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.

Dr Simon Hinchliffe
Headmaster
Extract from Speech Day 2016

For the full speech please turn to page 05
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 superstars 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
At WGS I met Heidi and have both ever been a part of our world for the city of Liverpool or the BBC. We add value to our nation’s problems, we all recognise this, but it diverges too long on results by colleagues who think we are overly concerned with metrics and narrower academic results. The exam results achieved by our students, 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 1 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 rut for a story few looked closely at the facts. Headlines were reined quickly a week or two later when reality crept in. The true picture is immutable. Researchers at Durham University have concluded that independently educated pupils receive an academic equivalent to two years of extra schooling even when socio-economic background is stripped away. At A Level independent schools achieve A* grades at nearly double that of the national average and almost two thirds of all GCSE entrance exams 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 of our students. This is an outstanding achievement and reflects the difference that BGS makes to each individual student. Boys 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 narrower academic results. But very often concerns of this kind misjudge what excellent exam results like ours truly represent. In terms of forms arts I have fond memories of my forebear, Sir Harry Ford, 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 work of this production ‘Gosforth’ is another highlight of the past year. Finally, last Saturday I was pleased to see the Annual Gosforth Festival where BGS brass band and a bit of brotherly busting was on the menu.
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 International 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 welcome new families to our school and our grandparents and carers for ensuring that our young people arrive at school on time and always put the needs of our students first. Similarly, I would also like to take this opportunity to publically 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 our school. 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 things for sure, it won’t be dull.

Dr Simon Hitchiffe 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 at 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 30 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 political 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, DipSN, 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 ensuring that students and staff believe 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 as a number of Higher Education Institutes.

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

Resignations

P T Smith resigned in December 2015

New appointments

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

Professor Shirley Congdon BSc, MA, DHealth, DipSN, 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

School Notes

From the Headmaster...

Speech Day 2016

The Bradfordian

BA, MEd, PhD, FRSA

Dr Simon Hinchiffe

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 publically 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.

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School Notes

From the Headmaster...
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 escapee 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.

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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 even closer to home in Manchester and although she will be hugely missed, we wish her every success.

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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.

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 his expectations. 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 cool 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. This Department will possibly 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!
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 chair the chair, but unfortunately for Eileen she had me as the ‘pupil’. She took my life in 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.

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 Elizabeth had 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 learned lessons and her classes were second to none.

Lottie Kirk

By L H 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.

I am not sure who was the most terrified; Eileen, Barry or me…

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 2013.

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 out ‘like the shopkeeper in Mr. Bury’ 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 Welwyn School in Hertfordshire – 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 benefited 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. 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 Habitatart, 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 2015 Roslyn 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 benefited 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 diligently 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 enjoyed the trips to The Towers as much as his pupils. He was instrumental in introducing ‘Netwolding’ lunches giving pupils a chance to meet and talk to Old Bradfordians and pupils working in different careers, these included, Engineering, Creative Industries, Sport, Leisure and Tourism Lunches. Kevin is greatly respected as a school leader and inspector, and someone who has played a full and charismatically 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 Bugajali 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.
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 T pedagogue, 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. It testimony to his academic prowess and the empathy he has for the pupils in this 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 (72% A) and A level (75% 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 interpret an aptitude to succeed academically and his success in developing a team spirit built on mutual respect should be commended.

Richard’s commitment to supporting good cause has been shared by his forms over the past couple of years with the intent 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 its social 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 will all wish him well for the future.
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.

Leaving Staff continued...

Katie Harrison

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
Gunasek S Bhogal
Musa Bin-Imran
Kathryn Boden
William H Bowie
Matthew M Boyle
Jagjeet S Bajach
Oxford, History
Manchester, Computer Science (Human Computer Interaction) with Industrial Experience
London, Mathematics with Economics
Birmingham, Dentistry (5 years)
Chester, Sport and Exercise Sciences
Nottingham, American and Canadian Literature, History and Culture (International Study)

C
Emile Cairess
James Callender
Cameron N Chippindale
Alexandra Christian
Oliver P Clagg
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

D
Eliaor D’Arcy
Alison E Dewhurst
Thomas Dixon
Ollivia Dower
Joseph S P Downs
Aiden G S Dusay
Oliver Dunn
Alexandra J Farrar
Pascale Fisher
Manchester, Economics
Manchester, Pharmacy
Birmingham, International Relations with Economics
Warwick, History
Nottingham, Geography

E
Eleanor D’Arcy
Alison E Dewhurst
Thomas Dixon
Ollivia Dower
Joseph S P Downs
Aiden G S Dusay
Oliver Dunn
Alexandra J Farrar
Pascale Fisher
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)

F
Kristen E Barrett-Casey
Roneel Bhagwakar
Gunasek S Bhogal
Musa Bin-Imran
Kathryn Boden
William H Bowie
Matthew M Boyle
Jagjeet S Bajach
Oxford, History
Manchester, Computer Science (Human Computer Interaction) with Industrial Experience
London, Mathematics with Economics
Birmingham, Dentistry (5 years)
Chester, Sport and Exercise Sciences
Nottingham, American and Canadian Literature, History and Culture (International Study)

G
Emile Cairess
James Callender
Cameron N Chippindale
Alexandra Christian
Oliver P Clagg
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

H
Isaac E G Greene
Conor Gundry
Thomas E V Hamilton
Matthew Handy
Matthew G A Harris
William E Huard
Holly N Hellawell
Harriet J Hoban
Joe S Holden
George D Hudson
Ibrahim Hussain
Yousef M Hussain
Liverpool, Medical Sciences
Leeds, Medical Sciences
Bradford, Accounting and Finance
Birmingham, Biomedical Science
York, Physics
Loughborough, Product Design and Technology

I
Emma R Irwin
Manisha Islam
Rowan D E Jarman
Benjamin Jolly
Jacobs A G Jolly
George A Kay
Joseph Kay
Matthew Kay
Lauren S Kelly
Mohammed Y Khan
Ross Kirtland

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Joseph S P Downs
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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)
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<td>Holly MacDonald</td>
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<td>Dawina C Puri</td>
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continued …
We extend our congratulations to all our students on their achievements this year!
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 our 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, 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.
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 audiences, 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 been spent on technology in state schools had not been spent on technology in state schools. I would like to show you a short video by Taylor Mali an American teacher.

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 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 this is my message to you: ‘I am somebody when I came to this school I will be a better somebody when I leave.’

And to the pupils - my message to you is courtesy of Frank Turner:

‘If you say it often enough, it will start to be a part of you and if you ever forget 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
BA, DipArch
Junior School Headmaster
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 (using 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’. This musical item was 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 Smalls for his help with the Orchestra and Wind Band, Miss Orviss for preparing the readings, 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 Pric 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 ‘Yorick’ 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 Williamson Music Prize; and Sam Brown, William Coakley, Isaac Li, Serene Liu, Tzavier Thornber and Olivia Willey 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 Smalls 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.

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 clerics, and hats were donned by our enthusiastic actors as they enjoyed delivering the magic of Shakespeare’s writing.

Arts and Performance

Junior School Christmas Concert

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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 year’s 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.

Events

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 Jack 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 debut 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 tightly contested and now unmissable staff versus pupils race. Mr. Tewson capitalised on the absent Mr. Newsome and did the staff proud as Mr. Townsend deputised for the annual staff versus pupils race.

In the afternoon the focus moved outside to the BGS playing fields as the competitors took to the track. The sun shone down on the Bradford cheering the loudest after they came second. The U9, U10 and U11 teams all made a mark on fixtures, it has been a fairly successful season. 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 Pahlney finished second and third in the Year 5 and 6 girls’ event.

Girls Hockey

This year the girls have enjoyed a programme of fixtures, including participating in a very wet and cold HMC tournament held at GSAL. Hockey is constantly gaining in strength and this was enhanced further with its inclusion in the Year 6 sports tour, where teams competed against the Welsh Schools champions Whitchurch Hockey Club.

Football

A very short season saw U9, U10 and U11 compete in fixtures again Berkside and GSAL with mixed success.

Rounders

The weather has affected the Rounders seasons, though all age groups managed to compete in at least one fixture. Successes were celebrated at the U10 and U11 age groups, while development continues throughout the School.

Table Tennis

This year has seen many Clock House pupils attend lunch time Table Tennis practice sessions. The highlight was when Evie Davies was selected to play for the Yorkshire U11 Girls team at nine years old.

Other notable mentions

Clock House pupils also competed in the HMC gymnastics competition hosted by RGS Newcastle. The Boys team took third place and Eva Shivel was placed third in the overall competition.

Trips and Visits

A Gruffalo! What’s a Gruffalo?

By N. Gabriël, 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 Eisa Radhill, and Roop Hare, were among lots of pupils who had lots of fun including making a video starring pupils and the Gruffalo.

Eisa 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.”

What’s a Gruffalo?

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

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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.”

Sports

Clock House Sports Day 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 12. 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. 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 promotion 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’s calendar of 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 levels. This year saw the introduction of the HMC and GSAL with mixed success.

Swimming

Over Year 3 to Year 6 have represented the School in games both at home and away, cumulating in the annual HMC gala and National Relay Championships, where we had success in the U13 Breaststroke with both Will DeGenn and Ana Campani finishing first. We also had a number of second places, including the U13 girls freestyle relay. A highlight of the season was Eleanor Dawson breaking the U13 freestyle record at Sports Day.

Cross Country

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

Football

A very short season saw U9, U10 and U11 compete in fixtures again Berkside and GSAL with mixed success.

Rounders

The weather has affected the Rounders seasons, though all age groups managed to compete in at least one fixture. Successes were celebrated at the U10 and U11 age groups, while development continues throughout the School.

Table Tennis

This year has seen many Clock House pupils attend lunch time Table Tennis practice sessions. The highlight was when Evie Davies was selected to play for the Yorkshire U11 Girls team at nine years old.

Other notable mentions

Clock House pupils also competed in the HMC gymnastics competition hosted by RGS Newcastle. The Boys team took third place and Eva Shivel was placed third in the overall competition.

At the HMC Athletics, Billy Blacker won the U11 800m and Anhelia Petel was pipped to the post in the U10 80m final. Numerous Clock House pupils have taken part in regional and national Athletics and Biathlon championships.

Trips and Visits

A Gruffalo! What’s a Gruffalo?

By N. Gabriël, Junior School Headmaster

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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 U9 events with Daniel Grimmitt making the 200m final, Rebbecca Flaherty finishing third in the Girls 600m. Annabel Blacker producing what we think is our first ever 80m sprint, a photo finish needed before finishing third in the Girls 600m, Annabel making the 200m final, Rebecca Flaherty the U10 events with Daniel Grimmitt fielding the students did a sterling job.

By K Howes, Junior School Deputy Head

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!

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 Fanalh 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 Robertson. 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 in their rucksacks, ready for the barbecue 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 millions of 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 you will experience a year's bad luck. Hopefully all the children managed to dodge the drip!

Once out of the cave everyone visited the souvenir shop and bought souvenirs, before returning at a leisurely pace to Ingleborough Hall. The packed lunches were enjoyed out 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.
Then we went up to our rooms to sleep. Before bed we had hot chocolate. Izzy: Friday Night of Africa.

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

Saturday Morning

Abdullah and I woke up at 5.44am because the boys in the next room called Cat Bells were so noisy!

Abdullah: 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.

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

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

Khalijah: Archery

It was very steep. There was a beautiful view from the top.

For lunch we could choose a sandwich. Robyn: Archery

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.

We had a midnight feast, so it took a long time to get the hot food at home. Our room was a mess because we didn’t tidy up.

Georgia: Packing

When we got up we had to pack our suitcases with all 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: Orientoising

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

Khalijah: Archery

I was in the group who had a go at archery before orientoising. When it was my turn – the most points I scored were 50.

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 before orientoising. When it was my turn – the most points I scored were 50.

As usual we ran our annual ‘tidiest room’ competition and each day a pupil was nominated to wear the hazard jacket – loved by some, hated by others. A great time was had by all and 32 tired children were returned safely to their families ready to return to school.

A huge thank you to Mr Smith for all his hard work in making the trip successful and to the pupils, who were a credit to themselves and the School.

The fun didn’t stop when the lifts closed for the day. Each evening there was a different activity including games and quizzes, a chance to explore the local area and swimming in the heated outdoor pool – a luxury enjoyed by all. The pupils made the most of the time to socialise and further enjoy the holiday. Parents were kept up to date with regular tweets so they felt a part of the trip even from home.

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Trips and Visits continued...

**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!

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!

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 pupils to try and match the 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 and told the children.

Trips and Visits continued...

**Year 4 Viking Trip**

By A Buckley, Junior School Teacher

On Monday 7 March Year 4 spent the day at Munton Park (the award-winning Danelew Centre for living history) to experience a day in the life of a Viking. Danelew 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 4 Bradford Cathedral Visit

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 5 Geography Trip to Clapham**

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.
3

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 sportswomen, 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 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 Palyisma, the famous Barnsley boutique, Lis Merrick, mentor and coach, and two of our BGS Governors, Victoria Davey, lawyer, and Suzanne Britton, founder of Pollyanna, the famous designers.

As Maria Hussain (11ZJS) summed things up afterwards ‘When we debated what the consensus was that they could do a non-uniform day and Barnardo’s and have opportunities for conversation. The mentors often refer the case back to the relevant school who then helped the mentor to adapt their teaching style to suit the carer’s needs. Sometimes however, all the Young Carers need is someone to talk to and feel comfortable with. The mentors often sense this and 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 mentoring scheme. This idea was particularly popular. The day raised nearly £5,000 for the charity and it 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 the Barbican in London. At the time of writing this scheme is in the process of being entered for the Queen’s 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 Soviet Union, Kim Il Sung, General Franco, Four women who guarded training, and through the awareness they have gained from various education-related issues, the mentors have become a focus for good causes 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 and feel comfortable with. The mentors often sense this and give them time to relax and have opportunities for conversation.

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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 focus for good causes 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 and feel comfortable with. The mentors often sense this and give them time to relax and have opportunities for conversation.

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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 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 Barter 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.J. Mc Owen, 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
- Kalvin Beren: Future of electric aircraft
- Toby Bett: 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 Calinder: Print media as part of a ruling class
- Michael Jia: Socio-economic impacts of immigration to the UK
- Tagan Johnson: Desirability of a British Bill of Rights
- Jamaal Khan: Future of electric vehicles
- Melissa Knopin: 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
- Armeena Pervaiz: Public health policy and obesity
- Anika Prasad: Achieving universal primary education
- Jack Reid: Legitimacy of Catalan independence
- Thomas Riley: Future direction of UK nuclear policy
- Amavis Zafnor: Future direction of Alzheimer’s research

On behalf of the tutor-assessor team, we 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 Now nor Summer. 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 Mag Boyle, 16, 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 and Governors at the School delighted in his company and many queued up to get their books signed in the buzz of the afternoon.

Simon Hinchcliffe, BGS Headmaster said: “It was a fabulous evening with Ian. It’s a fantastic for them to meet someone of Ian’s calibre who is so down to earth and it’s also very important for the pupils to get involved which is why we hold 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 Stoneake and Ben Wood all received this award.

Congratulations to all students who took part.

Gold
- Will Robson
- Silver
- Miles Loney
- Henry Stoneake
- Ben Wood
- Bronze 1
- Erin Erikurin
- Ben Longfoot
- Amy Peacock
- Bea Taqgart
- Bronze 2
- Alexander Broadbridge-Krifton
- Daniel Field

Commendation
- Charlie Andrews
- Theo Azzar
- Laura Barrett
- Lydia Beckett
- Katea Birdwell
- Hannah Chadd
- Isabel Elam
- Will Emsore
- Sara Hale
- Freddie Hoeying-Cimino
- Tom Liu
- Helen Mahood
- Maddy Shilberg
- Will Smith
- Barnaby Vaughan
- Laura Barnett
- Theo Azzar
- Charlie Andrews
- Will Robson
- Will Elmore
- Tom Liu
- Riley Moore
- Henry Stoneake
- Sam Billen
- Amy Peacock
- Bea Taqgart
- Lydia Beckett
- Charlie Andrews
- Barnaby Vaughan
- Ben Wood
- Henry Stoneake
- Farming
- Islam Elam
- Tyler Adams
- Will Robson
- Barnaby Vaughan
- Sam Billen
- Farming

Schools Challenge Quiz Team

By A Corriigan, 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 Emmsyted’s, Ampleforth and Ripon Grammar, the team of Gudee Ahmad, Ismail Elam, 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 Emmsyted’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. Banks 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 visual arts, 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 today’s society, and its immense effects.

However everyone did and they properly brought across by the exhibitions. The whole scheme has been fun – from primary pupils to adults alike.

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 Peter’s 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 Nis, Sali Handley, Theo Horsley and Isy Kenyon came a respectable 10th place out of 35 on the day.

DoE Award Diamond Anniversary year

By S R Hoath, DoE 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 sections areas.

This year we have had another 100 students complete the Bronze award programmes and a further 25 Year Gold. The DoE Award goes from strength to strength and is the number one worldwide adventure programme for young people in its 65th 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 Bhagagoon attended a once in a lifetime Gold Award Presentation at Buckingham Palace.

At the event Mr Hoath was presented with a special plaque from the DoE Charity by celebrity supporters ‘Yorkshire Rose; acknowledging the school’s commitment to running the DoE and thanking it for giving young people the opportunity to transform their lives. Speaking proudly about their involvement with the DoE, Scott said: ‘BGS has held a licence to deliver the DoE 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 DoE award scheme an amazing 375 of its young people have achieved a DoE 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 DoE 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 2 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 Earl Janisken and performed Balsaortho from the Capitol 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 Beavan. 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 this day to 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 vitally 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 £30,000, 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. At the end of term approached, the fundraising became more intense. BGS walked a mile to raise £1,000, 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 10RWM’s Christmas Cafe made an impressive £700, and the star individual fundraisers were in full swing. As the end of term approached, the fundraising became more intense. Mary’s Meals made over £500 and the Music Department raised £850 at their Christmas performances.

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 still 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 has 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.
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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 had by all. Debating strengthens skills which are invaluable later on in life, and I had by all. Debating strengthens skills which are invaluable later on in life, and I had by all. Debating strengthens skills which are invaluable later on in life, and I

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 Howarth, 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 pupils 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 medalist 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.

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 off 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 Shibly Deal who put a lot of time and effort into making it look spectacular. Thank you! The Prize 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 next year.

Careers in the Natural and Built Environment Networking Lunch
By S Fishery, Careers Coordinator and Chemistry Teacher
On 23 March BGS held its first Networking Lunch. Professionals working in roles that ranged from Catastrophe Operations Manager 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 pupils 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.

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 Jenny Lupini, 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.
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 Pafferty 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 own 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 novel, The Inn at the Top and Pip & 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 ‘campival’ 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 Himblekind Clothing. The Sixth Form students put on a great show and created some great routines to showcase the products. Sarah Vanley and Taka Goode, in particular choreographed some fantastic scenes and the standards were raised yet again.

We were also joined by Old Bradfordians Jack Appleby and Molly Onwia who comprised the evening, bringing a fantastic sense of humour to the show, which was well received by our guests and those taking part. The last touring group including Emma Whitman, Canna Lawery and Neil Duncan also joined us for the event and it was great to see support from past pupils at an event they 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!
A Level Trip to Rawthley Polymers

By J Richards, Teacher of Design and Technology

On the 22 January early this year the Design and Technology department visited Rawthley Polymers in Sowerby Bridge with a group of A Level Product Design pupils; the visit was planned to help pupils gain an educational insight into 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 Rawthley Polymers, locally based who proudly themselves on forefront research into polymer science and technology, specializing in the development and manufacture of coatings, adhesives, sealants and moulded rubber products.

The pupils were able to experience first-hand the recycling and upcycling of rubber products. The company’s CEO Alex Celik gave the pupils a very wide-ranging tour through R and D. The pupils were able to see the full journey of the products, through R and D. We were very lucky to have had a company such as Rawthley Polymers, locally based who proudly themselves on forefront research into polymer science and technology, specializing in the development and manufacture of coatings, adhesives, sealants and moulded rubber products.

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German Exchange 2016

By S 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 lessons, as well as attending lessons and assemblies in school and enjoying our school lunchtime, 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 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 border between the former East and West Germany in the 1960s 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 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 US SSR helicopter, now looking incongruous in its charming rural setting and to see the site on the inner German border frontier 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 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 Weesbürgen suburb near Paderborn. Here is the transpant castle, built by the local Prince-Bishops. In the early 1600s, we saw some of the rooms created by Henniker 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 Flaherty, Teacher of Chemistry

On 4 March, 26 Year 12 students took part in ‘Project X’ with the RAF. This was an interesting day 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 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.
The 2nd Battle of Ypres was moving. Graves of the three OBs all killed during mounting casualties, and the visit to the of each death. 1915 was a year which saw services held in school on the centenary of trips and excellent talks to the History Department had its usual busy year with its range of trips and visits. The Historical Society continued with A Level lecture day on Revolutionary Russia in Manchester, giving them 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 the toilets and steppings stones! Shelter was found in the still intact baths, where pupils were able to admire the original floor mosaics as well as evidence of the Romans’ underfloor and even behind-the-wall heating systems. Those who braved the floodwater draining into trenches in the bottom of the ruined sea front were rewarded with moving close-up views of the Testas of some of those inhabitants of the ancient town who perished in the catastrophic blast 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 Vesuvius saw Lex Galloway lead the class. All groups were challenged 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 Intermediate Latin category, performances were given by all nine BGS participants on their fluency and expressiveness, as well as their sheer nerve. 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 Mirwan, Junny McShane and Finlay Mears-Young. Competitors had to read one of Aesop’s fables and against stiff opposition Finlay Mears-Young took second place with a strikingly clear and expressive reading.

In the hefty contested Senior Latin section, Caesium Chandra, Adam Jackson, Shahid Bast and Matthew Parry each gave their own interpretation of a speech in which Cicero launches an attack on notorious Roman sex-goddess Octavia. The standard was high, with well-rehearsed entries from a number of schools. Ultimately, this judge found it impossible to choose between two quite different and equally impressive performances: Matthew Parry was awarded a commendation on his expressive, well-modulated phrases and won first prize. Forthright and Bilal Al-Hassan. Takreem Ahmad was awarded a commendation on his expressive, well-modulated phrases and won first prize. Minakshi’s Latin entrants gave fine performances in the Latin 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 text. Team Quintus, consisting of Adil Doukha, Fraz Ahmed, Grace Cogan, Tom Ashby, Hasnain Sahid and Reza Cocks were especially complemented on their lively presentation and flawlessly memorised lines, with Hassan’s clear diction from beneath a wolf mask particularly impressing the judges. Meanwhile Team Cassius was greatly enjoyed by audience and judges, and was felt to go the furthest of all six groups in terms of bringing the Latin to life: Harry Burns, Rohan Lelli, Wyatt But, Freddie Attar, Aisha Qureshi and Jasmine Madeley took well-earned first place. In the Intermediate Latin category competitors from several schools gave readings of Horace’s 13th Ode: carpe diem: Aisha Qureshi and Jasmine Madeley took well-earned first place. A Junior Classics section saw a range of performances from entrants, with the majority of the speech committed to memory; he certainly deserved his first prize in this section. 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 were given by all nine BGS pupils: Takeem Ahmaad, James Hartley, James Hanwood, Aishi Haidar, Armani Mc Hanna Pinn, Saiya Noor, Danyal Akhtar, and Bari Al Hassan. Takeem Ahmaad was given an honourable mention: as first performer he set the standard high and gave a very commendable 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.
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 Escualares, 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 hardly 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 Sofia 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 Centro de Intercambios Escualares, a centre for educational exchanges. On the final morning of our visit we visited the Bernabéu stadium, home of Real Madrid CF and toured the player dressing rooms and the Real Madrid museum. It was a fascinating insight into one of the world’s richest and most successful football clubs and gave us some great photographic opportunities.

Throughout our visit we were accompanied by staff from the Centro de Intercambios Escualares who worked very hard to give us a real flavour of life in the Spanish capital and to teach us lots of Spanish. The centre also allowed us to use their swimming pool and to play football in the afternoons and evenings, and we enjoyed great Spanish food and some beautifully sunny weather. All in all, we could easily have spent the whole day there, as there are so many works of art to see.

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, focusing 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.

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.

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 Argentine 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 population. Through the characters they encounter on their continental trek, Guevara and Granado witness first-hand the realities 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 Slatter, 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 had back at the end of the day. They experienced Hinduism, Sikhism, Islamic calligraphy, Christian theatre, Jewish literature and Buddhist practice and meditation workshops. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed and benefitted 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. The Sixth Form Religious Ethics conference in Manchester in February 2016 was a brilliant event. The Central Methodist Hall was filled with 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.

The Bradfordian

The Bradfordian 70/71

Trips and Visits
continued ...

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 adaption of Schindler’s Life, Schindler’s list. First visiting Auschwitz and seeing the camps first hand, followed by seeing the museum of Schindler’s factor, 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 caverns 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 feel, came away with a new perspective of the Holocaust and the tragedy that occurred. It was hard, upsetting event, but a trip that truly created a lasting imprint. It had to sum up the trip, it was thoroughly worth it.

Anika Prasad (13H3G) across 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.
# Arts and Performance

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fun was had by all on the day.
with their prizes of a selection of fabulous
both revisited the School to be presented
Crowther from Westville House School
winners Poppy Ibbetson and Landon
our younger visitors to recognize artists
producing an animated film which ran
Visitors had the chance to participate in
department had many exciting
During the Open Day the Art
Technology
By S Horsfield, Teacher of Design and
Arts and
Performance
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.

Art Trail

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 ‘Noli Me Tangere’ 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 popular in the American group, The Pentatonix. 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 behold! Before our final carol, the Senior Orchestra performed the ‘Overture from the Jungle’s ‘Busy Earnin’’ to the folk-inspired ‘10,000 Miles Away’ by Bellowhead. Who could 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 Andrew Lloyd Webber’s ‘As Long As He Needs Me’ in the Delfina by the Senior Brass Ensemble, to Chopin, Purcell and Lennons Berkeley Ensembles performing 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 bustling crowd to transport themselves into the gossipy world of the Pink Ladies, T-Birds and of course, ‘Grease Lighting’.

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 Patty’s enfrenting 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 Henry Taggart) confident rendition of ‘Grease Lighting’, which involved the skid-chorus boys wheeling onto the stage in a real car as the T-Birds joined him in a perfectly choreographed performance that emulated the gang’s characteristic ‘attitude’. Lacking his own car, a clueless Roger (played by Henry Taggart) drove to impress an awkwardly ‘geeky’ Jan (played by Siena Anderson) with his ‘Meaning Song’, which despite his sincere and valiant 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 stylishly sung ‘Beauty School Drop’ Out perfectly concluded the first act, leaving the audience eager for the second half.

However, a particularly special mention must go to the exceptional leads of the show Danny and Sandy (played by Matthew Boyes and Ruby Hardy). 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 conveys 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.

Senior School
Arts and Performance
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 Hadley Court Band, to comedian Rich Hall, Marc Almond and Toyah Wilcox. The BGS Concert Band have become a regular feature of the Festival, 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’, ‘Vaseline’ 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.

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 Revend Jerry Lepley, 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 Taverner’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 scat song arrangement of ‘Silent Night’ which was a wonderful contrast to Samuel Mears-Young performed ‘Everlong’ by the Foo Fighters.

Making their Summer Concert debut, the Senior Choir gave a stirring performance of ‘The Colours of Christmas’ (Junior Choir), interspersed with the more traditional repertoire with a jazz-inspired scat song arrangement of ‘Silent Night’. Close Harmony Group provided a slight departure from the more traditional repertoire with a jazz-inspired scat song arrangement of ‘Silent Night’. Close Harmony Group provided a slight departure from the more traditional repertoire with a jazz-inspired scat song arrangement of ‘Silent Night’ which was a wonderful contrast to Samuel Mears-Young performed ‘Everlong’ by the Foo Fighters.

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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, Shiraz Ali, Alex Priestly, 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 Rice, Aiden Dulay, Ed Truby and Fin 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 Rice, Aiden Dulay, Ed Truby and Fin Twaddle, performing music from Vaughan Williams, Poulenc, Einaudi and Paradis to an arrangement by one of our peripatetic music teachers.

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 ‘Nassau 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.

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. 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. 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.

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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 wizard, Nick Keating, Year 12, with Frijay Mays-Hyoung, Year 13, 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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Junior and Intermediate Girls v Ampleforth and Hymers Saturday 25 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.
Elia Gill – 100m
Lizzie Lucas – 100m
Daisy Batthy – Long Jump
Kate Mighell – High Jump
Laurenne Pickard – 200m
Sam Berry – 300m
Lui Shivtiel – Shot
Emily Fowell Jones – 1500m
Kahlam Lee – Discus
Harrison Gill – 100m
Joe Riley – High Jump
Emile Caiares – 1500m
Elia Moran – Hurdles
Freya Bellamy – 200m
Emile and Elia Moran went on to become West Yorkshire Champions in their events with Elia Gill and Micky Tewaiso-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 Trelfaull – 1 lap 1st
Grace Dawson – 800m 1st
Bell Blacker – 800m 3rd
Anu Okeahala – 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.

English Schools Track and Field Cup Tuesday 24 May
Again, all four of our teams competed in the Cup.
Unfortunately, the clash clashed with our Year 9 and 10 exams so one or two of our athletes declared themselves unavailable as a result. This affected the overall points score of our Intermediate teams, however, we did see some superb individual performances and on the day victories. Most notable, Sam Berry and Alex Ramage in the 200m both clocking times which scored over 20 points and Freya Bellamy with a PB of 4.65m in the long jump.
Our junior teams at full strength fared a little better. Both teams finishing first on the day, the girls with 336 points and boys with 371. Outstanding performances from Zahra Bajwa on 800m, Laurenne Pickard on 1500m, Grace Dawson on 1500m, Evie Lockett on 800m and Thomas Howson on Hurdles all earning 20 points or more for each event. With these athletes supported by their team mates and with sound performances all round, BGS qualified for the Regional A Finals with both Junior Teams.

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 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. Mike Elston just missed out on a Gold medal in the long jump after equaling 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.
Elia Gill – 100m and Relay
Eva Lockett – Hurdles
Grace Dawson – 1500m
Daisy Bathley – Long Jump
Hannah Crookes – Relay
Laurenne Pickard – Relay
Lizzie Lucas – Relay

In addition to this, the team made up with the aforementioned plus Clare 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 untutored 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 Druts – Discus, Beth Blacker – 1500m, and Pania 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
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.

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Sport continued...
Scott van Berckel played a number of exciting cameos particularly when opening the innings in the second half of the season. Both Iqbal and Khan were not always able to focus on a particular position, and as a consequence the batting order was changed. This problem was to haunt us for the season with two wins and our first loss against Bath. This was an immediate poor start to the season with two wins and our first loss against Bath. The team never gave less than 100% on the field and the batting order was changed after this match. However, between these two periods the batting unit was something of a struggle, predominantly resulting from our inability to put a decent total together, although there were also a couple of occasions when the team was able to win. We were unable to secure the results. Planning for the season was dominated by having to find batmen 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 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 batmen to show the patience required to build a good score but even in the second half of the season. The batting unit scored 4-14 against Rainbow 23-4. Iqbal had 7 runs, Andrews 26. The senior players, captain Yusuf Khan, Scott van Berkel, 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 the batting order was changed after this match. However, between these two periods the batting unit was something of a struggle, predominantly resulting from our inability to put a decent total together, although there were also a couple of occasions when the team was able to win. We were unable to secure the results. Planning for the season was dominated by having to find batmen 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 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 batmen to show the patience required to build a good score but even in the second half of the season. The batting unit scored 4-14 against Rainbow 23-4. Iqbal had 7 runs, Andrews 26.

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 Bath 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 when the team was able to win. We were unable to secure the results. Planning for the season was dominated by having to find batmen 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 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 batmen to show the patience required to build a good score but even in the second half of the season. The batting unit scored 4-14 against Rainbow 23-4. Iqbal had 7 runs, Andrews 26.

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Senior School
Sport – Cricket

1st XI Averages

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Local results 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 133 all out never looked enough. To the boys immense credit they bowled well and made life very difficult for the opposition. Ashwin Kumar, 4-22, was the pick of the bowlers as we dismissed Hymers for just 35 overs. Ashwin Kumar scored a brilliant and aggressive 111 as we amassed 240-7 from 30 overs. Sam Murphy then delivered a captain's innings and scored 47 not out. A very fine performance! The season came to an end on a Sunday 6 June 2015 against QEGS (at home). With the team being continually updated and monitored on Firefly (in addition to regular meetings in the Newroom) 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 83 runs (and Ajay Pulavarti adding another 38 runs). We achieved 180 runs for 8. QEGS could only respond with 171 runs (with a powerful bowling performance from Tom Austin who took 4 wickets for 8 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 (scoring 83 runs in 20 overs), Morley Academy believed they had won when they came out to field. With a strong fielding approach and great bowling from Ashwin Kumar (1 wicket for 13 overs), Nathan Hadaway and Freddie Glover (1 wicket for 4 runs and 1 maiden overs). This was enough to win the game (Morley Academy all out for 85 runs). Success in the Cup continued with a sweet victory at Woodhouse Grove. With a strong bowling performance from Tom Austin (1 wickets for 17 runs) and determined and sharp fielding, Woodhouse Grove only managed 117 for 5. Sam Murphy then delivered a captain's innings and scored 47 runs (partnered with Nathan Hadaway who scored 32 runs). A lovely 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 53). 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 unfair season to end!
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**

**Ashville College**
Won by 79 runs

**Lancaster Royal Grammar School**
Abandoned

**Woodhouse Grove School**
Won by 9 wickets

**The Grammar School at Leeds**
Lost by 15 runs

**Durham School**
Abandoned

**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 these standards that the boys need to work hard to replicate.

Grimmitt BC was the side’s leading run scorer, 48 v CGAL, 46 v Ermysted’s GS, 59 v Hardforth, 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 fulfill his potential higher up the school. Horfield AL, 41*, and voss CJ, 14*, sparked BGS to victory over Ilkley GS. Archie JH & Charlie T are both capable of hitting the ball hard but improvements in their concentration at the crease are key to future development. Walsh P played a lovely supporting role in the match v CGAL. 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. Kelkeher FD 54 & Harrison B 27 enjoyed the delights of the North East. Friday 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.
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Sport continued ...

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, Peppa Threlfall, Will Westlake and Ben Comfort, together with a strong commitment to lunchtime training by Alix Halstead-Wilks, Sumayya Mahmoud, Nichola Sampath, Lorna Nelson and Louise Nelson, all in Year 7. Show that the cross country club has a promising future. Will Craike, Jacob Midgley, Ben Mandan, Sam Young, Lorgan Mansfield, Tom Hovson, Luke Nolan, James Carroll and Ben Carroll continue to run strongly in local races and have a lot of potential as a team with plenty of strength in depth. Ruby Blair in Year 10 demonstrated her commitment to competition and training when completing her 50th parkrun.

Now in his final year at school and preparing to start University in October, Emile Cairess has enjoyed notable success this year with selection to represent West Yorkshire Schools Cross Country Championship, a prestigious and historic event in the national cross country calendar.

This achievement resulted in Milly being selected to represent West Yorkshire Schools Cross Country Championships, a silver medal in the Bradford Schools Cross Country 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 Carrol and Grace Dawson. Grace won a bronze medal at the West Yorkshire Schools Cross Country Championships and is currently ranked 5th in the UK over 5000m in the U20 group.

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 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 Whangam 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.

At 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 those encounters encouraged her fellow squad members to do their best. This continued during the season most commendably!

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The U15s had the most fixtures, with Anna McCash capturing the squash 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 Bedford who had won 2 and so had BGS. This was the deciding factor to see who would go through to the next round. Unfortunately, after losing the first 3 singles games and then Mogan Bumer 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 invitational and lunchtime events. The aim was to give every player 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 day that you must go out to our hosts St Peter’s for organising such a successful day! Then at the end came Etton Independent Schools Tennis Tournament. This year was slightly different for us as we travelled down to East Yorkshire for the day. The tournament featured a selection of tournaments 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 Bedfield who had won 2 and so had BGS. This was the deciding factor to see who would go through to the next round. Unfortunately, after losing the first 3 singles games and then Mogan Bumer 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!

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The Saturday we broke up for Summer losing. Even if it’s 5-0!

year we need to work on tactical strategies it the rest of us will cheer them on and get one player is a bit down or not quite up for pairs and really grow as players individually.

There have been a few tournaments 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!

I and Natalie Griffiths were recently selected to represent BGS at the Elton Independent Schools Tennis Championships. We had a fantastic time playing against some very strong opposition from schools all over England including St Swithins, Queenwood 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!

U13 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 Margaret, 5-4, when we were missing two strong members of the squad. We also played in the mixed doubles tournament we made it into the plate competition and then by games difference we came second in girls’ doubles.

Grace Cooper and Pippa Threlfall were selected to play at the Elton 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 U18s.

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 on or 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!

By A Robson, U13 Captain

I have wondered if we would pull a victory (naming no names) hits the ball out so far.

Some of the most memorable moments this year have been when we managed to beat Woodhouse Grove 7-1.

The highlight of the season is beating Out of the bag, but each player puts their own into the U13s!

Hockey

By H Broughton, 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 disheartening 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 rent for 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.

U14 Captain’s Report
By G Lancaster, U4 Captain

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

On behalf of the U14 girls team I would like to thank all the staff who have made the 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.

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 endurance, and to experience teamwork, decision making and leadership.

The 1st team have been coached by Denny Dowley, Eton Independent Schools Hockey National Academy Groups coach, for some of their sessions.

Gracie Cooper and Pippa Threlfall were selected to play at the Elton 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 U18s.

The 1st XI

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They had a good season and have played some great Hockey to watch. In total they won four matches, drew three times and lost two. The first game of the season was against local rivals, Stolos, 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 trying the goal keeper.

The 2nd XI have been involved in 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 Denny 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 close matches. They have 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 Popham Hockey Club and some will go on to play representative Hockey over the coming months.

U12 Captain’s Report

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 court to matches, at home practising and 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.

I have observed that girls’ tennis is definitely on the up and I have wondered if we would pull a victory (naming no names) hits the ball out so far.

Some of the most memorable moments this year have been when we managed to beat Woodhouse Grove 7-1.

The highlight of the season is beating Out of the bag, but each player puts their own into the U13s!

U13 Captain’s Report
By R McCash, U2 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 Margaret, 5-4, when we were missing two strong members of the squad. We also played in the mixed doubles tournament we made it into the plate competition and then by games difference we came second in girls doubles.

Grace Cooper and Pippa Threlfall were selected to play at the Elton 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 U18s.

I and Natalie Griffiths were recently selected to represent BGS at the Elton Independent Schools Tennis Championships. We had a fantastic time playing against some very strong opposition from schools all over England including St Swithins, Queenwood 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, U2 Captain

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U11 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 U11 XI goalkeeper was unable to play.

Luckily for us though we were in a fortunate position this year that Holly Hellawell, our 2nd XI keeper, is also 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 Walsall Girls and Stolos, 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 spirit was shown by all.
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 rules 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 memorable wins include beating Sloozes 4-1, Risborough 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 progress 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, going 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 Skilton
Most Improved Player Eleanor Moomooze

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 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 fast start in the tests were Milly Fowell-Jones, Katie Ellmore and Esther Jackson whilst the most improved were Jenny Lloyd, Afheya Mohmni and Hanna Rasodha.

The U15 team’s better performances were beating Risborough twice 1-0 and 2-1 respectively. Beating Ashfold 2-1 and Queen Mary’s School 1-0. They suffered a couple of heavy defeats against some of our local rivals, but they never lost 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 Hellawell-Web, 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 Ellmore
Players’ Player Esther Jackson
Most Improved Player Milly 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 Alisia Cumberlind 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 was a 10-0 win against Wakefield College ended in a 1-1 draw. At the end of the season, three girls were given a trophy. All members of the team 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 Alisia Cumberlind
Most Improved Player Neesha Khan

U13 XI

The U13 girls have played the majority of the season as 7-e-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 Bradfordian Invitational Tournament by winning all their games but this was made hard by a close 3-0 victory against our very own B team. The U13B team had a tougher season, which is generally down to trying to play against other schools. A team, 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 Bradfordian Invitational Tournament coming 5th overall.

Captain’s Report

By Amy Claxton, U13 XI Captain

This season the U13A team have played well considering the poor weather. Our statistics show that they have won 4 out of 6 games, with the highest victory being an 8-0 win against South Craven School. Unfortunately there have been six defeats, with the highest being against Wakesfield Girls’ Grammar School with a 9-0 loss. A friendly well-contested game with Ashville College ended in a 2-1 draw. At the end of the season, three girls were given a trophy. All members of the team played exceptionally well, improving in fitness and skills. We are all looking forward to the next season to improve more together.

U13 XI Awards

Player of the Year Hope Silver
Players’ Player Alisha Hussain
Most Improved Player Zenah Al-Jawad

2015-16

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 team ended the season which meant 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 free to move on to pastures new.

The marking really improved, from an admittedly dodgy start (!), along with the planned executions of short corners in training proving fruitful in match situations.

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.

The U14A team have won the Bradfordian Invitational Tournament by winning all their games but this was made hard by a close 3-0 victory against our very own B team. The U13B team had a tougher season, which is generally down to trying to play against other schools. A team, 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 Bradfordian Invitational Tournament coming 5th overall.

Captain’s Report

By Charlotte Horomans, 1st XI Captain

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**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 Haryon 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 Stonehurst, 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 weren’t into Hockey have been really excited about the mixed practices on Friday!

**U12 VI A Awards**

Player of the Year: Anuli Okeahialam

Player: Naina Krishma

Most Improved Player: Grace Dawson

**U12 VI B Awards**

Player of the Year: Parvin Varma

Most Improved Player: Freya Bellamy

**U12 VII B Awards**

Player of the Year: Osie Ogden

Most Improved Player: Anuli Okeahialam

**U12 VII C Awards**

Player of the Year: Bea Taggart

Most Improved Player: Zainab Yousif

The U12A team played a 19, drew 12, lost 3, lost four.

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.

**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 Denny 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 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 at 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 medals were very popular. Huge thanks to Votre Vacances for their kind donation of a free night stay in the Vendee, which made the Hockey stalls very appealing at only £3 a ticket. Here’s looking forward to next year already!

**Girls Representative Honours**

West Yorkshire, Junior Academy Centre (JAC)

U17: Charlotte Horron, Maddy Oliver

U16: Mily Fawkess-Jones, Emerald Hellowell-War

U15: Grace Lancaster

U14: Freya Bellamy

U13: Alice Barnes, Lucy Spencer

U12: Bella Barton, Grace Dawson, Amy Dixon

North, Junior Regional Performance Centre (JRPC)

Freyia Bellamy

Charlotte Horron

2016-17 Captains

1st XI Captain: Maria Campean

1st XI Vice-Captain: Rose Ogdon

BGS Captains

1st XI Captain: Esther Jackson

U15 XI Captain: Neelima Khan

U13 XI Captain: Anuli Okeahialam

U13 XI Vice-Captain: Zainab Yousif

U13 XI Captain: Laurene Pickard

U14 XI Vice-Captain: Beth Horton

U13 XI Captain: Anuli Okeahialam

U13 XI Vice-Captain: Amy Dixon

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

continued...

Netball

1st VII

By D L Bloomfield, Teacher in U15 Netball

1st VII has this season 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. Izzy Wells has had a huge impact on court play 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) Final. 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.

Talita Goode 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 performs as well as she does for her team 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.

Izzy Wells 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 undetected and she works her socks off 100% of the time whether that’s matches or training. She is a centre court superstar. Izzy playes 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’s season.

She is one of those players that doesn’t necessarily come out with ‘hunter’ style interceptions, or have the flash of Pascal 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 realises 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 diligent 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 many of her teammates.

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Talita Goode has been fantastic this season, she plays consistently well in every match and dominates in centre court. Not only Talita, but also Sarah, have been key players when it comes to fundraising, particularly with the fashion show. Philippa Bailey has played in the centre 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. Rosin Brophy has been 100% committed and has clearly enjoyed playing netball and has been 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%. Definitively she has made huge improvements. When she plays it has made impossible for me to bring her off. Lizzy Wren was told at the end of last season that as a centre court player she needs 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 constant shot for every match and has made it impossible to bring her off the court. Harriet Hoban has been an extremely valued member of the squad, the 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 grew 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 Wren

1st VII Awards

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

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.
They have been pushed hard by the quality of the other teams and really had to think about different tactics and how they would be best used. The introduction of the new rules and their continued efforts with the wall have been extremely effective.

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

The next challenge for some of the girls was to move up to the 2nd team. It was a squad.

When she finished her 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. This was a fantastic way to end the season. She is somewhat of a game changer with the 2nd team.}

One of the players that has shown massive improvement throughout the season, is Sana Hafezi. She has been an absolute pleasure to coach this year. She is a very quick player and thinks about everything – this makes her a great asset to any team.
U15A, U15B and U15C
By C. J. 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 this season we entered two teams into the Bradford League so that we could see 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 in these games and for Ultimate the gameplay experience in their BGC 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 their 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 Saturday fixtures this squad has been fluid with some girls’ moving between A team and B 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 really high standard netball. Highlights of the Saturday fixtures programme have been beating Woodhouse Grove and also the way we competed at B level with GSA, 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 Scarborough, Manchester Girls, Stonyhurst (2nd time) and Akrhola in the Independent School Netball Cup (ISNC) and disappointing losses against Stoneyhurst (1st time) around Wimslow and GSA. One of the frustration with these girls is the lack of balance and when they are in their own and team mates 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
Player of the Season Avah Hespworth-Wood
Most Improved Player Sophie Holden
Player of the Season Avah Hespworth-Wood

U15B Awards
Player of the Season Izzy Robinson
Player of the Season Hannah Misbert
Player of the Season Izzy Robinson

U15C Awards
Most Improved Player Umaima Wahed Player of the Season Misbah Khan

U14A, U14B and U14C
By D. L. Bloomfield, Teacher i/c U14 Netball

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 Wimslow 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. I feel that the girls have made their mark during the West Yorkshire tournament where they dominated the zone from a backline. Millie Waddsworth 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 shown up. 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 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
Player of the Season Ava Hespworth-Wood
Most Improved Player Sophie Holden
Player of the Season Ava Hespworth-Wood

U14B Awards
Player of the Season Lizzie Hespworth-Wood
Most Improved Player Georgia Pope
Players’ Player Hannah Misbert

U14C Awards
Player of the Season Millie Wadsworth
Most Improved Player Georgia Rayner
Players’ Player Lucy Snowdown

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 continued to show dedication to improving their netball which I know will make four selections difficult for the staff. So keep training, keep pushing yourselves, give new roles a go, play in as many tournaments as possible and most of all play for the team. I look forward to hearing about the girls’ success in the future.
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 promise. She is a team. Mahum is a force to be reckoned with. Her scoring accuracy is fantastic. She plays well at either Goal Attack (GA) or Goal Shooter (GS) and has just seemed to gel with that space she can use to the left and right to use to her advantage.葛森 is our other super-shooter, who can also play defense and has done so on numerous occasions when we’ve needed her. 葛森 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 when I’ve asked her to drop into defense. This is a sign of a real team player. In centre court, we have a player, who plays Wing Attack (WA), who 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 goes to coaches and sites to help them. We have seen massive improvements in this season on court. Hannah has also played some Midfiled positions, as well as Wing Defence (WD). She too has improved hugely and what I love about Hannah is that she doesn’t understand something, she is not afraid to ask. This has helped her immensely through the season. It is a sign that she is switched on so her tactical awareness is very great.

Lisa plays centre and has come on leaps and bounds this year. I think she gets a bit of a head on Murray training, but only for this because I know she would like to push herself to do better. She needs to switch her speed dial up slightly in game play, but she really missed her when she is not on court, and that says a lot. She has played with the idea of playing some Gaal Defense (GD) and Wing Defence (WD) this year too, and has performed well. We have newcomers Ella and Ada who joined us in October, and she is like a little whipster. 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 Hannah in the circle. She reads the game extremely well, makes flying interceptions left right and centre and attacks the ball. All whilst pointing her ankles around the court. Anna has worked extremely hard on her on position 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.

U13B and U13C

By C. Taylor, Teacher in 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 been consistent 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 Kenny 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. Eva Allinson 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 Saturday, which is great for us as 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 outstanding. She is and Emily and Fumni play defense and have both done a great job this season.

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 on both teams. I’ll start with the attacking players. Leesa and May have both improved over the season and grown in confidence. They both work hard on their shooting to improve and continually look to pass to Cerys. 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 and ball skills are huge which 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 and she never looked back. Tabi plays Wing Attack (WA) and has developed her feed into the circle. She plays regularly for the B team in the Saturday fixtures and continues to improve. Onto centre court and the defense, Grain and Daja both play Wing Defence (WD) and have different strengths. Gower is like a little toiler snapping at your ankles around the court. She is aggressive and wants the ball. What Daja 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 all last year. She has a natural understanding of the game and works very hard. The same can be said for Emily, who plays Goal Keeper (GK). She reads the game well and is becoming more confident in going for the ball, which has allowed her to pass and have 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 think them for that. They have 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 19-9.

U13B Awards

Most Improved Player: Emily Melor
Players’ Player: Cerys Ali
Player of the Season: Cerys Ali

U13C Awards

Most Improved Player: Zerah Khan
Player of the Season: Zara Hickman

U12A and U12B

By G. Jones, Teacher in U12 Netball

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

It was clear from the faster morning of 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 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 also have to willing themselves to challenge 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.
U12A Awards

Players’ Player: Grace Cogan

I am really pleased that this player’s immense contribution has been recognised. She is incredibly switched on and has been named PoM on many occasions, 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 attacker’s 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, 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 Sona. 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 tenacious on court and the personalisation of enthusiasm of 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 21 November, a dozen students completed two trial races at a sunny 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 stomping grounds of Lister Park, Holton 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 Fidery, 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 10th in the Year 13 boys category.

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

Congratulations to all.
Rugby

1st VII
By O Scarbrough, 1st XV Coach

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opposition</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<td>Feb 7</td>
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<td>MSM</td>
<td>Group Match</td>
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<td>Canc.</td>
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<td>Group Match</td>
</tr>
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<td>w/o</td>
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<td>Durham 7s – Bain Cup Quarter</td>
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<td>19-15</td>
<td>Final</td>
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<td>KSW7s</td>
<td>Group Match</td>
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<td>Mar 9</td>
<td>Warwick School</td>
<td>Canc.</td>
<td>KSW7</td>
<td>Group Match</td>
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<td>Group Match</td>
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<td>21-7</td>
<td>N7 Vase – Group Match</td>
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<td>Mar 16</td>
<td>Norwin School</td>
<td>Won</td>
<td>47-5</td>
<td>N7 Vase – Group Match</td>
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<td>Christ College</td>
<td>Won</td>
<td>29-7</td>
<td>N7 Vase – Group Match</td>
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<td>N7 Vase – Group Match</td>
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<td>Mar 16</td>
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<td>24-10</td>
<td>N7 Vase – Elimination</td>
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<td>22-5</td>
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<td>Felsted School</td>
<td>Won</td>
<td>22-0</td>
<td>N7 Vase – Group Match</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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 kings Priddy School, Ampthill College, Durham School and Gosforth Academy, but badly finished as runners up losing twice to a very strong Kilmarnock Grammar side.

Sadly, many other tournaments were cancelled due to flooding and poor conditions. So in order to prepare further for Rosslyn Park, Gigleswick 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 fantastically fast whitewashing their group which included notable opposition. Clifton College (21-7), Norwin 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 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 (22-9) 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 tried and emotional team were devastated that their dreams of going into this year’s Upper Sixth Form, for a team full of high aspirations.

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The season was a tale of immense highs and lows summed up superbly by the teams 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 Brownes’ 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.

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!

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

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.

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‘Attitudes are contagious, is yours worth catching?’. Theirs certainly were!
Playing 13, Won 7, Drawn 1, Lost 5
Points For 328, Points Against 154

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 Verden. Warm up Captains Callum Manchester and Stuart MacKerzie ensured we were ready to take on anything. Our game changers James Liu, Harry Sugar (who was not rehearsing for the school play) and George Cockcroft were often the providers of a much needed X factor! I thoroughly look forward to the upcoming Sevens season; in particular Iacopo Greene’s so-called ‘Magic feet’.

A final thank you to our dedicated coaching team of Dan Scarbrough (England legend for those who are unaware), the inseparable twins of Galley and Wilde and guest coach Phil Nilsen visiting from Yorkshire Carnegie. Special thank you to our trusty stat man Private Ian Walker (Rfd) who courageously led us to our famous Woodhouse Sevens victory 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.

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 Ampthill despite submission in the final game of the year – over 55 minutes in atrocious conditions of cold, rain and eventually flood.

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 taking about their rugby at GSAL for years to come. This was a fantastic group of players who were a pleasure to coach. So much so that to that 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 DBA (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 2nd 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

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### 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 do other things. After our pre-season camp on north Tyne-side and a warm up game at Newcastle Falcons against Edinburgh Academy, we faced a strong traditional rival in Hymers College.

We outclass’d 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, along 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.

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### Senior School

#### Sport – Rugby

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opposition</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Tournament</th>
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<td>Hymers College</td>
<td>Won</td>
<td>85-0</td>
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<td>Sedbergh School</td>
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<td>20-32</td>
<td>NatWest Champions Tournament – Round 1</td>
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<td>Sep 19</td>
<td>Crossley Heath School</td>
<td>Lost</td>
<td>12-20</td>
<td>Daily Mail Trophy</td>
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<td>Sep 20</td>
<td>Stonyhurst College</td>
<td>Draw</td>
<td>19-19</td>
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<td>Nottingham High School</td>
<td>Won</td>
<td>52-15</td>
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<td>Won</td>
<td>21-3</td>
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<td>Lost</td>
<td>21-24</td>
<td>Daily Mail Trophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 12</td>
<td>Ampleforth College</td>
<td>Won</td>
<td>12-0</td>
<td>Daily Mail Trophy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 19-10 draw against the highly charged Woodhouse Grove. We hold no grudges towards Will Bowles and James Liu for jumping ship at half time to watch some of the World Cup-mimics 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.

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 Ampthill despite submission in the final game of the year – over 55 minutes in atrocious conditions of cold, rain and eventually flood.

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 taking about their rugby at GSAL for years to come. This was a fantastic group of players who were a pleasure to coach. So much so that to that 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 DBA (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 2nd 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
The season closed in rather fanciful fashion, as Ampleforth College insisted on our honouring a fixture on a day when snow had closed Sutton Bains and non-stop rain came in horizontally! The fact that the lads were actually distraught that the field and the weather were both unsuitable to play was 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 … ’

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 Peters 5-49 L

Points For 148
Points Against 170

Under 15A XV

By C E Linfield, Teacher i/c U15 Rugby

The Under 15A’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 straightforward 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 support 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.

The Under 15’s will provide the senior sides over the foundation for the senior sides. The team showed 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 the lads were actually distraught that the game was unplayable upon arrival says it all about the spirit in the squad. 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, with others such as Barrie, Partridge, Belamy, Elan and Zahwi having proved to be solid players who can be relied upon to commit themselves fully.

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.

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By M Wilde, Teacher in 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 effort 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. Haryk Robbenthurw also crossed from close range. The following week, too many individual errors gave Croosley Heath cheap ball and field position which they took full advantage of. Despite playing all the rugby BGS went 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 Croosley 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 years old. With large amounts of possession and time on the ball BGS ran on 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 Bradfordian
114/115

Senior School
Sport – Rugby

While 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. A strong Pocklington park our 1st and 2nd righthand was superb and consequently we produced fast ball which the backs were able to use well. Matt Corndale & 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 return 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 field 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 high performance. 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 Corndale & Sam Berry impressing in the centre. Unfortunately, the weight and organisation of the QEGS forwards around the ruck and 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 bumpers 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 pounding 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 bias 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 team began to tell in the last 10 minutes which gave the final score line an unfair gloss in my opinion. Harley Robbenthurw, Henry Miller, Tom Willow and Henry Smith were particularly impressive, the latter two scoring our three tries, from range, outpeforming the QEGS defence.

Far too slow out of the blocks against a good RGS Newcastle team organised by the best off who have encompassed 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 too deep, inhibiting 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 chase tackle the bigger RGS runners and compete for the ball on the floor.

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 five minutes; so close to a third win! The challenge for the last year has to be to build on the achievements this year, continue in all areas and maybe get a third or fourth win.

Sport
continued...
morning start BGS saved their worse trip, an overnight stay and the early hurt when we eventually arrived in London of genuine opposition at that time really best to re-create competitive game waterlogged pitches. Despite doing my tournament was cancelled due to going to plan until the Hymers College to secure Cup qualification, as powered Barnard Castle and Hymers structure. Despite this loss BGS over indication of the suitability of the BGS boys RGS Newcastle; the result a clear disappointing 10-19 defeat to the giants of competition. The first group match was a of the excellent playing facilities we enjoy 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 the 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 punishes, from closer to the halfway line than the BGS try line, in an attempt to preserved 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 ........................................................... 29-29 D
Pocklington School ...................................... 7-12 L
QEGS, Wakefield ........................................ 5-56 L
RGS, Newcastle ............................................ 0-31 L
Blythe Grammar School ............................... 4-48 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 the slenderest of margins.

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


U13B XV Squad

Aneeq Hamidani, Bilal Faisal, Jasper Lawrence, Abdullah Shaf, Ahmed Naveed, Lorcan Hanafin, Tom Colk, Ben Carroll, Jamie Berry, Jacob Whitley-Guest, Tom Padgett, Danial Hussain, Dylan Patel, Luke Thomas, Sam Young, Ben Clifford, Ben Mandren, John Scholey, Ismail Shazad, Sufyan Mahmood, Lewis Griffin, Milan Olde, Lawrence Wade, Vistat Sharma, Seb Hardley

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 ........................................................... 36 - 15 W
QEGS, Wakefield ........................................ 10 - 19 L
RGS, Newcastle ............................................ 12 - 41 L
Ilkley Grammar School ............................... 0 - 20 L

U13A XV Results

Hymers College ........................................... 52 - 0 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 ........................................................... 35 - 20 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

Senior School

Sport – Rugby
The Bradfordian 118/119

Senior School
Sport – 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 Tellett 6-2, but losing 5-3 to Lingcote School, Bradford, 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, Iqram Butt, Tom Padgett, Ben Marson and Sufyan Mahmood in the Yorkshire Under 13 team. Nicholas Miller finished second nationally. Two girls’ teams also joined the boys in 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 Tellett 6-2, but losing 5-3 to Lingcote School, Bradford, 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.

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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