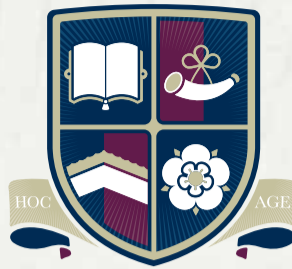


AUTUMN 2018

CHALLENGE 03-04
ARTS PULL-OUT SUPPLEMENT
COMMUNITY 09-11
LIFE 12



Bradford
Grammar
School

Mac Age

Feature

The Race Ace!

BGS pupil, Lorcan Hanafin, has had a meteoric rise in motorsport, having only started racing cars last year ...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 03

Now racing in the Ginetta Junior Championships 2017-18, Lorcan has achieved resounding success in a number of categories and has found the transition from karting an exciting one, winning top 10 finishes and fastest laps.



Welcome from the Headmaster

The New Year began on a high.

GCSE exam scores were record breaking with 76% of all grades at A*/A/7-9 level and a 99% pass rate. This is remarkable given the fact that our Year 11s were guinea pigs for new curricula and exam formats. Our leavers did themselves proud too with a 55% A*A total and a 100% pass rate. We are delighted for them with 75% achieving a place at a top Russell Group university.

Our successes have been reported favourably in the region and nationally, but BGS is no exam hot house. Our honest, hard working students do well by virtue of their ambition, appetite for good learning and the mutually respectful relationships they enjoy with expert and experienced teachers who care. They reflect the tremendous support of our parents that we do not take for granted.

Academic added value continues to increase because learning is enjoyable and results at all levels of achievement march upwards; but at the same time we remember there is much more to a BGS life lived to the full than exam success alone, however satisfying results might be. To that point, our summer sports tours to Australia and Canada, expedition to Nepal and CCF camp; less exotically perhaps, to ... Swaledale ... all went off terrifically well.

JAN

15 January
Open Morning

16 January
The Area Heat of the National Key Stage 2 General Knowledge Inter-School Quiz

MAR

19 March
Chamber Concert

23 March
BGS vs OBs Annual Swimming Fixture

28 March
Leavers' Concert



This term we have visited Pompeii, New York, Vecht, Great War Battlefields and Year 7s got stuck into a terrific Peter Gordon Lawrence (PGL) Camp (with added interest from Storm Bronagh!) in Lincolnshire. The arts, sport, volunteering, clubs, guest speakers and musicians, contact with Old Bradfordians and even the movement of cranes and diggers on site have enriched our autumn days.

I hope the following pages give you a flavour of recent weeks at BGS.

Simon Hinchliffe

Simon Hinchliffe

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He said: 'When I was five my dad bought me a go kart. I was driving around the house until I was eight and then he took me to a major kart track. I joined a scheme where we brought our own kart, entered into a team, and I raced there until I was 13. After this, I relished jumping into cars. It was all new, exciting and much more efficient.'

Lorcan has been racing in the Ginetta Junior Championships since June this year. At the start, he and his team completed four test days and went straight into a championship round.

'I want to get into endurance racing which requires a lot of stamina and core strength, both vital for racing. You complete two-hour stints of a 24-hour race, with one car between your teammates to get the best possible results. So I'm looking to build on these using the BGS Performance Gym and tailored coaching from sports staff for strength and conditioning.

Director for sport, Oliver Rogers said: 'We believe that if you lay the right foundations for sport, it creates stronger athletes. It's why it's important for our pupils to focus on developing key skills which are transferable such as using the Performance Gym and experiencing a range of different sports. The right foundations provide solid grounding for longer sporting careers. We're very proud of Lorcan and we look forward to watching his motorsport career prosper.'

“...”
When I was five my dad bought me a go kart.

LORCAN HANAFIN
Year 11

Outstanding A Level success

“...”

I'm delighted to congratulate our students on some outstanding results; with a 100% pass rate ...

SIMON HINCHLIFFE
Headmaster

BGS's 123 A Level students celebrated outstanding successes this year with 17% of all exams awarded A* and 54% A*/A grades.

Headmaster, Simon Hinchliffe, said: 'I'm delighted to congratulate our students on some outstanding results this year; with a 100% pass rate, our results remain exceptionally strong. This is great news for BGS and the wider educational scene in Bradford.'

'Beyond the headlines, we are celebrating the many individual accomplishments that represent a personal success for those students who did themselves justice at all levels of achievement. A life-enhancing education is open to all at BGS with many exciting opportunities outside the classroom in the arts, sports, community projects and various clubs and societies. We care about the whole person at BGS; outstanding exam results deserve to be celebrated, but they are just one part of a much bigger picture.'



Best ever GCSE results

126 talented students from BGS celebrated another rise in top grades.

A record-breaking 76% of all exams taken were awarded A/A* or 9-7 grades, well over three times higher than the national average of recent years (Pupils at BGS take a mixture of IGCSEs and GCSEs, graded either 9-1 or A*-G). The A/A*/9-7 cumulative pass rate is the highest ever at Bradford Grammar School and A*ABC is 99%.

Headmaster Simon Hinchliffe said: 'Warmest congratulations to our GCSE students who have achieved a terrific set of exam results. Academic success at BGS reflects the positive way in which our students go about their studies, enjoying school, aspiring to laudable ambitions and ultimately doing themselves proud, irrespective of the grades they achieve.

'The success we are celebrating today represents only one piece of the whole educational package at BGS, where a rich and diverse co-curricular programme is characterised by a wealth of opportunities, inside and outside of the classroom. Whilst we acknowledge and celebrate deserved GCSE achievements, there is much more to life than exam results alone – striking a balance is important.

'We are delighted for our outgoing Year 11 students and greatly look forward to welcoming them back, alongside new students to BGS, as young women and men into our highly successful Sixth Form.'

CAPTIONS

1 A Level success - Sana Hafeji, Phoebe Abruzzese, Emma Cunningham, Naiha Sharry-Khan and Umayah Tahsin

2 A Level success - Hamish Rae, Henry Stonelake and Brandon St Catherine

3 76% of all exams taken were awarded A/A* or 9-7 grades, well over three times higher than the national average

Twelve students represented BGS at the annual John Parry Relay Championships. This is a historic event dating back 50 years, named in memory of the Master-in-Charge of Swimming at Barnard Castle.



Swimming championships

The competition was created as a warm-up event for Northern HMC schools competing in the Bath Cup. Starting out with just four, BGS competed against nine other schools at this year's competition.

It was great to see each swimmer contribute more effort with each race. Every student handled the pressure placed on them with stoicism that yielded improvements not only for the team but for themselves.

Running club

The BGS Running Club participated in the English Schools Fell Running Championships at Giggleswick earlier in the year. The course was a tough challenge, with an ascent of 500 feet over rough terrain.

Our girls were very impressive, with Phoebe Midgley finishing runner up in the Year 7 Girls race, and in the Year 8 and 9 Girls race, the BGS team of Amelie Lane, Rebecca Flaherty and Emily Gibbins finished first, to be crowned English Schools Champions.



Eton tennis trip

In the summer term, 20 students from Year 8 to Year 12 travelled to London for four days to compete in the Independent School Tennis Association Cups.

School students from all over England looked to compete in some extremely hot days. With over 50 courts full of some of the best school boy and girl tennis in the country, it was a great experience to be part of.

The Year 8 boys and girls (Isaac Li, Kai Davies, Will Stevenson and Morgan Hainsworth) competed well in their matches and will be looking forward to gaining more experience before they return in Year 10. A young girls team from Year 9 (Grace Cogan and Amy Dixon) fought admirably against tough opposition in the U15 competition.

The senior boys (Alastair Christian, Tom Wilson, Matt Cogan and Eddie Irwin) side played in the tensest game of tennis I have witnessed for a long time. Both matches went right to the wire with honours even in the end. A tie break was needed and both teams raised the bars with the level of commitment. It was a real credit to be competing so well in high temperatures.

With a new and improved tennis programme currently being planned, we will look forward to returning next summer (and future years) to take on the other schools again.

Linguatrivia competition

All Year 7 pupils entered the now annual Linguatrivia competition at the end of the summer term.

As ever, the standard was very high. All entrants received a gift just for participating and the top three in each form received additional prizes and certificates. A special mention must however go to Mariam Butt, our French winner, and Laura Kraft, our German winner, for achieving the highest scores in the whole of Year 7.



Bradford
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STAC AGE

The Arts at BGS encompasses an immense range of creative activities. The School's aim is to allow our student's to express themselves imaginatively through their experiences, ideas and skills.

ARTS

Clay extravaganza



Over a period of two weeks, the Art department has run a ceramic activities day with Year 6 pupils from Gleddings and Ghyll Royd Primary Schools.

The day was set up to encourage interest in the arts and understand how clay can be explored using objects from nature. Each pupil made a tile personal to themselves, adding texture, shapes and form. They all explored pressing objects into clay, shaping forms and attaching to a tile body. The sessions were energetic and explorative and it was clear each pupil loved the possibility clay gave them to stretch their imagination. The pupils shared experiences and skills creating a selection of very busy and expressive tiles.



English tour of New York City



English Literature and Politics students enjoyed the first ever English Department overseas trip to enlarge their contextual knowledge of the USA between 1880 and 1940.

Based at the West Side YMCA, the tour began with a walk over the Brooklyn Bridge into Manhattan, and then visits to Ground Zero, the Statue of Liberty, and The Ellis Island Immigration Museum before enjoying the hit Broadway musical, Waitress.

– a model for Jay Gatsby's home in Fitzgerald's, *The Great Gatsby*. Central Park, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Grand Central Station and spectacular views from the Top of the Rock featured on day three and the final day involved a literary and cultural walking tour of Greenwich Village and a stroll along the High Line. The English Department hope to make the trip an annual fixture on the BGS calendar.

Day 2 comprised a trip to Long Island and stops at two nationally historic sites: the birthplace of America's great poet, Walt Whitman and the Vanderbilt Mansion Museum



Swordsman captivates pupils

An award-winning children's writer and black belt martial artist, visited BGS to encourage more children to get into reading through samurai action.

Chris Bradford, one of the most popular authors touring schools in the UK, employs a technique he terms 'method-writing'. In his Young Samurai show, pupils from Bradford Grammar School learnt about samurai swordsmanship, witnessed an authentic samurai sword display with dynamic all-kicking, all-punching book reading, and tested their ninja skills.

His dramatic display was part of the new Broughton Hall Children's Literature Festival.

Chris Bradford said: 'The pupils were absolutely fantastic and so excited to take part. It was lovely to see their bright faces light up during the session. I think it's important for young people to feel engaged with reading, it's a central part of young people's development, and sometimes the most reluctant reader can be inspired through visual performance.'

'It inspires them to use their imagination but can also give them a little push to take up physical exercise from karate to taekwondo, so they start to learn the importance of perseverance, strength and character, flexibility and camaraderie. I really feel an enjoyment of reading can come from showmanship and I'd love to visit Bradford Grammar School again in the future.'

Explorer speaks of passion for adventure and change

An adventurer who trekked 1,000 miles through the heart of the Middle East spoke to an audience at Bradford Grammar School.

Leon McCarron, from Northern Ireland, visited BGS to talk as part of the Broughton Hall Children's Literature Festival. The explorer, filmmaker, public speaker and author spoke about his epic walk through the Middle East, which he began in December 2015.

The walk began in Jerusalem, and his five-month trek passed through the rolling green hills and terraced olive groves of the West Bank, the deep chasm-like wadis and ancient kingdoms of Jordan, and vast, rugged deserts of the Sinai Peninsula.

He said: 'I loved visiting Bradford Grammar School to share these stories. We live in such a wonderful and varied world, and there's so much to learn. It's a real privilege to be able to bring a decade of experiences to share with the next generation of adventurers, explorers and change makers in their own communities and beyond.'



Sir Chris Hoy shares his love of reading

The greatest Olympian in British history stopped off at BGS to launch a new literature festival and to encourage more children to get into reading.

Sir Chris Hoy, who won six Olympic gold medals in a distinguished cycling career, has turned his hand to children's fiction since retirement, and spoke at Bradford Grammar School about his books and the importance of reading.

The event, which welcomed nine schools from across the district, was the launch of the Broughton Hall Children's Literature Festival which runs at Broughton Hall in Skipton.

Sir Chris Hoy said: 'Reading is crucial and central to children's development of lifelong skills, and it's great to help them to use their imaginations, to inspire them to

read more or to take up the activities in the book. That's why we need to get them to read more and also get out and use their imaginations and ride their bikes more.'

As well as pupils from BGS, children from Beckfoot Heaton, Bradshaw, Frizinghall, Hoyle Court, Moorfield, Netherleigh and Rossefield, St James' Church, St John's CE, and Westville House primary schools were invited to the school to listen to Sir Chris and also quiz him on his books.



Year 9 cross-curricular First World War Day

In September, the History Department organised our first cross-curricular day off-timetable for Year 9 to enhance their study of the First World War. We were delighted to welcome the interpretation team at Lancashire Museums who arrived in role as WW1 NCOs and put the students through their paces, literally.

They were drilled by the Sergeant-Major, studied kit with the Quarter-Master, explored the realities of trench life and the Nurse explained medical care and triage in the trenches. To emphasise that the First World War has links across academic subjects, the Chemistry Department explored the work and morality of Nobel Prize-winning chemist Fritz Harber, responsible for synthesising ammonia for use in explosives and fertilisers. The Biology Department explored the development of anti-septics and the English department gave moving poetry workshops.

An internationally acclaimed humanitarian told students to 'have the courage to follow your heart, trust your instincts, and share your talent with the world.'

Internationally acclaimed Humanitarian inspires students

Kate Newton, who was awarded an MBE for services to emergency and humanitarian relief in recognition of her groundbreaking work in international humanitarian affairs, spoke to an audience of students, parents and staff during Bradford Grammar School's prestigious annual Speech Day.

Kate said: 'My advice to all young people is your time is limited, don't waste it living somebody else's life, have the courage to follow your heart and trust your instincts. Your mind is very powerful, much more powerful than you know, and if you adopt an attitude of total enthusiasm, you will get there.'

Since leaving BGS, Kate has worked in many troubled countries including Syria, South Sudan, Afghanistan and Haiti. She is currently a humanitarian adviser for the Department for International Development, having previously been Deputy Country Director for the UN World Food Programme in Syria.

Returning to her Yorkshire roots, she said: 'I absolutely loved my time at BGS. I hope that in the future today's pupils will share their talents with the world, come back to school, and continue to help it flourish. The teachers are incredibly inspiring – and I urge all the students to try and keep in touch with the school.'

'Bradford is a great place to be and the city is feeling more interconnected each time I return. BGS is part of a growing connectivity and civic interaction. You can feel it in the atmosphere and I think this is fantastic for the students.'



CAPTIONS
1 Leon McCarron shares his love of exploration and change at BGS
2 BGS pupils with Chris Bradford
3 and 4 Sir Chris Hoy getting creative with BGS pupils in the Price Hall

CAPTIONS
1 Swimming success at national championships
2 The running championship at Giggleswick was a tough challenge
3 Linguatrivia competition prize winners
4 BGS enhance their study of the First World War; pupils were drilled by the Sergeant-Major
5 Kate Newton awards prizes to BGS pupils
6 Headmaster Simon Hinchliffe with Humanitarian Kate Newton and Head Girl Bea Taggart

Schools linking programme goes from strength to strength

At the heart of schools linking lies a simple idea – giving our pupils a chance to interact and engage with other pupils that they would not normally have a chance to meet. Such interaction helps to break down barriers, increase social awareness, improve emotional intelligence and help community cohesion. With all this in mind, it is hugely encouraging to see that the links between BGS and Oasis Academy Lister Park has been going from strength to strength each year.

This year, there are links between pupils across four year groups with lots of opportunities for collaborative work and dialogue around the themes of identity, diversity, community and equality. Most recently, Year 8 pupils from both schools came together to explore the artwork of David Hockney and work in collaboration on key activities. The feedback from pupils and staff involved was overwhelmingly positive as always.



Battlefields of the First World War

The outpouring of centenary commemorations made this a particularly poignant year for the long-established GCSE trip to the First World War battlefields of northern France and Belgium.

Sixty three Year 11 Historians made the journey this year with a focus, not just on the actual battles, but also on the war's multi-cultural aspects and how it has been, and continues to be, commemorated by succeeding generations.

We were able to follow the stories of a number of Old Bradfordians throughout the trip. A special ceremony was held in Arras military cemetery to recognise nine OBs commemorated on its walls. There we found Sikh, Hindu and Muslim graves amongst the British casualties. The staff were all impressed at how the students knew when to have fun and when to focus with thoughtfulness and maturity on their experiences.



European Day of Languages

The Modern Languages Department celebrated the European Day of Languages in September with a multilingual celebration comprising French face-painting, a German Oktoberfest and Spanish food-tasting, each accompanied by a quiz. The event was well-attended, with standing room only for the majority of lunchtime.

At the event, we announced the winner of the annual language assistant quiz. This was won, for the second year in a row, by Laura Kraft, who achieved an impressive 28/30, demonstrating her extensive knowledge of life in France, Germany and Spain.

Alongside our lunchtime celebrations, there were special events in Modern Languages lessons, with Year 7 completing a Passport to Europe, Year 8 a French or German quiz and Year 9 challenged to find words with the same meaning in both English and another language, which also began with the same letter. The Year 12 Italian enrichment class also had the chance to find out about festivals in Italy.

The Modern Languages department hopes that everyone enjoyed the week and is looking forward to the 2019 celebrations.



FlacAge



First World War centenary: marking 100 years

Bradford Grammar School marked the First World War centenary with a partnership between the Old Bradfordians' Association and the Old Bradfordians' Club (London), honouring each Old Bradfordian who gave their life to serve their country.

The school also united in a minute's silence during the last assembly before Remembrance Sunday, displayed biographies around school and displayed pictures of the fallen online.

VIEW THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIFE TO SERVE THEIR COUNTRY ... bit.ly/BGSWW1



CAPTIONS

- 1 Pupils enjoying the schools linking programme
- 2-5 First World War Battlefields
- 6 The Modern Languages Department celebrated the European Day of Languages in September with a multilingual celebration
- 7 The Modern Languages department is looking forward to the 2019 celebrations
- 8 WW1 centenary assembly

Our 4.30am start could not dampen the spirits of the forty Year 8 and 9 pupils setting off to the Bay of Naples just before half term.

Junior Classics trip to the Bay of Naples



The recent landslide on the slopes of Mount Vesuvius meant that the trip began, not with our usual ascent, but instead with a descent into the fascinating network of passages below modern Naples, some dating back to when the Greeks founded the city and gave it its name (Nea Polis – New City), and many used much more recently as shelters from Allied bombing in WW2.

Our packed itinerary took us also to the well-preserved Roman Villa at Oplontis, and most poignantly into the remarkable streets, shops and homes of the first century inhabitants of Herculaneum and Pompeii.

This was a most memorable experience for us all.

Senior Netball tour

In July 2018, BGS Netball Club took a Senior pre-season overseas tour to Australia.

The girls and the Netball Parents' Association worked for 18 months on various fundraising events to heavily subsidise the tour so that the girls could have the best possible experience that the east coast of Australia has to offer.

The 2018 Netball Tour to Australia was intense, enjoyable and educational in equal measure. The girls who represented BGS Netball on the trip were an absolute credit and will have a bond throughout the 2018/9 season that couldn't have been created by anything other than the shared experience which the tour has given them.

Rugby tour

August of 2018 saw the senior rugby players depart British shores for pre-season preparations in North America. The party of 47 boys from three year groups' first stop was a training camp based out of the University of Toronto. This section of the tour involved some intense training utilising the university's facilities as well as the famous Fletcher's Field Rugby Club.

From Toronto, the group travelled to New York City via the spectacular Niagara Falls. Particular highlights for the pupils was an opportunity to watch Major league baseball at the New York Mets as well as an NFL game between the two franchises based in the city.

The final phase of the tour was to explore Manhattan as a reward for the hard work, which the pupils had displayed across the border whilst training and playing. Highlights for the boys included the uniquely sombre atmosphere at Ground Zero, which gave pupils the opportunity to discover the stories of tragedy and heroism surrounding the events of 9/11. Special mention must go to our upper Sixth Form pupils who undertook many of the leadership tasks whilst on the tour, an experience that will help prepare them for life beyond BGS.



Vecht rowing trip

The first weekend in October saw 25 members of the Boat club travelling to Gramsbergen in the Netherlands for the 'Vecht' race, hosted by Salland Rowing Club, an international rowing event over a distance of 6km.

The boys and girls also had the opportunity to partake in some good quality long distance training outings prior to the race itself. The value of this training was shown in the results with the J15 coxed quad and J15 double winning their respective events in the J16 age category, a tremendous achievement.

Every crew that raced acquitted themselves extremely well with the girls J18 double and boys J16 coxed four, only narrowly missing wins in their categories.

CAPTIONS

- 1 Junior Classics trip to Italy
- 2 Tremendous rowing achievements