS rugby folklore. 'Do you remember that day when Ampleforth ...'

A win would have given us a 50% season.

Senior Rugby needs more than 30 players and once again the 2nd team performed its task of giving, broadly speaking, anyone a game from and aspiring 1st XV player to lads who fancy a run out on a Saturday.

U16B XV

By D Pullen, Teacher i/c U16 Rugby

The U16Bs started the season well with three wins on the trot against some decent opposition.

Probably most memorable was the away victory over Nottingham, with Flavell kicking the winning conversion from the touchline in the last seconds of the game following captain Hague's try. This game also featured one of a number of A team player cameo appearances, this time from Andrews, who helped the Bs to an early lead. The team was always strongest when bolstered by players who had regular experience with the A team, but players such as Hague and Stephenson, who scored four tries in the first four games, Rae, Stonelake, Chi Chi and prop Madhas, all played well enough to earn significant playing time in the senior side as well as being mainstays of the Bs.

The second half of the season was less successful; they were unlucky to fall just short against GSAL and QEGS (who ran out easy winners the previous year). Strong performances in these games by Barrett,

Koenig and Haynes kept BGS within reach of the opposition with just the occasional lapse letting the side down. With better consistency, particularly in defence, they could have won both these fixtures. The result against Trent College also did not reflect how close the game was, with fine efforts from Sherwood, McCash, Hopper and Harrison. Unfortunately territory and pressure were not converted into points and a decent performance failed to produce a winning result.

This was a team that will provide a solid foundation for the senior sides over the next two years. Players such as Erturan and Marshall have not played much rugby and are still developing, whilst others such as Berry, Partridge, Bellamy, Ellam and Zahir have proved to be solid players who can be relied upon to commit themselves fully.

Player	App.	Tries	Con.	Pen./Drop	Total
Isaac Stephenson	7	4	0	0	20
Hugh Barrett	7	3	0	0	15
Hamish Rae	7	3	0	0	15
Callum Haynes	3	3	0	0	15
Charlie Andrews	1	2	2	0	14
Zac Flavell	5	1	4	0	13
Khize Shahzad	2	1	2	1	12
Nick Hague	6	2	0	0	10
William Harrison	7	1	0	0	5
Jack Sherwood	6	1	0	0	5
Nardeep Madhas	5	1	0	0	5
Henry Stonelake	4	1	0	0	5
Ibby Abdullah	1	1	0	0	5
Dan Brennan	1	1	0	0	5
Paddy Partridge	7	0	2	0	4
Alex McCash	7	0	0	0	0
Alex Bellamy	6	0	0	0	0
Erin Erturan	6	0	0	0	0
Friedrich Koenig	6	0	0	0	0
Nasik Zahir	5	0	0	0	0
Ismail Ellam	5	0	0	0	0
Tom Wardale	5	0	0	0	0
Hugh Berry	5	0	0	0	0
William Marshall	4	0	0	0	0
Chi Chi Muchimba	3	0	0	0	0
Will Hopper	2	0	0	0	0
Ben Schofield	1	0	0	0	0

U16B XV Results

Hymers College	36-31	W
Stonyhurst	54-7	W
Nottingham High School	21-19	W
GSaL	10-12	L
Trent College	0-24	L
QEGS, Wakefield	22-28	L
St Peter's	5-49	L

Points For **148**
Points Against **170**

Under 15A XV

By C E Linfield, Teacher i/c Under 15 Rugby

The Under 15's had a really positive season, and whilst winning just three matches we were competitive in all but two. The team showed great spirit and tried to play at a high tempo to utilise an abundance of pace on the wings. The game plan was reasonably straight forward and involved winning quick ball and looking to score at the earliest opportunity. Our set piece was efficient with mobile, but small, forwards looking to provide ball on the front foot with space to attack. The decision making of the half backs was generally good, with the physical threat of the centres complementing the speed of our back three.

After a competitive pre-season match against Worksop College, the team acquitted themselves admirably against Hymers College for 50 minutes before conceding three late scores in a tight game. A narrow loss to a strong Crossley Heath side was followed by a forgettable encounter at Stonyhurst.

Two comfortable victories in the Natwest Cup against Ilkley GS and Harrogate GS showcased our ability to play good rugby with quick ball, but also emphasised the strength of our Saturday fixture list. The draw for the last 16 of the North section of the Natwest Cup saw school entertain GSAL who played impressively to win comfortably. Particular memorable performances enabled BGS to beat Nottingham HS and compete with RGS Newcastle, Pocklington and Trent until the final whistle. It was unfortunate that two winnable matches against St Peter's and Ampleforth were cancelled at the end of term due to bad weather.

The seven-a-side season during the Easter term was influenced by poor weather meaning that the boys competed just once at BGS. The Storm Super 7's tournament was without doubt the highlight of the year with school coming 1st in the group having beaten Sedbergh, Ashville and Dame Allan's. This ensured qualification to the cup competition in which we lost to QEGS 24-19 in the semi-finals having beaten Ermysted's

in the previous round. The enthusiasm of Mr Scarbrough for the abbreviated form of the game was infectious and the manner in which we played was a credit to the entire squad.

I enjoyed working with the boys and would like to wish them well in their transition to senior rugby next year.

U15B XV

By A MacNab, Teacher i/c U15 Rugby

Based on previous years' achievements the season for the U15B XV was always going to be challenging.

However, something that came as a pleasant surprise was the enthusiasm the year group showed for the challenges and the number of boys who were willing to play at home and away to support the cause; usually playing at least 20 boys on match days. The progress of the side must be recognised as we did manage two wins and competed well in all but three games, which was a considerable achievement based on past results; the collective spirit amongst the boys showing through.

A special mention must go to Matthew Cogan and James Chapman who were ever present and work hard from the first whistle to the last, playing with a level of honesty and understanding, whatever the conditions or score and with encouraging levels of skill.

Sport
continued ...

The most memorable game would have to be the trip to Trent College; a long trip down the M1 on a very wet day, to play for the full hour, only being beaten by a 'run away' try in the last few minutes; so close to a third win! The challenge for next year has to be to build on the achievements this year, compete in all games and maybe get a third or fourth win.

U15B XV Results

Hymers College.....	28-24	W
Stonyhurst College.....	33-5	W
Nottingham High School.....	40-48	L
Woodhouse Grove.....	5-65	L
GSaL.....	0-66	L
Pocklington.....	41-49	L
Trent College.....	17-31	L
QEGS Wakefield.....	7-64	L
RGS Newcastle.....	0-31	L

U14A XV

By M Wilde, Teacher i/c U14 Rugby

This season a total of 18 games have been played at A and B team level, giving 45 U14 boys the opportunity to represent our school. In terms of development the players have progressed as teams and as individuals, albeit at different levels. Unfortunately, the A XV's playing record doesn't represent the efforts invested by the boys, for whom playing rugby and representing the school means so much. Whilst it was disappointing that the boys lost more games than they won they produced some pleasing performances, even in defeat, therefore I wasn't too concerned about the number of games won compared to the number lost.



BGS started well with a win against Hymers College. A strong defensive performance was particularly pleasing and denied Hymers possession. Rowan Hirst carried extremely well up front and Harry Webster finished well on the wing. Harley Robertshaw also crossed from close range. The following week, too many individual errors gave Crossley Heath cheap ball and field position which they took full advantage of. Despite playing all the rugby BGS were 17-10 down at half time. In the second half BGS made far fewer errors and consequently mounted a superb comeback scoring three unanswered tries. With the game all but won we found ourselves on the wrong end of a quick KO and a string of penalties which Crossley converted into two late scores. A game we really should have won and important lessons learned against a side who eventually went on to win the U14 County Cup later in the season.

Victories at Stonyhurst College are highly prized and this was no different. However, the margin of the victory suggests a mismatch – which it was! The BGS side had far more experience and structure which overwhelmed the opposition, who had a number of boys whose rugby journey, was only two weeks old. With large amounts of possession and time on the ball BGS ran in 13 tries in total; centres Sam Berry, Harley Robertshaw and winger Harry Webster scoring the majority of those. Unfortunately, BGS lost some of our attacking structure as the game progressed and this will need to be addressed if we are to compete with the better sides on the circuit.

The only thing that spoiled the day was England's loss to Wales later that evening at RWC 2015.

After an evenly contested first half, the game against Nottingham High School was unfortunately abandoned, after a heavy collision left one of the Bradford players very much the worse for wear, with the score 0-5 to the visitors. I had been delighted with the efforts of our smaller forwards in securing an equal share of possession against a much heavier eight and the boys created a number of chances that we just couldn't convert into points. It would have been interesting to see if the BGS pack could have maintained the equality in the second half; I suspect that the heavy first half workload may have caught up with a number of them as the second half progressed.

Next up a hard fought local derby in which BGS did their very best to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. WHGS came out strong and deservedly went a try up, however they were always struggling to contain the pace and structure of the BGS game plan. However, the accuracy of the BGS players was below par and not for the first time this season too much ball was conceded softly and in the wrong parts of the field. WHGS needed no second invitation to take advantage and score their second try, from a well-executed lineout. A missed conversion resulted in a drawn match which on balance was a decent result for both teams.

Whilst I was slightly disappointed with the WHGS result, I had no complaints in our next game, BGS' second local derby within seven days against GSAL; BGS were beaten by the better side. Early exchanges were even but as the game developed the heavier, more organised GSAL pack began to take control. BGS scored two well-worked tries running half the length of the pitch but it was not enough to trouble a confident GSAL side. Whilst GSAL were proficient at the breakdown the high volume of turnover ball that they won was aided by BGS' inefficiencies in the same area.

On a lovely sunny afternoon at Pocklington, BGS produced a good first half performance which should have killed the game off as a contest at half time with the score 0-17 in our favour. Against a lumpy Pocklington pack our 1st and 2nd fight was superb and consequently we produced fast ball which the backs were able to use well, Matt Corkindale & Sam Berry impressing in the centre. Our aggressive defence resulted in Pocklington kicking the ball away in the second half in an attempt to gain territory but full-back Henry Miller's returns were more than a match for these tactics. However, it was BGS' inability to secure KO that proved to be an Achilles heel. Three misjudged catches, three knock ons, cheap territory (again!) and scores around the guard area gave Pocklington a glimmer of hope. Fortunately, BGS held their composure to see the game through for a deserved win despite the errors.

In conditions more suitable to Ducks than Geese it was a fine advert for Trent College's Ground Staff that the pitches BGS were greeted with, on our arrival at Long Eaton, showed little evidence of the significant rainfall the area had experienced. Having worked hard over the course of the season on technical skills at the breakdown I was delighted with the amount of ball BGS won against a side that were physically gigantic in comparison. Unfortunately, we weren't able to put the ball to much use in the wet conditions. The BGS defence stood up well under the barrage of Trent runners but the inability to tackle the ball carrier to the ground resulted in a large number of line breaks, offloads and consequently long range scores; the majority of BGS tackles acting as speed bumps at best. However, the boys did not give up, although, understandably, enthusiasm hit a season low towards the middle of the second half.

Arguably, QEGS Wakefield, is the toughest fixture of the year and it couldn't have come at a worse time after the physical mauling the boys had just suffered versus Trent College. That said we had pushed QEGS hard the week before at the Yorkshire Schools' Independent Festival, albeit in shortened halves, and had prepared well in our one Games' lesson of the week. A good first half performance had BGS down 7-12 at the break and whilst I was pleased with the teams' efforts our defensive bite just lacked the aggression required to really pressure the QEGS runners. The second half was equally well contested and at one point BGS came within a score of our opponents. Unfortunately, the weight and organisation of the QEGS forwards around the ruck and the seam began to tell in the last 10 minutes which gave the final score line an unfair gloss in my opinion. Harley Robertshaw, Henry Miller, Tom Wilson and Henry Smith were particularly impressive, the latter two scoring our three tries, from range, outstripping the QEGS defence. Far too slow out of the blocks against a good RGS Newcastle team organised by the best fly-half we have encountered all season. Unfortunately, the game was over after 20 minutes as a contest; although once BGS finally woke up we became much more competitive. There were glimpses of our developing attacking shape but unfortunately BGS had set themselves far too deep, inviting the very physical RGS defence right onto us. BGS defensive shape was good, we had lots of practice, but as with the Trent College game, BGS were unable to chop tackle the bigger RGS runners and compete for the ball on the floor.

Unfortunately, the final games of the season against St. Peter's York and Ampleforth College were lost to the inclement weather experienced just before the end of term.

After weeks of preparation the competitive Sevens' season began in early February at Durham. On the smaller 4G artificial pitches, kindly provided by Durham University, BGS acquitted themselves well. Group wins against Dame Allan's, QEGS Wakefield and Pocklington set up a Cup QF versus St. Peter's York which was lost 15-20.

Two weeks later I was delighted that BGS backed up their Durham performance by qualifying for the St. Peter's Cup competition. The first group match was a disappointing 10-19 defeat to the giants of RGS Newcastle; the result a clear indication of the suitability of the BGS boys to this game and the superiority of the BGS structure. Despite this loss BGS over powered Barnard Castle and Hymers College to secure Cup qualification, as group runners up. The QF versus Sedbergh was a fantastic game. Both teams played good sevens rugby unfortunately the boys in Brown had a little more firepower than those in Maroon and the game was lost 12-34.

The build up to RPNS7s was therefore going to plan until the Hymers College tournament was cancelled due to waterlogged pitches. Despite doing my best to re-create competitive game situations in the intervening weeks, the lack of genuine opposition at that time really hurt when we eventually arrived in London for the highlight of the Schools' Rugby 7s Programme. Compounded by the long trip, an overnight stay and the early morning start BGS saved their worse sevens for the most important tournament

of the year. Uncharacteristic errors, regression in shape, structure and game plan under pressure led to a crushing first game defeat, 5-31 to Cwm Rhymini, which BGS didn't recover from. Further defeats to Dulwich College, 12-17 and Birkdale High, 19-33 overshadowed what had been a really positive sevens season, despite the 26-10 defeat of St. Edward's Oxford.

At the end of the season my thanks: Mr. O. W. Theaker, in his role as B XV coach. Mr. Scott Higgins and his staff for the provision of the excellent playing facilities we enjoy at BGS, the dedicated band of parents who support both the team and the rugby club so loyally and of course all the boys, too numerous to mention individually here, who work so hard and give up so much time in representing this great school.

U14B XV

By O Theaker, Teacher i/c U14B Rugby

The U14B rugby squad has worked hard this year, always pushing themselves and their opposition to the limit.

No team was able to keep a clean sheet against them and their true performance is often not reflected in the final score. A special mention should be made of the Nottingham game as an example of this fighting spirit. Against a physically strong and well drilled side the team stood together and forced their opponents to attempt to convert penalties, from closer to the half way line than the BGS try line, in an attempt to preserve a narrow lead.

Competition for B team squad places has been very fierce this year with over 30 lads selected during the season. A core of regular players provided structure, consistency and leadership for both the players competing for A team places and those making their debut in school colours. This provided the team with a great strength in depth when selections were made each week.

U14B XV Results

Hymers College	56-0	W
Nottingham High School	10-17	L
GSaL	17-33	L
Pocklington	29-29	D
Trent College	7-12	L
QEGS, Wakefield	5-56	L
RGS, Newcastle	5-31	L
Ilkley Grammar School	7-48	L

U13 XV

By A Galley, Teacher i/c U13 Rugby

It is very easy to focus on statistics during a Rugby season to view how the season has progressed; however, the focus for the U13 squad was purely on their individual and collective performance, with the score looking after itself.

This was typified by the two matches against QEGS Wakefield this season, where after a disappointing performance in the first match which resulted in a scoreboard that favoured QEGS Wakefield, the squad responded positively in the second match later in the season to be denied by the slenderest of margin.

There were many highlights in terms of performance this season against a multitude of good U13 school sides, with the performances against Trent College and GSAL being particularly enjoyable. More significant was the number of players

who represented the A team this season and also that against St Olave's we turned out a C team.

The squad worked hard at all aspects of their game, from attack to set piece and to the area of their biggest improvement, defence. The squad enjoyed all aspects of the game and worked hard as a group and for each other. It was great to see the competition for places in the squad and to see how well the B team did when playing the Ilkley Grammar School A team.

U13A XV Squad

Tom Howson, Lui Shvitiel, Jacob Midgley, Fred Reed-Purvis, Shaan aziz, Josh Greene, Peter Nix, Obi ene, Max Bradley, Luke Moran, Max Rutherford, Amrit Sharma, Oscar Andrews, Mbako Chaliskha, Ed Harrison, Will Luxton, James Masterton, Alfie Weston, Alfie Stonelake, Lex Galloway, James Adam, Toby Logan, Habib Shafiq, Henry Sisley, Will Bertrand, Sesi Jeyachera

U13A XV Results

Hymers College	19 - 12	W
Crossley Heath School	41 - 5	W
Prince Henry's Grammar School	52 - 0	W
Nottingham High School	48 - 0	W
Woodhouse Grove School	19 - 14	W
QEGS, Wakefield	0 - 46	L
GSaL	36 - 26	W
Pocklington School	48 - 0	W
Trent College	55 - 0	W
QEGS, Wakefield	24 - 27	L
RGS, Newcastle	36 - 15	W
Rodillian Academy	53 - 17	W
Hull Collegiate School	45 - 17	W

U13B XV Squad

Aneeq Hamdani, Bilal Faisal, Jasper Lawrence, Abdullah Sheir, Ahmed Naveed, Lorcan Hanafin, Tom Celik, Ben Carroll, Jamie Berry, Jacob Whitley-Guest, Tom Padgett, Danyal Hussain, Dylan Patel, Luke Thomas, Sam Young, Ben Clifford, Ben Marsden, John Scholey, Ismail Shezad, Sufyan Mahmood, Lewis Griffith, Millan Olak, Lawrence Wade, Vistah Sharma, Seb Handley

U13B XV Results

Hymers College	32 - 5	W
Nottingham High School	0 - 21	L
Woodhouse Grove School	10 - 19	L
St Olave's School, York	0 - 17	L
GSaL	Canc	
Pocklington School	51 - 0	W
Trent College	30 - 0	W
QEGS, Wakefield	10 - 19	L
RGS, Newcastle	12 - 41	L
Ilkley Grammar School	0 - 20	L



Table Tennis

By A Crabtree, Teacher i/c Table Tennis

Bradford Grammar School Table Tennis Club has had a very busy and successful year. Two girls' teams finished second in the ESTTA Team Table Tennis Finals, two teams reached regional finals and five teams reached the Zone Finals of the ESTTA competition. All four teams won their West Yorkshire Schools Games competitions and the school teams were West Yorkshire winners in five age groups. Individually Emily Mellor won the West Yorkshire U13 Girls title and Fraser Riley, Nicholas Miller, Emily Mellor, Aliza Khaliq and Evie Davies were all selected to represent the Yorkshire Region.

It's been six years since a BGS team made the ESTTA Team Finals and this year we had two teams in the final. Bradford Grammar School was the only school nationally with two girls teams in the final. The eight girls had a great time together travelling to Hinckley for the 50th ESTTA Team Finals and all eight girls made contributions to their teams' successes.

Both teams started with a tight 5-3 victory. The Under 19s were playing last year's winners King Edwards Totnes. Hibah Mahmood battled back from 2-1 down to defeat Elsa Perry in her first match, but Sophie Yung lost 3-1 to Holly Johns (England ranked 41). However, Olivia Governor and Maddie Silberberg won their matches to give BGS a 3-1 lead. King Edwards clawed it back to 3-3 when Holly defeated Hibah 3-1 and Elsa defeated Maddie 3-1. However, Sophie and Olivia each won comfortably 3-0 to give BGS the victory.

In the Under 13s Emily Mellor started with a tough 3-0 defeat against Katie Holt, England number 11, but Aliza won her first match 3-0. Nithila Sampath and Mahum Sheraz then both won 3-0 to give BGS a 3-1 lead. Aliza worked hard but lost 3-0 to Katie, but Emily won 3-1 to take BGS into a 4-2 lead. Nithila stormed into a 2-0 lead against Kayleigh Rees, but couldn't hold on as Kayleigh fought back to win 3-2. However, Mahum held her nerve to win the final match 3-1 to give BGS a victory 5-3.



In their second matches BGS faced teams who had lost their first group match, so the U13s stormed to an 8-0 victory against Gloucester Girls' High School. The U19s found it tough going against Wickersley with Sophie and Hibah fighting hard against Emily Walker, England 104, but both losing in 5 sets. However, BGS won all the other 6 matches to win 6-2.

They now had their final group matches, effectively the final against Harefield Academy London and South Hunsley, Hull. Both these teams had highly ranked players. Zahna Hall (7) and Danielle Kelly (36) for Harefield and England number one Jasmin Wong for South Hunsley. Both teams fought bravely, but the strength at the top of both teams made it difficult for the BGS teams. Hibah took a game off Danielle losing 3-1, but Sophie couldn't compete with the spin, power and finesse of Zahna, losing 3-0. Maddy defeated Beau Partridge, but Olivia was defeated by Rachel Stone 3-0 leaving BGS 3-1 down. Sophie and Olivia won their second games, but Harefield won 5-3.

Our Under 13s had come close to South Hunsley, losing 5-3 in the region last year, but all of South Hunsley's players had improved their play significantly. Aliza was the only winner, defeating Laura Barton 3-1, although Emily lost in five to Amy Barton. The Under 13s also finished second. The Under 19s received their trophies from England number one Kelly Sibley and the Under 13s from two previous winners from Archbishop Cranmer School. A great day for BGS Table Tennis, the highest ever finish from any girls teams in the history of Bradford Grammar Table Tennis.

The Boys Under 13 team were the most successful of the boys' teams winning the West Yorkshire Team Event and the Zone Finals, remaining undefeated against good opposition from Bradford (Beckfoot School), Nottinghamshire (Carlton Le Willows and Outwood Valley), and South Yorkshire (Silverdale). In the Regional Finals in a tough competition the boys played well defeating Thomas Telford 6-2, but losing 5-3 to Lincroft School, Bedford, and the winners, St Mary's Hull 7-1. This result places our boys in the top 12 teams nationally. James Bowmer, Lawrence Wade, Pranav Balabhadra and Alex Davies trained hard all year and have all improved their standard of play.

These boys were joined by Nicholas Miller, Joshua Poulsen, Karam Butt, Tom Padgett, Ben Marsden and Sufyan Mahmood in the Bradford School Games and West Yorkshire School Games where they competed as Under 13 and Under 15 teams. The Teams won every match against some strong schools from partnerships across Bradford and West Yorkshire. Two girls' teams also joined the boys in the West Yorkshire School Games winning both of their events as well. The Under 13 Girls were joined by Evie Davies, Esther Tucker, Basmah Razi and Pippa Threlfall.

The Under 19 Boys team consisted of Fraser Riley, who is now in the top 100 ranked Junior Boys, Nicholas Miller, in the top 15 at Under 12, Josh Poulsen, Jonathan Wright and Ben McCash, representing School for the first time in Year 13. In the West Yorkshire competition they defeated a strong Beckfoot team 5-3. However, despite Fraser Riley's undefeated performance in the Zone Finals, the team finished fourth losing to strong opposition, in particular Wickersley (South Yorkshire), who finished second nationally.

The Under 11 Boys and Girls teams enjoyed their competition in the Zone Finals of the English Schools. The Under 11 Boys had come second in the West Yorkshire competition defeating Lady Lane School 8-0, but losing 5-3 to the Grammar School at Leeds. Isaac Li, William Stephenson, Shishir Shastry and Daniel Grimmitt played well in their first ever competition for School. In the Zone Finals, qualifying as runners up, BGS faced Rycroft Middle School from Uttoxeter and Osmaston, Derbyshire, in their group. BGS defeated Osmaston 5-3 and drew 4-4 with Rycroft to qualify for the semi finals where they lost to St Peter's East Bridgford. The girls played four matches, defeating Bramley Sunnyside, South Yorkshire, but losing to Chetwynd School, St Peter's East Bridgford and Springwell Derbyshire. Isaac, Will, Shishir and Yusuf Raqib all performed pleasingly for the boys and Evie Davies, Serene Liu, Rebecca Flaherty and Annabel Kelleher all recorded victories for the girls' team.

The two teams also won their Bradford Partnership Competition against Lady Lane, Saltaire Primary and Myrtle Park.

BGS hosted the West Yorkshire Schools Individual in January. Emily Mellor won the girls Under 13 tournament, defeating Aliza Khaliq in the final. Emily went on to the ESTTA Individual finals where she defeated the Norfolk Champion in her group.

Nicholas Miller Under 13s, Hibah Mahmood Under 16s, Fraser Riley Under 19s and Olivia Governor Under 19s all finished second. James Bowmer, Pranav Balabhadra, Isaac Li and Shishir Shastry reached the semi-finals and Evie Davies finished third in the Under 11 girls.

Fraser, Nicholas, Aliza, Emily and Evie all represented the Yorkshire region this year. In the Inter regional Under 13 Individual, Nicholas Miller reached the semi-finals.

A number of pupils and Mr Finch have competed locally for clubs in the Bradford, Keighley and Halifax Table Tennis Leagues. Ben McCash and Joshua Poulsen's teams met in the final of both the Boothman and the Naylor Cup in the Keighley League. Honours were even with one victory each.

A big thank you to all the parents who helped with catering for the ESTTA Zone Finals held at BGS in January. Thanks also to Mr Finch and Mr Cottrell for their help with fixtures and lunchtime training.

We must try to create
adaptable pupils that think
for themselves and have ...

a love of lifelong learning.

Neil Gabriel
Junior School Headmaster
Extract from Junior School Speech Day 2016

For the full speech
please turn to page 26





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