

AUTUMN
2020

CHALLENGE 03-05
ARTS 05-08
COMMUNITY 08-10, 21
JUNIORS 11-20
LIFE 22-24



Bradford
Grammar
School

Hac Age



Feature

Medal success for BGS bros!

Clock House pupils
were delighted to
receive their duathlon
medals as part of the
virtual World Triathlon
Leeds event.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 03



Welcome from the Headmaster

Welcome to the latest edition of 'Hoc Age'!

And never has our school motto seemed more apt. The challenges of COVID-19 persist but an indomitable School spirit continues to characterise our collective response. Enthusiasm for learning, co-curricular activities and BGS life generally has been the theme for the autumn term. I will not tire of paying tribute to our pupils and my colleagues, who have been brilliant. Nor will I fail to offer sincere thanks where it is due to our hugely supportive BGS families, Governors, Old Bradfordians and wider circle of friends and benefactors without whom this School would not be what it is today.

New and familiar faces brought fresh energy to the classrooms, corridors and wide-open spaces of BGS back in September, and that momentum has continued undimmed. By necessity, we have had to adapt and keep adjusting; but the essential, laudable qualities of our School remain strong. Hardworking, cheerful and supportive of each other and the local community, we continue to make the most of our opportunities and embrace life positively.

So, read on, do look after yourselves, and sincere thanks for your many messages of good will and support.

Simon Hinchliffe

Dr Simon Hinchliffe

LATEST BLOG ...
bradfordgrammar.com/simonsblog



EVENTS

At BGS, we have a varied events programme for all members of the BGS family, which we publish here in 'Hoc Age'.

Given the current situation we are facing around COVID-19 however, and the uncertainty around what events will be able to take place in the near future, we have refrained from publishing all dates in this edition.

We will of course, communicate any developments with you as and when we know, and update the online school calendar accordingly.

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JAN-MAR

13 January
Virtual Open Event

February (Date TBC)
Intermediate Maths Challenge

11 March
Virtual Open Event

17-19 March
School Production – 'An Evening with Pinter'

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 01

“...”

They were so proud to get their medals.



Two Clock House pupils enjoyed medal success in a fitness challenge as part of the virtual World Triathlon Leeds event.

Joseph and Oliver M were delighted to receive their duathlon medals as part of the Join the Kids Challenge.

The brothers had to cycle 10K and run 4K on consecutive days but actually surpassed the cycle challenge by biking to Ilkley and back and completing 20K.

It was particularly challenging for Oliver, eight, who has type 1 diabetes. After his medal win, he received words of encouragement from diabetic athlete, Gavin Griffiths, who ran 25 marathons in 30 days and runs a charity, DiAthlete, to educate people about type 1 diabetes and sport. He sent a message praising the youngster.

He later added: 'Diagnosis of type 1 diabetes, during school years for me, was one of my biggest struggles, and for any medical condition, especially at a young age, there is a challenge to adapt your life to it. But, in whatever challenges you face in life, the strength to rise up to it, and to go on and achieve, is inside of you. Well done to Oliver for always pushing himself on further, that's what champions do.'

Joseph and Oliver have also been inspired by Old Bradfordians, Olympic triathletes and brothers, Alistair and Jonny Brownlee. Mum, Helen, said they had found the challenge tough but fun.

She said: 'They were so proud to get their medals. It was a really big thing for them and they both just kept at it until they'd finished.'

'The boys both enjoy fell running and were looking forward to returning to the races they did last summer so this was a lovely event to replace them.'

Richard Ribeiro, Junior School Headmaster, said: 'Well done to Oliver and Joseph. It's great hearing how our pupils have kept themselves busy over the summer and this is a fantastic challenge and achievement.'

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bradfordgrammar.com/news



Double essay writing award win for BGS!

Two Year 11 students won prizes in the Queen's College Cambridge essay writing competition.



Will C and Eesa I were in Year 10 when they entered the competition during lockdown and were delighted to hear they'd won their respective categories.

Will, who has a keen interest in linguistics, wrote an essay on the relative purity and originality of the Icelandic language. Eesa wrote his essay on why video games are so addictive.

Will said: 'The Icelandic language is very interesting, and I wanted to find out more about it so I thought I may as well write about it. I was very happy when I heard I'd won and to receive a Waterstones voucher was an added bonus.'

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CAPTIONS

1 Joseph and Oliver were delighted to receive their duathlon medals as part of the Join the Kids Challenge.

2 Eesa and Will both won prizes during lockdown in the Queen's College Cambridge essay writing competition.



Arts

Year 7 Sport Roundup

We have been so impressed with our student athletes in this very strange start to the year. So many unanswered questions over the summer kept us all guessing right up to the doors opening again in September. In true BGS style, we have managed to offer fantastic opportunities across the board to all of our students.

We were extremely aware of how our Year 7s might perceive the programmes, having not been involved in them previously. They stepped up to the plate and showed exceptional commitment and open mindedness to get on board and make the most of this very valuable time at the beginning of their BGS sporting journey. When we are able, we can't wait to see them in action within our fixtures programme. I am sure they will do themselves and the school proud. Here is a snapshot from each sport about how they have got on so far.

BY O ROGERS, DIRECTOR OF SPORT

Swimming

Year 7 has embraced curricular and co-curricular swimming more than any year we have ever seen.

This first half term has seen just the boys in curriculum swimming, embracing methods of better efficiency and then putting them to the test in a timed 20-minute swim. A true test of stamina and resilience.

In the co-curricular swim squad (Wednesdays 4.00pm – 5.30pm) pupils have been introduced to competitive swimming techniques, rules and relays! No guesses which of these they enjoyed the most. We have already seen great improvements in just a few short weeks for those without a competitive background in swimming.

The half term culminated in a short game of water polo, which will become a feature of more sessions in the future.

Hockey

The commitment we have had in hockey from Year 7 has been excellent so far, with over 30+ pupils attending our Saturday sessions with their coach Miss Leeson.

What has been most impressive with Year 7 is the pupils' attitude and application in lessons and co-curricular. Anything and everything that has been thrown their way, they have taken in their stride and have given it their best efforts with a smile on their faces!

Fantastic start!

Netball

Despite the current restrictions and inability to play fixtures, the first half term for Year 7 netball has been a huge success with enough netballers attending training to field at least four strong and competitive teams, allowing Mrs Jones to create her own in-house fixtures.

Already the girls have gone from strength to strength, with a number who haven't played before showing real promise supported by those who have been exposed to netball previously. They are an exciting group to work with and we look forward to continuing to see them flourish over the coming weeks.

Rugby

Rugby in Year 7 has been very well attended to date. We have seen really positive levels of commitment to the programme and it has been encouraging to see the boys fully engaged in lessons and after-school sessions. Up to 50 boys (enough for four teams at this age-group) have been attending



1

Saturday training sessions, many of whom hadn't played much, if any, rugby previously.

The boys are all itching for fixtures and when asked by Mr Scarbrough for one word to describe their rugby experience to date, the five most common responses were 'fun', 'challenging', 'competitive', 'friends' and 'teamwork' – which just about says it all!

Orienteering

Year 7s have been given the chance to try six sessions of orienteering in the Wednesday morning activities slot, and three groups will be doing so over the course of the year. Pupils have been visiting local parks and woods, learning and practising navigational skills to allow them to cover unfamiliar ground at speed. All of Year 7 also tried orienteering on site on 13 November as part of an activity day.

Some pupils have also opted to attend ad hoc after-school sessions, and others have joined the local club, Airienteers. When restrictions relax, we may be able to enter teams into British and Yorkshire championships: after all, we are the defending British Schools Orienteering Championships Year 7 boys team!



2



3



4



5

Tennis

This year we have had a good uptake of Year 7s on the tennis programme, both boys and girls with more ready to roll on the waiting list.

Although the start of the year has been somewhat turbulent with a bit of stop and start, they have engaged, listened and worked hard to improve, managing to stay on track. I look forward to seeing them develop over the year and hit the ground running when the summer term comes around for what will be an action-packed season of tennis.

As we look to expand the programme, I would welcome any new applications to join so we can build a strong foundation of players for future years and ensure BGS is a competitive school in the world of school tennis.



6

Year 7 Drama Club

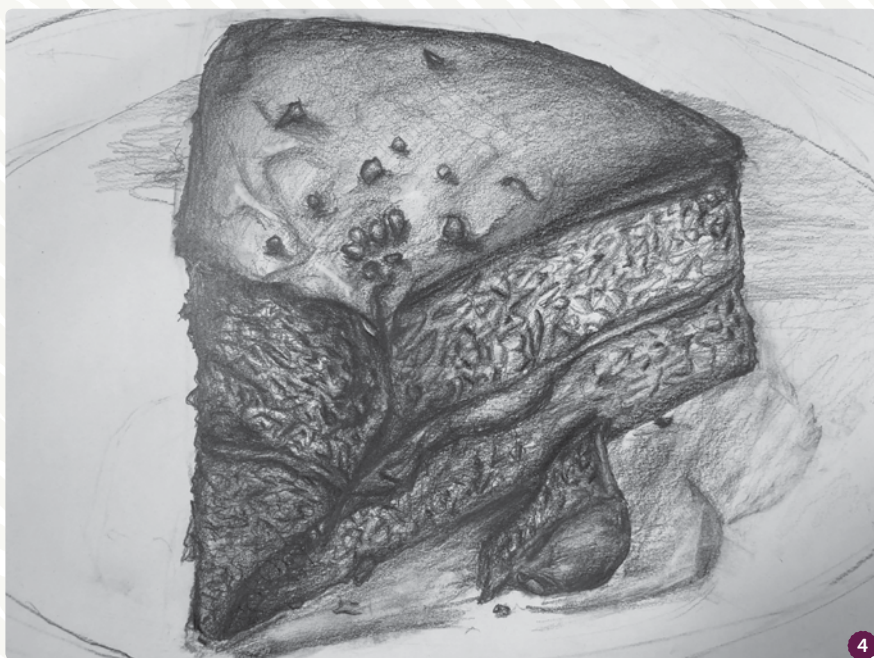
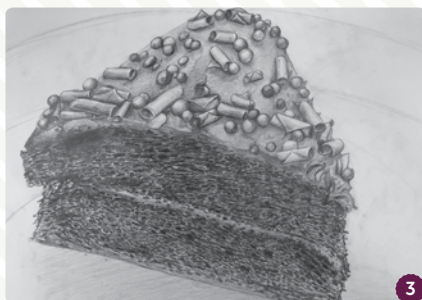
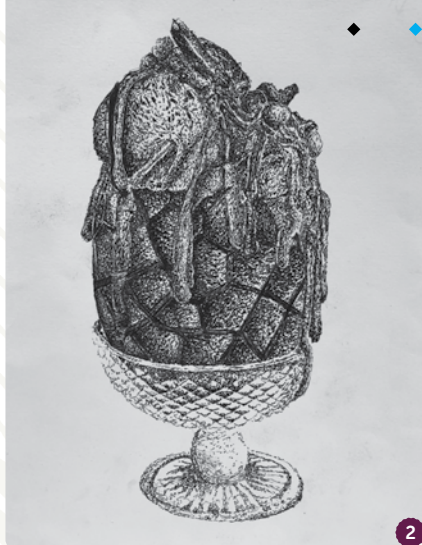
This term Year 7 Drama Club has got off to a flying start. We've had so much enthusiasm for Drama that after some initial icebreaker games, we decided to prepare for a performance.

The focus was physicality, so students spent the first few weeks developing their mime skills and experimenting with characterisation. We chose the story of a magic toyshop – all set to Ragtime music.

We had some brilliant imaginative responses with different toys represented: dolls, teddies and clockwork animals. Pupils taking main roles were Savannah W, as the toymaker; Siya J and Rose D, as the robbers and Harry S and Will F as the police officers. Everyone worked as a team and showed real commitment, rehearsing every Monday lunchtime. We filmed the performance just before half term; it was very exciting to see such thespian potential at this early stage in the year. Well done everyone!

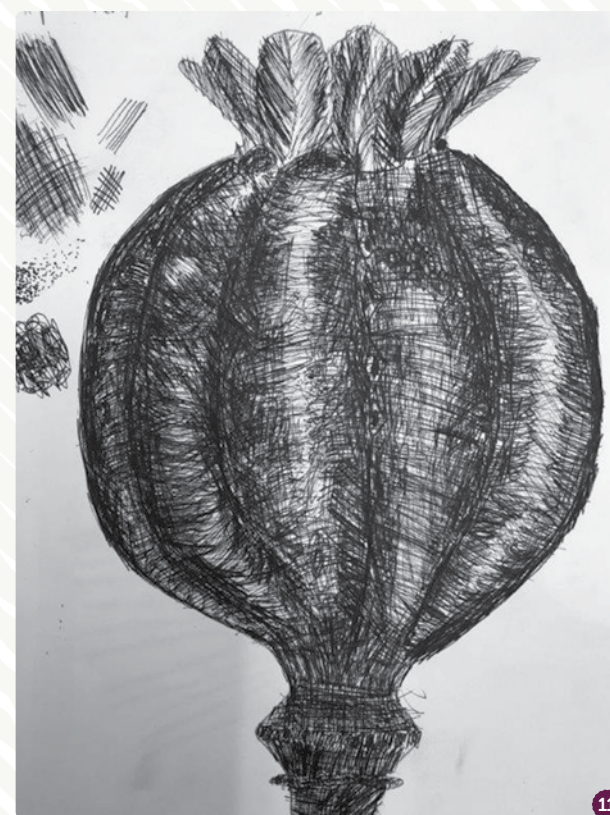
“...”
... it was very exciting to see such thespian potential at this early stage in the year.

CAPTIONS
1-5 Year 7 pupils are enjoying the start of their BGS sporting journey!
6 This term Year 7 Drama Club has got off to a flying start



Artists of the term ...

- 1 Lucy M, Year 7
- 2 Charlie H, Year 10
- 3 Charity C, Year 10
- 4 Annabel P, Year 10
- 5 Zahra S, Year 9
- 6 Bea H, Year 9
- 7 Florence H, Year 10
- 8 Aarti S, Year 9
- 9 Maryam Q, Year 9
- 10 Daniel O, Year 7
- 11 Archie S, Year 7
- 12 Lara T, Year 9
- 13 Sam D, Year 9



Music roundup

We are pleased that Music is thriving in these difficult times we find ourselves in. The department is once again a busy and exciting place to be!

Founders' Day at the Cathedral was a very special event and although different to normal, no less special. Our 45-strong Senior Choir had to 'stand down' for this occasion and instead we were treated to two stunning solos from John S and Kate S, two Year 13 students.

Our Visiting Instrumental Teachers are busy delivering COVID-secure one-to-one music lessons and are preparing students for music exams at the end of term – these will take place digitally for the first time in the School's history!

After half term we started a selection of small ensembles in the department – although a reduced number it was wonderful that live music could happen again, and students could perform together. At the time of writing, we are preparing items for our virtual Christmas Concert. Although we will be performing to an empty Price Hall and putting our recordings online, we will be imagining a hall full of our wonderful supportive friends and family members!

BY E WHITE, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Creative Writing Film and Media Society

The new student-led Creative Writing, Film and Media Society has been launched.

This exciting new club is for pupils interested in a range of creative media. It seeks to ask and answer questions like why Hitchcock's classic film 'Psycho' still strikes as much fear into us today as it did fifty years ago and why is it that each Netflix series can have the same characters and plot, yet still bear the label 'original'.

The aim is to offer as wide a range of topics as possible with pupils and staff presenting on topics that interest them. It is for any pupil interested in books, films and television, music and music lyrics, radio, podcasts, newspapers, magazines, Ted Talks, YouTube, blogs and zines. Already lined up is a presentation on why we still hero-worship The Beatles when they spent all their time coining phrases like 'sitting on a cornflake'.

The Society is open to pupils in all year groups and any interested pupil should contact Mr Hanson, Mr Schofield or Zara B (Year 10).



CAPTIONS

1-2 Although Founders' Day was different to normal, it remained just as special, with two stunning solo performances

3 Representatives from the newly formed Creative Writing, Film and Media Society



Digital Theatre – ‘A Disappearing Number’

This term, we took advantage of the spacious Hockney Theatre to stream a digital production on the big screen. Drama students could enjoy an evening of theatre in the comfort of their own School!

CAPTIONS
1 Drama students enjoyed an evening of digital theatre earlier this term from the comfort of the Hockney Theatre!

We saw ‘A Disappearing Number’ which was devised by Complicite. Recorded at the Barbican theatre in 2008, it won an Olivier award for best new play; it told the true story of an unlikely collaboration between academic G H Hardy and Indian self-taught mathematician, Srinivasa Ramanujan.

A clever and complex production, it incorporated many elaborate theatrical elements: physical theatre, innovative staging, lighting and sound, to create a frenetic assault on the senses. It challenged us to think about life mathematically, as it wove together stories from the past and present – exploring the idea that life is fleeting but maths is permanent. We were left feeling exhausted but also, a tad more intelligent!

“...”

A clever and complex production ...

The Interact Club

The Interact Club is a way for BGS pupils to give back to the community.

We support major charities as well as smaller, more local initiatives both by fundraising and collecting needed items (food, toiletries, etc.). Each year, we focus on three charities: one local, one national and one international. This year we have chosen Martin House Children’s Hospice, Marie Curie, and Doctors without Borders.

COVID-19 has made this more challenging, but last term we nevertheless met online, raised money through sponsored events, voted for new charities and elected officers for this academic year. The pandemic has changed the way we communicate, perhaps for the better, as now we discuss ideas more easily in between our meetings, using Microsoft Teams. Our usual bake sales and collections at concerts and fairs are not possible now, but we have fresh ideas for reaching out to do as much good as possible despite the current limitations.

BY TZAVIER T, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE INTERACT CLUB



To find out more about BGS Interact Club or to make a donation to one of the charities, please get in touch with Mrs Chapman: mjc@bradfordgrammar.com

Meet Ellie – President of the Interact Club

Ellie K is on an assisted place at BGS and enjoys raising funds for charity through her work as President of the Interact Club. She explains why she enjoys the role.



‘I partly joined the Interact Club (part of the Rotary family) because I’m doing the Duke of Edinburgh Award and partly because I’ve always been interested in doing charitable work. My grandparents were also involved in Rotary Club.

I really like the way we raise money for three charities every year – one local, one national and one international. Last year we raised nearly £1,500 which was great.

This year, I nominated Martin House Hospice, based in Wetherby, which supports children who need palliative care and their families.

In times like these, charities such as Martin House need our help more than ever – they’re the forgotten heroes. Our other chosen charities are Marie Curie and Doctors Without Borders.

We hold different events and activities to raise funds but with the COVID pandemic, we’ve had to get creative! We did a sponsored run during lockdown where people sent us their miles and recently we’ve been supporting the harvest appeal. Last year I really loved doing the Christmas Fair, when we made Christmas cards and a lot of crafty things to sell.

We mostly have students from Years 9, 10 and 11 but Years 7 and 8 are welcome to join too.

One thing we try and do is raise awareness of the charities we’re fundraising for, so people know why their contribution is important. We had a speaker in last year from Human Appeal, whom we were supporting, and he helped us pick which projects within the charity we wanted our money to go to. Being students, we chose to support their education work and to support orphans. It was good having a say in where the money was spent.

I was really proud to become President of Interact. I think it’s such an important thing to be part of. You can really make a difference in this club.’

“...”

I was really proud to become President of Interact. I think it’s such an important thing to be part of. You can really make a difference in this club.

CAPTIONS
1 & 3 Interact Club President, Ellie, proudly showing off her medal
2 Meet the Interact Club Officers: Tzavier, Ellie, Serene and India



Open Science Lecture:
‘Presentations Beyond
the Matrix’

For the first time, the Bradford Grammar School series of free public Open Science Lectures went into the virtual world. On Monday 12 October, we were treated to a presentation by Consultant Paediatric Surgeon Mr Ross Fisher from Sheffield Children’s Hospital on maximising audience engagement when delivering presentations.

Mr Fisher delivered an excellent lesson in using the basics of cognitive science to describe the three ‘P’s’ of presentation, by making us choose between one of two different pathways of delivery. He emphasised the need to maximise the effectiveness of delivery by the presenter, to use effective and engaging supportive media, as well as clearly addressing the overall message of the presentation. If you would like to find out more, you can type #htdap into any popular search engine.

More Open Science Lectures are in the pipeline for the spring and summer terms, so please keep an eye out for more information soon.

CAPTIONS
1 On Monday 12 October, Mr Ross Fisher from Sheffield Children’s Hospital delivered our first virtual Open Science Lecture on maximising audience engagement when delivering presentations
2-4 BGS staff and students wore yellow to help raise awareness and funds for YoungMinds and World Mental Health Day



BGS say #HelloYellow on World Mental Health Day

On Friday 9 October, the whole School marked World Mental Health Day by taking part in YoungMinds’ #HelloYellow Day.

Throughout the week, key mental health messages were shared with students by their tutors and pastoral prefects – reminding everyone how important it is to value and look after your wellbeing and to seek help if you are struggling with your mental health. It was also an opportunity to raise awareness of the wonderful work YoungMinds does to support young people and their families, and to campaign for changes in the way people view mental health.

Over £740 was raised through donations made by students and staff, who wore something yellow for the day to show solidarity with young people struggling everywhere and to remind everyone of the need to take mental health seriously. In a year when lives have been so disrupted by the pandemic, this message has never been more important.

“...”

... reminding everyone how important it is to value and look after your wellbeing and to seek help if you are struggling with your mental health.

Junior

Year



Bradford
Grammar
School
JUNIORS

AUTUMN
2020

EVENTS
VISITS
LIFE





Welcome from the Junior School Headmaster

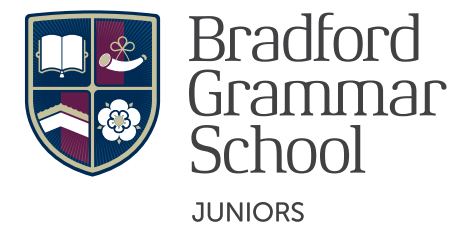
There has been much to celebrate already in the School year ...

It has been wonderful to hear the happy sounds of children learning in Clock House again and to see them taking full advantage of the opportunities on offer.

An agile and creative approach is being adopted in the Junior School. We are finding new ways to deliver our curriculum and provide high quality learning experiences. One example is the virtual link up via Microsoft Teams with real life Polar Explorer and Old Bradfordian, Alex Brearley (2002), where pupils in Year

5 were able to find out more about his many exciting adventures.

Our Year 6 pupils loved their Medical Mavericks workshop. They completed ultrasound scans enabling them to actually see their own hearts beating and they even had a go at keyhole surgery! We also thoroughly enjoyed having a Clock House presence at Founders' Day for the first time, where a pupil from each year group proudly represented the Junior School.



I do hope you enjoy finding out more in the Junior section of the 'Hoc Age'.

Mr Richard Ribeiro
Junior School Headmaster



Virtual visit to Antarctica

This term, Year 5 were so fortunate as they had a Microsoft Teams presentation and chat with Alex Brearley, an Old Bradfordian who now works for the British Antarctic Survey.

The children were thrilled and delighted to hear about Alex's role and the research he conducts in the polar oceans. Alex talked about the vast boat he primarily undertakes his research on – the RRS James Clark Ross and the 10m waves the boat sometimes has to sail through!

“...”
The children and teachers were in awe and were so grateful for the time Alex gave to us.

He also talked about the amazing mammals and birds he has the opportunity to see out in the ocean, such as Weddell Seals, Minke Whales and the Adeli Penguins to name a few! The children and teachers were in awe and were so grateful for the time he gave to us.

BY A BUCKLEY, JUNIOR SCHOOL TEACHER



Year 5 Egyptian Workshop

As part of our Year 5 Ancient Egypt topic in humanities we were visited by Matthew Bellwood who pretended to be an Ancient Egyptian embalmer. The session lasted the entire afternoon, so as a year group we were very lucky.

The first thing he showed us was how to mummify a dead Egyptian. By using natron salt, he dried out the body of the dead man so that the body would not rot. Then he pulled out the brain and threw it away. Next, he took out the lungs, liver, stomach and the intestines then placed them in four different canopic jars. He then got the heart out and then wrapped the body up which he then put into a sarcophagus.

After that, we learned about how a spirit travels through the underworld to the afterlife, what and who they would meet there, and about the weighing of the heart ceremony.

Finally, Matthew told us a story about an Egyptian god and goddess called Osiris and Isis who loved each other but Osiris's brother Seth didn't like the way everyone was worshiping his brother, so Seth tried to kill Osiris.

The workshop was great, and I would love to do it again.

BY ELLIE S, YEAR 5

EVENTS

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MAR

3-4 March
House Music Competition

11 March
Virtual Open Event

18 March
Spring Concert

23-25 March
Parent Consultations

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Hoc Age

12 / 13

Juniors

CAPTIONS
1-2 Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed their Egyptian Workshop led by Matthew Bellwood



CAPTIONS

1-3 There were lots of smiling faces and inspired pupils in Year 6 when the Medical Mavericks team visited school for the day

4 A select number of pupils were able to represent the Junior School at this year's Founders' Day

Year 6 Medical Mavericks

Medical Mavericks was an extremely fun and educational experience for the whole year. Set up in The Pavilion, each Year 6 class had an allocated time where they could go and try out the equipment.

There were many different stations; at one, you put ultrasound gel on a sensor and then on to your arm where you could see the muscle. The image was projected on a laptop screen and when you moved your fingers, you saw the muscles in your arm moving. At another, you had to get a needle (hypodermic syringe) and put it into a rubber arm and draw out some fake blood.

The goggles station was the most fun. One pair of goggles made your vision a small dot and another pair made your vision all wobbly, making things seem further away or much closer.

An enjoyable and educational day was had by all.

BY N WATSON, JUNIOR SCHOOL TEACHER

“...”

The goggles station was the most fun ... one pair made your vision all wobbly, making things seem further away or much closer.



Founders' Day

On Tuesday 22 September, I was lucky enough to be chosen to travel to Bradford Cathedral to celebrate Founders' Day. Only a small number of pupils were able to go to the cathedral due to COVID-19.

We travelled there by train and a few teachers accompanied us. When we got there, Dr Hinchliffe and Mr Ribeiro changed into some special robes. At the cathedral, we listened to lots of hymns and the Dean of Bradford Cathedral, Jerry Lepine, spoke to us about the unique history of Bradford Grammar School.

The highlights for me were when a couple of Senior School pupils sang hymns. I also enjoyed when the organ played the peaceful music. I found Founders' Day very intriguing and it was a wonderful experience.

BY MAYA A, YEAR 6



Ilkley Literature Festival 2020

This year, like so many festivals and events the world over, the Ilkley Literature Festival has had to find new ways to celebrate reading and writing.

We were really pleased that the children's poetry competition was still going ahead and with a little help from their parents, our children submitted a range of wonderful poems on the theme 'Kindness' – a theme that could not be closer to our hearts at Clock House.

We were delighted to learn that two of our pupils, Morgan in Year 4 and Ellie in Year 5, were awarded runner up prizes in their categories for their creative and imaginative poetry. The virtual prize-giving event was held on 12 October, hosted by writer and poet, Sai Murray. Morgan and Ellie both read their poems to the assembled video audience and I could not have been prouder of their performances!

BY C ORVISS, JUNIOR SCHOOL DEPUTY HEAD (ACADEMIC)

Kindness Poem

By Ellie S

Grandpa

Grandpa is generous,

Grandpa is kind,

Grandpa buys me chocolate all the time.

Grandpa is fun,

Grandpa is cool,

Grandpa always chases me around his swimming pool.

Grandpa is super,

Grandpa is great,

Grandpa really wants to be your best mate.

Grandpa is helpful,

Grandpa is caring,

Grandpa never has to think twice about sharing.

Grandpa is thoughtful,

Grandpa is the best,

But Grandpa gets tired, so Grandpa needs a rest.

Flac Age

CAPTIONS

1 Morgan, Year 4 and 2 Ellie, Year 5 both enjoyed attending Ilkley Literature Festival's virtual prize-giving event and reading their poems to the assembled video audience





“...”

Being here, it's like your
second home ... I just love it.

When we get to school we go into the playground and I meet all my friends. It's great fun, I love it. Mrs Merckx blows the whistle and we all line up on the dots and our teacher comes out to collect us for form time. It's fun to talk to our friends, catch up on our work and do any corrections.

Sometimes lessons are in our form class and sometimes we're in another classroom. The Science lessons are in the labs at Senior School where we do lots of crazy experiments. I really love Science. We also do Art and Design Technology in the Senior School. We've got lots of different equipment in DT that we use. The teacher, Mr Taylor, is really fun. Right now, I'm designing a rock guitar and I'm excited about getting it finished. It's going to be made from cardboard and I'm going to spray paint it afterwards.

I love most of the subjects. Sometimes they're hard but the teachers are always there for you, you just have to put your hand up! My favourite subjects are Art and English – they're great fun. The homework isn't too bad. You get one piece every day in Year 6. It keeps your mind challenged and it's not too hard.

There are so many clubs you can be part of, either at lunchtime or after school. I enjoy going to netball and gymnastics – I love gymnastics. You make a lot of friends here. All new pupils get a buddy before they join and we send them postcards before they get here. I wrote on mine: 'My name is Fia. I like playing in the rain and I play the flute. What do you like to do?'

Lunch is fun. We bring our own or we go into the dining hall with the seniors. It was scary at first seeing all the seniors. I would get shivers up my spine, but soon your friends are around you and you feel happy and you know you're in a safe space. You can sit and chat with your friends which is great. The dinner ladies are really kind too. My favourite lunch is lasagne and chips followed by a chocolate chip cookie. It's a cool environment. After lunch you can play out. Today I played some rugby and sometimes we play football with the boys and tennis. Then we have more lessons before school finishes at 3.20pm and it's time to get back on the bus.

I love the atmosphere at school. I have teachers who keep me safe and my friends are very kind. Being here, it's like your home, but your second home. I just love it.



European Day of Languages

European Day of Languages is a day of celebration across Europe and takes place annually on 26 September. This year, we used 'thank you' as our theme. 6G created a class assembly to celebrate and we were inspired by footballers who play in the Champions League and Europa Cup, including the women's teams, as they created videos in which they said the words 'thank you' in their own languages.

Some of us speak different languages at home and they were the languages we said thank you in. For others, it was a chance to learn how to say thank you in a new language. It is, of course, a very useful thing to know how to say!

In Clock House, we have celebrated European Day of Languages in many different and fun ways. Last year, Languages Club members painted rocks with European flags as a competition for other children to find and we were fortunate to have a visiting Roman soldier who taught Latin to one Year 6 class.

Merci, Gracias, Danke!

BY E GREEN, JUNIOR SCHOOL TEACHER

House Captains

In 1905, the original Bradford Grammar Junior School house system was first launched. Over the years, it has evolved to form the four houses that make up our current community.



The houses are a team of children from all year groups across Clock House, who are led by their House Captains. They meet weekly and form strong supportive bonds as well as enjoying the opportunity for some competitive activities too. This year has brought unique challenges to this, nevertheless we have been pleased to see the house community thrive. For example, this term's house cross country competition was a highlight within each bubble's PE lessons.

The applications for House Captains this year were launched in September and 40 aspiring pupils stepped up to the plate. Competition was close and the children shared characteristics that they felt suited them for the job including 'kindness, fairness and the ability to encourage others'. One pupil stated: 'One of my characteristics is that I trust and understand people so, in effect, I can make use of their skills in the best way possible for the ultimate benefit of the house'.

Many of the School's values, including opportunity, service and compassion, were represented in the ideas that the pupils shared. Making appointments was a difficult decision. After deliberation from the house staff, the final appointments were made; a moment which Isabella told us she had hoped for since Year 2.

Our new House Captains and Vice Captains have begun to represent their houses at the weekly house meetings and in celebration assemblies. We have already seen some inventive ideas from them with bubble safety in mind; these include a plan to design a house coat of arms and some excellent quizzes. We can't wait to see what they will come up with next!

BY F ROBERTSHAW-HUGHES, JUNIOR
SCHOOL DEPUTY HEAD (PASTORAL)

'Clock House
is like my
second home'

Day in a Life of a Year 6 pupil – Fia

I catch the bus to school every morning with my brother and sister and we get to school about 8.20am. I've been coming to Clock House since Year 2 and I can remember I was scared when I first started getting the bus – I was about six or seven – but I soon settled into it.

CAPTIONS

1 Fia loves gymnastics and her favourite subjects are Art and English

2 Meet our new House Captains and Vice Captains



Inter-House Cross Country Competition

Throughout the first half term, Years 5 and 6 were learning about health-related exercise. It was hoped that studying health-related exercise would both educate and kick-start fitness after the lockdown period and summer break.



Pen Pals

As we are not currently able to hold whole-school house meetings, Mrs Robertshaw-Hughes thought it would be lovely for the children to pair up with a pen pal. Every child was assigned a 'buddy' from a different year group but from the same house team.

During house meeting sessions, the children then excitedly wrote postcards introducing themselves to their buddies and asking them questions about themselves. Once the postcards had been quarantined, they were then exchanged. There was a real buzz in the classrooms when the postcards arrived!

Finlay, in Year 2, shared his enthusiasm about the scheme: 'I was really excited to find out about my buddy. It is good idea to have a buddy that we can write to because there is someone in another class that we can talk to if we need help with anything.'

In Year 3, the children used the postcards to develop their speaking and listening skills. They took it in turns to read their cards to each other. 'I liked reading all about my buddy. It's great that we can message each other because we are not able to meet with our house teams like we normally can,' said Jinnah, in Year 3.

“...”
I like reading all
about my buddy.

Since the first communications, the children have been working hard during their computing lessons to develop their knowledge of online safety. They have been learning how to communicate, using email and Microsoft Teams, with other people safely. Pupils felt that electronic methods of communication would be a great vehicle to enable them to stay in touch. Before composing their emails, they discussed the important online safety information on the display in the computer room.

Next half term, the children will continue to write their letters – they all felt that it is a great way to stay in touch with other classes. The children in Years 2 and 3 are already looking forward to receiving their next letter!

BY P TATHAM, JUNIOR SCHOOL TEACHER

Year 6 pupils have been studying the work of the French impressionist artist, Claude Monet. Impressionism is a style of painting which began in the 1860s, where artists started to paint their pictures outside, rather than in studios, as they were interested in capturing a moment in time in their paintings.

Year 6 Art



- 1 Louisa M
- 2 Addison S
- 3 Jasmine H
- 4 Katy H
- 5 Lizzie P
- 6 Isobel T

During our art lessons, the children have been experimenting with colour mixing, using acrylic paints to try and recreate some of Monet's most famous artwork. These examples are based on his series of water lily paintings from his water garden in Giverny. His water lily pictures are some of the most celebrated paintings of his career and have an abstract feel, as the pond fills the canvas with colour and light. The children copied his quick, brushstrokes of paint, which is characteristic of the impressionist style, as the artists needed to work quickly because of the changing light conditions.

BY S MORLEY, TEACHER OF ART



Flac Age

CAPTIONS

- 1-2 Well done to all Year 5 and 6 pupils who took part in an inter-house cross country competition
- 3-4 Clock House pupils in Years 2 and 3 enjoyed communicating with their buddies!

The overall results were as follows:

- Year 6**
- 1st Founders
- 2nd Bradford
- 3rd Royal
- 4th Freeman

- Year 5**
- 1st Freeman
- 2nd Royal
- 3rd Bradford
- 4th Founders

BY G JONES, HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL PE & GAMES



CAPTIONS

1-2 Year 2 pupils really enjoyed going on a Bear Hunt earlier this term

3-6 Some incredible work by our Year 5 scientists



We're Going on a Bear Hunt

As part of their studies, 'From our world to our school', Year 2 pupils have been learning how to read and follow a map.

In order to test our new-found skills, a Bear Hunt was set up around the grounds of Clock House. In teams, the class had to identify areas located on the map, go to each area and write down the name of the storybook bear they found there.

It was a great way to test ourselves and being outdoors meant that we were not only learning, but were also physically active, helping to improve our health and wellbeing.

BY H SMITH, YEAR 2 TEACHER

We Are Scientists

Year 5 pupils have been working hard this term learning about light and how our eyes see.

They have created wonderful models, built accurate periscopes, crafted colourful kaleidoscopes and devised some fantastic light mazes. Through their creations, they have been able to prove that light travels in straight lines.

BY C ORVISS, JUNIOR SCHOOL
DEPUTY HEAD (ACADEMIC)

“...”

Through their creations, they have been able to prove that light travels in straight lines.



Harvest Appeal

This year's Harvest Appeal once again supported the Bradford Metropolitan Food Bank (BMF) by collecting tins, packets and jars of non-perishable foodstuffs.

BMF is the longest established food bank in the city (started in 2004) and is run entirely by volunteers, with overheads kept to a bare minimum. They receive donations from the Bradford community to assemble food bags which are distributed by professional groups supporting those in need in the local area. About 1,500 bags each month are handed out to organisations like housing associations, advice centres, community centres, childcare providers, the probation service, doctors, ministers, imams, headteachers and various charities.

Members of the BGS Interact Club collected and packed up enough crates of food to fill two school minibuses, which the BGS Estates Team then delivered to the depot in Little Germany during half term. The food bank thanked the School for 'a simply staggering effort!'

READ MORE ...
bradfordgrammar.com/news



“...”

I am writing on behalf of Bradford Metropolitan Food Bank, to thank you all very much indeed for the simply staggering collection of food that you recently donated to us. I cannot remember a time when a school that donated to us actually brought what they collected in two whole minibuses – this is a generous achievement that you can all be proud of!

Quoted from a letter of thanks from the Bradford Metropolitan Food Bank



Hloc Age

20 / 21

Community

Faiths in the City

'Faiths in the City' is an annual day of faith activities for our Year 9 pupils and a celebration of religious faith in Bradford and beyond. The event involves faith communities opening a window into the world of their distinctive practices and beliefs through active workshops held around the school. This year the theme was 'religions working together'. Pupils really enjoyed collaborating with the different faith leaders.

The workshops this year included a Hindu dance workshop led by Shrikant who taught a classical Indian dance based on Krishna. Year 9 were certainly put through their paces! The Riding Lights Christian Theatre Company from York began the day with a filmed performance especially for the School which focused on Christian morality, justice, forgiveness and healing. The Christian drama workshop was fabulous exploring The Parable of the Good Samaritan and pupil responses to how we can help others in our community. It was fantastic to also have Mike de Villiers with us on the day who helped our pupils to understand the multifaith outreach of Bradford Cathedral and their ongoing projects in the Cathedral. The Islamic calligraphy workshop was led by Razwan, who inspired the pupils to make traditional calligraphy designs using traditional bamboo materials. The Sikh workshop allowed pupils to learn about key Sikh beliefs as well as Sikh musical performances on the dhol and the harmonium. Finally, the Buddhist workshops were enlightening and thought provoking (and with the opportunity for a lot of meditation!).

'Faiths in the City' was richly rewarding and stimulating for pupils, celebrating and exploring the richness and diversity of faith in our community.

CAPTIONS

1 Members of the BGS Interact Club helped to pack up the donations which filled two minibuses!

2-4 Year 9 enjoyed a variety of workshops for our annual 'Faiths in the City' event



Meet our Head Prefects

We caught up with Shaan A and Hannah C to find out how they have settled into their new roles as Head Prefects and to discover a little more about their time and experiences at BGS. Having both joined in Year 2, they had lots of memories to share! They truly are great ambassadors of BGS.



What made you want to be a Head Prefect?

Shaan BGS has provided me with so many incredible opportunities and has made me into the person I am today. The position of Head Prefect allows me to give back to the School and to represent BGS to the best of my ability.

Hannah I've so many memories of being at BGS. To get the chance to be Head Girl seemed like the cherry on top of my BGS experience! I have always tried to be involved in many aspects of School life and felt I would have the knowledge that would be useful in the role, as well as being hugely supportive of School to want to do the role well.

How did you find the application process?

Shaan I nominated myself and wrote an application for why I would like to be a School prefect. A vote then took place involving students and teachers. Following that, there was an interview for the Head Prefect position. I was able to explain exactly why I wanted to be Head Prefect, and seeing as though I represent the School, it was only right that everyone else had a say in the prefect selection process too.

Hannah I think that the process of applying was very fair and had the correct balance of both student and staff input. It wasn't too formal or scary, but it did give me some insight into what a professional interview is like and it was all very good experience for later on in life!

How did you feel when you found out you were Head Prefects?

Shaan I was lost for words. I have always strived for the position, ever since I could remember at BGS. I've walked past the Head Prefect board every day, for ten years now. Seeing my name on it was an incredible feeling.

Hannah I felt really proud. It was a really special moment, as I know that there were so many amazing candidates in my year group so for the teachers to have believed in and chosen me felt like a real achievement. I also felt excited to begin the role and to represent the student body in the best way possible.

What duties have you undertaken so far in your roles?

Shaan I've helped run water stations at lunchtime for other students to fill up their water bottles during the pandemic. I've also made a speech at Founders' Day, spoken on virtual Open Day and the virtual Sixth Form Open Event. The Senior Prefect team and I have also done a whole school assembly.

Hannah This year's Head Prefect duties have been slightly different due to the current situation we are in. However, we've still been busy. We've worked with the other Senior Prefects to create virtual assemblies, formed new lunchtime stations where pupils can come to fill up their water bottles, been involved

in filming the school's first ever virtual Open Day and we've even been models for the BGS-branded face masks!

What is the most exciting part of your role?

Shaan I've grown to enjoy making speeches. When speaking and representing school, I feel a healthy pressure to perform well. This, and the feeling of success that follows it, is quite exciting.

Hannah My favourite part of the role is being able to talk to and reach out to younger students, despite it being virtual this year. I've always tried to be a good role model as there were older students who I looked up to when I was younger. I also find it exciting that I'm able to be the voice of other students. Working together with Shaan and the Senior Leadership Team is a great opportunity.

How do you think you both complement each other?

Shaan Hannah and I have been friends since Year 2. We grew up together and were both captains of our House in Junior School. We both have a strong desire to represent BGS the best that we can, and I can't think of anyone better to be Head Prefect with.

Hannah Shaan and I have been in many classes together right from the start, so it is nice to have a familiar face to work with. I think we complement each other well – we both have the same passion for the school and the same drive to do the role as best as we can. Shaan is a great leader and I've found the first half term of working alongside him really great.

“...”
BGS is more than a School, it's a community and a family.

Shaan

“...”

I think the in-School support that we get from teachers is really special ...

Hannah



What are your favourite BGS memories?

Shaan I joined in 2009, so have lots of memories! The residential and ski trips are some of my favourite memories. The amazing teachers and my friends have made all of my experiences incredible. Playing rugby for the A-team throughout school has been brilliant and we have travelled around the country and abroad with the BGS badge proudly on our shirts. The feeling of winning games are memories I'll never forget!

Hannah I also joined when I was six years old, in Year 2. There have been so many amazing memories: the residential trips in Clock House (Junior School), the music concerts, the competitive sports fixtures, the ski trips, the fashion show – I could go on! Just having the opportunity to spend time with my friends and doing new, exciting activities at so many different events is something I will never forget.

What do you like most about BGS?

Shaan The teachers and their desire to help me with whatever issues I've faced over the past ten years. BGS is more than a School, it's a community and a family. That's where we are unique. The teachers always go the extra mile.

Hannah Aside from the opportunities that we get outside the classroom (music, sport, trips), I think the in-School support that we get from teachers is really special. There is never a time when a teacher will turn you away. They are always there to listen, to help and to do as much as they can to support you, whether it be in your school work, your friendship groups or your personal life. We are all really lucky to have the support that we do and it's something that I think is really unique to BGS.

How else do you embrace School life? Are you involved in any co-curricular activities?

Shaan I've represented school at mock trial competitions, at rugby, swimming, cricket and in projects such as the Bradford City of Culture bid and Anne Frank memorial project. I also volunteer at a homework club and teaching Year 4 rugby. I've also flown a plane with the CCF, which was amazing.

Hannah I've had a go at many different activities over the years, my success at them has definitely been varied but I've tried! I now play netball, training three times a week. It's such a great way to spend time with friends, to get fit and to de-stress. I'm also in Senior Choir and I have singing lessons at school, meeting once a week, which is really fun.

What will you miss most about BGS?

Shaan I will miss all of my friends and my teachers. The amazing experiences that I've had here are something that I'll remember forever. I'm glad that my brother in Year 6 will be able to experience it, just as I have.

Hannah There are a lot of things I'll miss! Definitely my friends – I've made friends for life here and it will be so strange not seeing them every day! I'll also miss the sense of community that there is at School and all the extra-curricular activities – I hope that I will find these when I move on to university, but I will never forget the memories I've made at BGS. I'll definitely stay in touch!

CAPTIONS
1-2 Head Prefects
Shaan and Hannah
joined BGS in Year
2 and had lots of
memories to
share with us



CAPTIONS

- 1 Community dentist and Old Bradfordian Linzi Maybin (2007) delivered an insightful Beyond BGS Careers Talk. A passionate advocate for access to healthcare, Linzi was delighted to join us to share her perspectives and take questions.
- 2 We were delighted to welcome popular TV doctor and Old Bradfordian Dr Amir Khan (1999) back to BGS to deliver a special talk to some of our Sixth Form students
- 3 Our Year 7 pupils enjoyed earning their 'Passport to Europe' on the 'European Day of Languages'
- 4 Year 13 student Freddie B experimenting with one of the telescopes generously donated to the Physics department



Beyond BGS: Virtual Careers Talks

Towards the end of last term, we launched a new, online series of careers talks for our students: Beyond BGS.

Old Bradfordians and friends of BGS from a range of disciplines have been leading on virtual Q&A sessions for our Sixth Form students, discussing their respective careers and offering insights into topics such as applying for university, why they chose their career, where it has led them, and what their work life is like in their current field.

We have been lucky to receive talks from a variety of speakers ranging from a retail and property consultant, professional musician and West End leading lady, to dentists, doctors, entrepreneurs and a Junior Policy Analyst working for the OECD. We look forward to welcoming more Old Bradfordians back for talks, throughout the rest of the school year.

“...”

We look forward to welcoming more Old Bradfordians back for talks, throughout the rest of the school year.

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European Day of Languages

The Modern Languages department celebrated the 'European Day of Languages' in September with an array of quizzes and activities in French, German, Spanish and Italian.

Year 7 pupils earned their 'Passport to Europe', learning about each of the countries which make up the European Union. Year 8 pupils completed language quizzes in their French and German lessons and Year 9 pupils were set the challenge of finding words in French, German and Spanish which start with the first letters of the word 'languages' in English as well, with both words having the same meaning. Year 12 students, who are learning Italian as part of Enrichment, were set a similar challenge, using the word 'italiano', all the more difficult as they had only been learning Italian for three weeks at the time!

Everyone enjoyed participating and we are looking forward to 2021's celebrations already.

Telescopes donated by Old Bradfordian to Physics department

The Physics department was thrilled to receive the generous donation of two astronomical telescopes from Old Bradfordian Mark Hardaker (1975).

The Celestron-C8 Schmidt-Cassegrain reflecting telescope (200mm) and the Astromaster-76 (76mm) Newtonian reflecting telescope will be valuable additions to the resources used in the teaching of Astronomy at BGS. They will give all BGS pupils the chance to have a hands-on experience and understand how astronomers study the wonders of the universe.

