

SPRING 2016

CHALLENGE 02-04
THE ARTS 05
COMMUNITY 06-07
LIFE 07-08



Bradford
Grammar
School

Hoc Age

Feature

100 Leading Ladies

In honour of International Women's Day, BGS teamed up with Cartwright Hall Art Gallery to host the '100 Leading Ladies' exhibition event.

100 Leading Ladies is a photographic project featuring portraits of influential senior women in Britain. Over the course of two years, Nancy Honey endeavoured to photograph 100 of Britain's most respected women over the age of 55, from academics to entrepreneurs and fashion designers to composers.

Nancy said: "I've had a connection with the North of England and especially Bradford since I was the Fellow of Photography at the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television from 1991 until 1992 and I've worked with Bradford Grammar School, one of the UK's top ten best value independent schools, since 2002."





Welcome from the Head

With a New Year comes a new Headmaster and what a great privilege it is to serve Bradford Grammar School. This edition of Hoc Age gives you a sense of why this is so.



Life at BGS is rich, stimulating and enjoyable. Pupils continue to volunteer at Chellow Heights Special School and elsewhere, the Debating Society has played host to more 'big names' like Alastair Campbell and Shami Chakrabarti. We've also had fabulous recitals and concerts, the musical 'Grease' which was fantastic, sports teams have reached regional finals and there has been much to learn in the classroom and on many trips.

As always, there is no shortage of good news to share in this latest edition of 'Hoc Age'.

Simon Hinchliffe
Simon Hinchliffe

LATEST BLOG ...
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Vision for the future

BGS has changed over the years, as has its badge and identity. This 'brand' goes much deeper than what we see, and our recent review encompassed and updated School values, mission and beliefs.

As you can see in this new-look Hoc Age we have settled on the approach. It follows an in-depth process, with input from across the School community, including pupils, parents and staff. The new-look crest sympathetically revises the existing one and makes the

most of the heritage aspects while also introducing the Yorkshire rose.

We are very keen to promote and explain our motto 'Hoc Age' (get on and do it). This is now placed on a ribbon where it sat on previous incarnations.

The new look will be phased in over several years as old materials become out of date. This means that the new crest will coexist with the current one, including on pupils' blazers, for some time. Look out for our brand story and a guide to how it will be used in the next edition.

Keep yourself up-to-date!

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“...”
I have a connection with the North of England, especially Bradford

NANCY HONEY

The day included a beguiling panel discussion that covered:

- Is Emma Watson's 'he for she' campaign the answer to gender equality?
- Can women fix inequality in society, or do men need to take on 50% of the job?
- What should modern feminism look like?

Pupil Maariah Hussain, age 16, said: "What I found prevalent was there's a lot of misunderstanding around defining feminism due to the stigma attached. When we debated about what the word 'feminism' means and how our generation could redefine this, it was suggested it now means gender equality and it really is down to us all, male and female, to take it forward."

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BGS on top!

Over 400 BGS pupils took part in the 'UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge' run by the University of Oxford. The School came out on top with the best results in Yorkshire and amongst the best in the UK.

The challenge which originated in Lithuania introduces computer science to pupils and is specifically designed to get them excited about computing and computational thinking. Over 56,000 pupils aged 7-18, across the UK, took part this year. This forms part of a larger international competition that recently won the Informatics Europe 2015 'Best Practices in Education Award'.

Huddersfield-based pupil Dylan Aujla, 14, was second to Adam Mahmood in the Intermediate category which saw 177 BGS pupils take part. Dylan was also one of 10 BGS pupils taking part in the First Lego League robotics competition at the University of Bradford on 16 December.

Dylan said, "Knowing that I've done really well out of two year groups is a fantastic feeling – something which you don't experience very often. The Bebras Challenge was a unique experience which I thoroughly enjoyed and the result was just the icing on the cake."

Christine Harvey, Head of Computer Science at BGS said:

“...”
We have a number of exceptionally talented pupils at BGS and this challenge is an opportunity for them to test their problem solving ability and their logical thinking skills. The pupils did extremely well and we're proud of them!



Leeds University Latin and Greek Reading Competition

Thirty five BGS pupils entered this prestigious annual competition, in which the works of Greek and Roman poets, novelists and statesmen are performed aloud to an audience just as they used to be in the ancient world. The judges commented on the very high standard of entries, and congratulated all participants on their fluency and expressiveness, as well as their sheer nerve.

First prizes went to: Shihab Basit (Senior Greek), Hannah Chaudry and Matthew Parry (Senior Latin), Danyal Akhtar (Junior Latin), Harry Burns, Rohan Lalli, Wlyat Butt, Freddie Azfar, Aisha Qureshi and Jasmine Madeley (minimus). Second prizes went to Finlay Mears-Young (Junior Greek) and Saul McShane (Intermediate Latin). Hassan Sajad, Adair Doulah and Takreem Ahmad also received an honourable mention.

CAPTIONS
1 "Life at BGS is rich, stimulating and enjoyable." - Simon Hinchliffe, Headmaster
2 Pictured right to left: Amy Dixon, Alexander Davies, Saif Panni, Tom Riley, Ben Norton, Adrian Kraft, Eve Woodward, Alicia Hawksworth, Adam Mahmood and Pranav Balabhadra
3 Our competition winning Latin and Greek readers

MAY

- 7th Spring Fair
- W/C 16th Year 7 and 8 Examinations
- 20th Year 13 Leavers' Lunch
- W/C 23rd Year 9 and 10 Examinations

JUNE

- 12th Race for Life
- 22nd-24th Clock House play
- 24th Senior School Speech Day
- 28th Summer Concert
- 29th Clock House Speech Day
- Recent Leavers' Reunion

AUGUST

- 18th AS and A Level results
- 25th GCSE results



Spelling Bee

On 14 March we took our three Year 7 winners of the BGS Spelling Bee Competition to Hull University for the regional stage of the challenge. Nick Merhgan (7RMO), Fraz Ahmad (7RMO) and Sukruth Kundur (7CAT) had to learn and practise spelling out 150 words in French or German. Nick and Fraz were our representatives for French, Sukruth for German.

When they arrived at Hull University, the realisation that they had to perform in front of an audience became quite daunting. Their names were called out at random. However, Nick, Fraz and Sukruth remained focused and calm and consequently were able to spell a large number of words correctly and clearly in one minute. They were a credit to themselves and Bradford Grammar School.

RAF 'Project-X'

Students worked together to solve problems and overcome challenges similar to those that the RAF meet during real life operations.

Sessions aimed to improve communication and leadership skills. Students thoroughly enjoyed the activities, which encouraged them to think about developing the sorts of skills that employers will be looking for in the future.



'Grease' is the word

For three amazing nights, BGS became Rydell High School, as our annual school production 'Grease' wowed the sellout audiences! 1950s America was brought to life as these iconic characters swaggered around our theatre giving this classic piece of musical theatre a fresh new spin.

Our students excelled themselves both on and offstage with a show that brought the house down. The cast was impeccable in their performances as the T-Birds and Pink Ladies joined forces to get everyone dancing and singing along! Danny (Matthew Boyle) and Sandy (Ruby Hendry) were highly charismatic leads, accompanied by standout performances by Clementine Hall and Harry Sagar and a thrilling ensemble.

The band was just as amazing and the set visually stunning. We were left in no doubt that Grease is the word. Special mentions must go to Henry Taggart, Becky Wilkie, and Adare Robins but ultimately it was a real team effort and everyone involved should be thoroughly proud of themselves!

WATCH HIGHLIGHTS ...
youtube.com/bradfordgrammar



Powerful film role

Pupil Edith Reilly, aged ten, has been cast in a powerful new film 'Isla' (set to play the young Isla) about an artist who suffers low self-esteem because of her dismissive mother. As Isla delves back into her childhood she discovers the reason for her mother's behaviour, and the film explores her struggle to overcome the past.

Edith attends 'Stage 84' (stage84.com), the Yorkshire School of Performing Arts and she will spend the half term break filming scenes for Isla.

READ MORE ...
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Việt Nam

A collection of former pupil and photographer Hamish Irvine's images from a month long 2,000km motorbike journey through Vietnam brings together a traditional style of photography with a poignant modern focus on a rapidly developing nation that is 'Việt Nam'.

"The exhibition is photographed on a camera that actually dates back before the Vietnam War itself and that's what really makes it unique. Not many photographers shoot on film anymore and not many people see it. It's interesting because film is slowly starting to become popular again," says Hamish.

"I've seen Vietnam in a lot of films including Francis Coppola's 'Apocalypse Now' and Stanley Kubrick's 'Full Metal Jacket'. It's such a stunningly beautiful landscape I wanted to explore it further. It's also a really accessible country to travel around which is fantastic because I could go without any preconceptions and really see it for myself as a completely new experience."

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Spring Concert

On 15 March, we held our Spring Concert in the magnificent surroundings of the Price Hall. 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.

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

WATCH HIGHLIGHTS ...
youtube.com/bradfordgrammar



CAPTIONS

- 1 Pupils come out on top in Spelling Bee challenge
- 2 Pupils learning to improve their communication and leadership skills
- 3 BGS pupil, Harry Sagar, taking centre stage as Kenickie
- 4 Born to hand-jive: Pupils bring the house down
- 5 Hamish Irvine with part of his Việt Nam collection
- 6 Edith Reilly (right) is set to take the stage by storm in a new film
- 7 Pupils lead by talent at the Spring Concert

“...”

It's incredible to have someone like Shami at our school. It is really good to have these types of people speak here.

ANIKA PRASAD

Secretary of Bradford Grammar School's Debating Society



1

'On Liberty' at BGS

Shami Chakrabarti, the Director of human rights group Liberty called for the UK voting age to be lowered from 18 to 16 during a visit to the School.

Her talk, called 'On Liberty', also featured a questions and answers session where an audience of more than 200 students and invited members of the public could ask her questions about the group.

She said: "The time has come to lower the voting age to 16. We are an ageing population. Teenagers, like the ones in Bradford, did not crunch the credit or start the wars, but they will have to deal with the consequences of it and work harder. Sixteen year olds can already go to war or work but they can't vote. The students I spoke to in Bradford are interested in politics."

Ms Chakrabarti's visit followed an invitation from the School's Debating Society. Former director of communications and strategy for Prime Minister Tony Blair, Alastair Campbell, and TV presenter Dan Snow are among its previous speakers.

Help at Chellow Heights Special School

In the spirit of the festive holidays and the start of 2016 our Year 7 pupils decided to spend their time with children from Chellow Heights. During one of the visits the children enjoyed music performed by the BGS Music Department Choir, including 33 boys and girls from Years 7, 8 and 9 with Year 7 pupil, Lydia Crabtree, playing a cello piece.

Paul Merckx, Head of Year 7 said, "We were so struck by the positive atmosphere at Chellow Heights that we seized an opportunity to forge a partnership with the school and Year 7 pupils from BGS now have an opportunity to volunteer at Chellow Heights every week."

Vicki Street, Charities and Fundraising Coordinator at Chellow Heights Special School said:



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"I want to give a huge thank you to everybody at Bradford Grammar School. We are extremely grateful for their continued support with us here at the school. BGS have contributed £2,500 which has gone towards the purchase of a wheelchair adapted tandem tricycle, and £3,500 for a trampoline, also accessible to wheelchair users."

"We could not provide the valuable help and support that the children need at Chellow Heights without volunteers' continued support. The collaboration between BGS and our school is continually growing and hugely beneficial to both parties. Long may such a fruitful collaboration continue."

Teenage 'teacher' awarded

BGS pupil Sam Craske was one of seven teenage 'teachers' who were presented with Outstanding Community Service award certificates by the chairman of the Menston Community Association (MCA), Quentin Mackenzie.

The young teachers have been showing elderly 'students' how to use an iPad or other tablet to keep in touch with distant family and friends at weekly one hour sessions



3

at the club since last May in a project named 'eggs2iPads'.

Project leader Roger Livesey said: "Most of all we must thank these wonderful youngsters who have not only shared their expertise in using modern technology to help tackle a major problem in society today, elderly isolation, but made the project unique in that it provides an opportunity for two widely spaced generations to meet regularly, which all the students have said they really appreciate."

The MCA hopes that following the success of the Menston project other local communities might take up the idea to do something similar.

Passionate advocate for mental health

Dick Moore, a former English teacher, rugby coach and Headmaster visited BGS to give talks to parents, pupils and staff of BGS about mental health and the emotional wellbeing of adolescents, as he sees a growing need for society to provide young people with more emotional support.

Since November 2012 he has been visiting schools, universities and organisations to help raise awareness of these issues, after the suicide of his 21 year old son Barney led him to call for urgent action to protect adolescents with mental health problems. The strategies and advice he offered about how to deal with the symptoms and get further advice were instrumental



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in raising awareness to both pupils and parents alike.

Dick was extremely pleased with his visit:

“...”

I was very impressed by the School's determination to develop an appropriate response to mental ill-health amongst young people.

Jane Chapman, Pastoral Director for the School said:

"We were delighted to welcome Dick to BGS, and his visit has been a great success with overwhelmingly positive feedback from staff, parents and pupils. He is a compelling speaker with a wealth of experience and wisdom drawn from his professional and personal life."

Get social

As always our social media channels including Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn have all been helping to keep people up to date and showcase the School. Our Twitter account has now hit a new milestone with over 1,000 followers.

Most recently we shared a new video animation 'Intro to BGS' and a new slideshow 'This is Bradford Grammar School'. Both can be viewed by visiting our YouTube channel.

WATCH ... [youtube.com/bradfordgrammar](https://www.youtube.com/bradfordgrammar)



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New parent and pupil stories!

We continue to add fantastic case studies to the BGS website to showcase what makes BGS so special. Here's a snapshot:

“...”

BGS is all about opportunity and willingness from both staff and students to continuously celebrate success.

Sixth Form parent Theresa



6

BGS is in a league of its own!

Sixth Form student Clementine

If your child wants the best education they can get in the North then BGS is where you should go ... It is such a happy environment.

Former pupil Hamish

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CAPTIONS

- 1 Shami Chakrabarti calls for a lower voting age on her visit to BGS
- 2 BGS pupils volunteer to assist at Chellow Heights Special School every week
- 3 BGS pupil, Sam Craske, presented with an 'Outstanding Community Service' award
- 4 Dick Moore, Mental Health Ambassador with Jane Chapman, BGS Pastoral Director
- 5 Get social and join BGS on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn
- 6 "BGS is all about opportunity" - Sixth Form parent Theresa

Sports stars

Two BGS pupils are set to become sporting stars of the future.

Ciara Schlosshan has had fantastic success recently at the National ASANER 2015 Short Course Championships. She won gold in the Junior Women's 400 metres Individual Medley and the bronze medal in the Junior Women's 200 metres Individual Medley. Ciara also broke two Yorkshire records in those events.

She has also recently taken on the British Summer National Championships in Sheffield and won three gold medals. Emile Cairess, 18, from Nab Wood, has recently returned from representing England in cross country running at an IAAF Permit meeting in Spain. Emile finished 4th in the Junior Men's race, which took place in Elgoibar, in the Basque region, in the North of the country.

He said, "It was a great experience to fly to another country to compete, and also to spend time with my England teammates." Also the current Yorkshire county champion, Emile came 10th in the English Schools' Championships in Nottingham in March.



£10,000 target reached for Mary's Meals

As the end of the autumn term approached, a flurry of activity all over School brought money pouring into the BGS fundraising page for this excellent charity, which provides school dinners for over a million children in the developing world.

Spurred on by the knowledge that money given before Christmas would be doubled by the Government, the BGS community got busy.

Junior School (Clock House) raised over £500, the Christmas Market donated £800 and the Music Department made over £850

with their Christmas performances. 10RWM's Christmas Cafe made an impressive £700, and our star individual fund-raisers 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!

By Christmas BGS had donated a staggering £9,655, doubled by UK Aid to £19,310 and we are proud to announce that the £10,000 target was reached!



BGS to Number 10

The BGS Debating Society were honoured to welcome OB Alastair Campbell back to the school to give a talk.

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.

His talk was followed by a question and answer 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.

A Prasad
Senior Prefect and Secretary of the BGS Debating Society

Trip to Kraków

Over 30 Sixth Formers headed for Kraków in February half term on a joint History/R.S. trip to learn more about the Holocaust.

While Kraków itself provided a beautiful and cultured base for the visit, the scars of WWII can still be seen in the former Jewish quarter and in the displays in Oscar Schindler's former factory dedicated to occupied Kraków during the war.



The focus of the visit, a day in the former Nazi death camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau, left everyone with very complex emotions. One student said: "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. It was undoubtedly the most chilling experience I've ever had, and it will remain with me for many years to come".

World Book Day

On 3 March, the school was abuzz with festivities to celebrate World Book Day beginning with an assembly in the style of the Great British Book Off!

Teachers took the opportunity to dress up as fictional characters and pupils entered a competition to guess exactly who they were impersonating.

Also launched that day was the Great BGS Book Swap which consisted of a stall in the Learning Link, a major social area in the school, where keen readers encouraged other pupils to find a new book judged entirely on reviews rather than the cover itself.

H Khokhar
BGS Year 8 pupil

CAPTIONS

- 1 Pupil Ciara Schlosshan presenting her gold medals
- 2 Current Yorkshire County Cross Country Champion, Emile Cairess
- 3 BGS reaches £10,000 target for global charity
- 4 Alastair Campbell, writer, communicator and strategist returns to BGS
- 5 BGS pupils leaving Auschwitz-Birkenau
- 6 Teachers dress up as fictional characters for World Book Day

