

Bradford
Grammar
School

SPRING
2021

CHALLENGE 03-05
ARTS 06-08
COMMUNITY 09-10
JUNIORS 11-16
LIFE 17-20

Mac Age

Sixth Form student signs for Yorkshire CCC Academy

CONTINUED ON PAGE 03

Will L, is celebrating after securing a contract with the Yorkshire County Cricket Club Academy at Headingley, Leeds ...

Feature





Welcome from the Headmaster

I hope this latest edition of 'Hoc Age' finds you and your family in good health and spirits.

I write these words in what we anticipate might be the final two weeks of lockdown learning. You are likely to be reading them at a time when school life is returning to near 'normal' – but nothing is now taken for granted!

The past year has been tough on everyone, in particular our young people. The shadow of the pandemic will be long, but I am proud of our students and my colleagues and how they have acquitted themselves and worked together this past year. Equally, I am thankful for the support of our BGS families, Old Bradfordians, benefactors and the wider circle of the BGS family. It remains a rare privilege to lead this great and historic school, particularly at a time when we have shown some mettle, drive and care for each other and our community.

Lockdowns did not put a stopper in BGS life, as this magazine attests. In many ways we emerge from the effects of the pandemic in better shape than before, for example reflecting advances in the use of technology and collaborative endeavours between BGS colleagues and

families. Meanwhile, we have been steadily raising additional funds for means tested Assisted Places to enable access to BGS for the widest possible cross section of society, a laudable ambition that has long been a pillar of BGS purpose and identity, setting us apart from others. More of that in due course.

I am sure you will enjoy reading what follows as we say a heartfelt 'well done' to BGS students of all ages for the character they continue to show, writ large in the pages that follow.



Simon Hinchliffe

Dr Simon Hinchliffe

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“...”

I love cricket. When you have a good day it's really enjoyable, especially when you're with your teammates. Getting an academy contract at Yorkshire was amazing.

The keen cricketer has signed a year's contract and is hoping to make a career out of the sport when he leaves BGS later this year.

Said the 17-year-old: 'I've been playing cricket since I was two-years-old – as soon as I could pick up a bat – and I've enjoyed playing sport at BGS. The facilities are great with the new nets and Mr Kellett is a really good coach.'

'I love cricket. When you have a good day it's really enjoyable, especially when you're with your teammates. Getting an academy contract at Yorkshire was amazing. I'd love to play pro for Yorkshire one day, and if not Yorkshire then for a different county.'

While the pandemic saw training cancelled for a few months during the first lockdown, Will said he and his Yorkshire Academy teammates had enjoyed training with some of the professional cricketers at Yorkshire during the summer.

'Training with the pro players at the club was really good for us,' he recalled. 'Now I'm looking forward to our first match in mid-April.'



Race ace Oliver's Tour de Yorkshire ambitions

Year 11 BGS pupil, Oliver P, is looking forward to resuming his national cycling ambitions as soon as restrictions around the COVID pandemic are lifted.

Oliver was encouraged to start cycling aged 12 by his dad and soon began competing in races in his native Yorkshire.

Now aged 15, he regularly secures top three placings in national competitions and has taken part in races in Belgium, Scotland and the Isle of Man.

Said Oliver: 'I started competing straight away and worked my way up to bigger races. I really enjoy how it's just yourself against all these other people. It is a very independent sport, but I love it.'

'I train about five to six times a week. I have lots of friends that I go out with and Yorkshire is great for hills so it's a good place to be for training.'

“...”

My ambition is to ride in the Tour de Yorkshire ...

'My ambition is to ride in the Tour de Yorkshire one day and secure a place on a team abroad.'



Putting the FUN into Fundraising!

Sport and fundraising are both integral parts of life at BGS. Despite the restrictions that COVID-19 has posed, our rugby, netball and hockey teams have been creative and kept themselves active whilst raising funds for their chosen charities and future tours.

Rugby

COVID-19 put a halt to many things in 2020/21, but it didn't stop the '#Big5 Migration to Africa' – a challenge led by the Year 10 and 11 rugby boys. Five ambitious herds/prides of Rhinos, Buffalos, Elephants, Leopards and Tigers set off on Thursday 28 January, under their own steam, to cover the 7,799 miles to get from BGS to Cape Town, Africa!

As a collective, they made it after only three weeks and two days! This was a superb effort by all participants who took part in this first phase. The Buffalos covered the most mileage and had the most team entries, whilst the Lions recruited the most members.

The pupil who covered the most miles was Ben H and the captain who recruited the most members was George H. Unsurprisingly, Old Bradfordian Jonny Brownlee (2008) was the non-pupil who covered the most miles (a whopping 657 miles)!

116 people took part in the challenge, with some other notable athletes joining in, including OBS Charlie Hodgson (1999) and Abby-Mae Parkinson (2014), and ex-England rugby players Jamie Noon and Tom May.

BY D SCARBROUGH, SPECIALIST SPORTS COACH, RUGBY

Netball

Unfortunately, like many events this past year, our annual BGS Netball Parents' Association Christmas Fair was cancelled. However, we were able to run an online Auction of Promises in an attempt to raise some of the funds we would normally raise with the fair. With the help of our supportive BGS community, we raised a total of £1,563.

Following the postponement of our senior netball tour to South Africa and the cancellation of our second large annual fashion show fundraiser, we are currently undertaking an ambitious challenge: to walk, run, bike or swim the distance from Manchester Airport to Johannesburg Airport before the end of March. In the first week, we covered a fantastic 1,111.2km – a brilliant start!

The link to our Just Giving page and more information can be found on our Twitter page [@bgsnetball](#). We would like to extend a huge thank you to all who continue to support the netball programme here at BGS.

BY A SMITH, SPECIALIST SPORTS COACH, NETBALL

Hockey

BGS hockey pupils have looked to make the most of their time without fixtures by raising funds for future tours at BGS.

Almost all teams have been fundraising; our U16 girls decided to run/cycle from BGS to Rotterdam, a total of 491 miles inside just six days! The distance was split between just 15 girls. Silvie R completed the most mileage in the week, with 70 miles, which was an incredible effort! The group raised an amazing £795, which will go towards their next touring opportunity.

Our Seniors will be hosting a 12-hour hockey fundraising match with 30 pupils, aiming to raise funds for the Hockey Parents' Association who help support the hockey at BGS. Lastly, our U14 girls, whose tour to Rotterdam was postponed in October 2020, have been running a hamper raffle with the aim of raising money for when they are able to go! A great effort by all, well done!

BY D BIRCH, SPECIALIST SPORTS COACH, HOCKEY



Funky Friday Live Fitness Sessions

Throughout the spring term, Years 7 and 8 saw their regular Friday Games lesson replaced with a live fitness session, keeping them active, both at home and at school.

These energetic sessions were greatly attended, with 60-80 pupils from each year group working hard and engaging on a weekly basis, with the focus on exercise, movement and progress in their physical literacy.

Sessions included creative animal movements and circuits developing athletic motor skills such as lower and upper body strength, core stability, jumping, rebounding mechanics and cardiovascular fitness. The inclusion of fitness challenges, with one week themed as 'Have you got the brainz, to match your fitness gainz?' involved one minute exercise challenges quickly followed by a problem solving and critical thinking puzzle to solve, creating competition and interest for our pupils.

'A healthy body, is a healthy mind.'

BY B NABOZNY, SPECIALIST SPORTS COACH, STRENGTH & CONDITIONING

“...”
A healthy body,
is a healthy mind.

CAPTIONS

- 1 Year 8 netballers are happy to start back with Saturday training
- 2 Hockey fundraising
- 3 Rugby at BGS
- 4 & 5 Mr Nabozny leading his Funky Friday live fitness sessions for Years 7 and 8

Hoc Age

“...”

The spring term saw a return to remote rehearsals ...

A real highlight was our virtual Christmas Concert. This looked very different to our normal, large-scale event, but it was appreciated by parents and pupils alike and managed to capture some of that famous Hoc Age spirit! Many thanks to Oliver Stokes, our Music Graduate, for editing the concert together, Mr Dutton for his filming work and our visiting music teachers for running the ensembles.

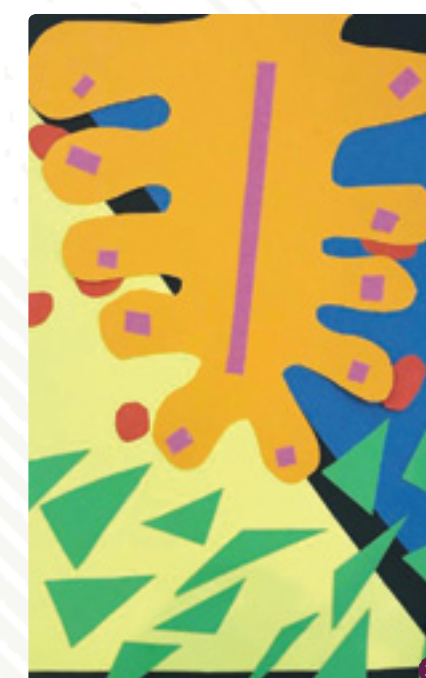
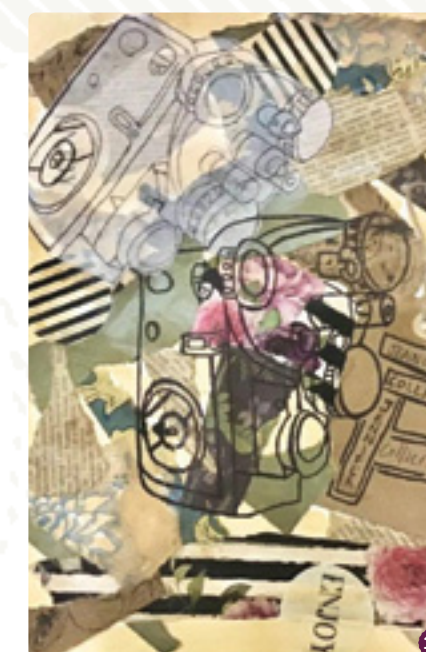
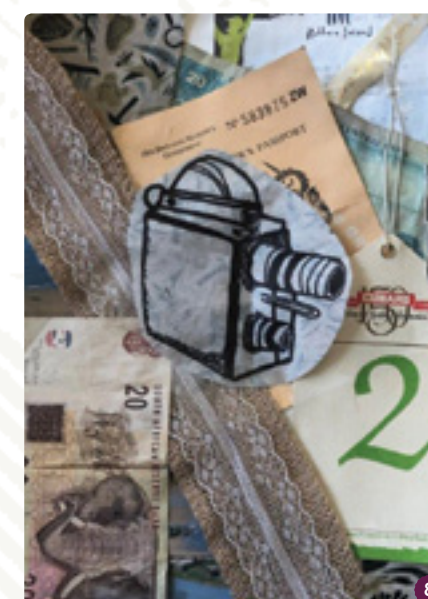
In December, we also ran three days of music examinations. These were in a different format as we took advantage of Trinity College of Music's new digital examinations. Students had to perform their pieces and scales as usual, but with no guidance or prompts from an examiner, it was impressive to see students work their way through their examinations independently. A great showing of resilience and perseverance. Congratulations to all involved, and on a terrific set of results; 12 distinctions, 14 merits and three passes.

Individual music lessons have been continuing as they did in the first lockdown, remotely via Microsoft Teams. I have greatly enjoyed hearing stories about these lessons, interactions music teachers have had with parents, and the enthusiasm of Mr Roberts' pupils particularly!

The spring term saw a return to remote rehearsals as we entered another national lockdown. The Senior Choir spent the half term working on 'Seasons of Love' from the musical Rent and a brand-new SATB arrangement of the TikTok viral sea shanty 'The Wellerman'. Junior Choir have performed the very appropriate 'Here Comes the Sun', and 'This is Me' from The Greatest Showman. Senior and Junior Brass Group also went online, as did Senior Strings, and these rehearsals were well attended and productive, albeit a slightly strange experience online!

And so we turn our thoughts to our remaining concerts this year – while (at the time of writing) we are sadly unable to have a live audience in School, we are already planning a fitting tribute to our Year 13 musicians next term with solo items and ensemble recordings. Watch this space!

BY E WHITE, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



Artists of the term ...

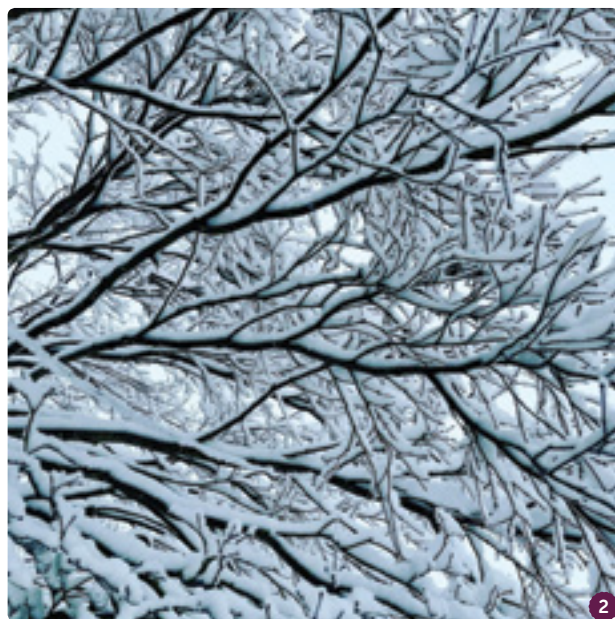
- 1 Harry B, Year 10
- 2 Rufus B, Year 7
- 3 Ava R, Year 8
- 4 Maryam C, Year 8
- 5 Carla B, Year 10
- 6 Charity C, Year 10
- 7 Tamarai T, Year 9
- 8 Charlie W, Year 8
- 9 Alaina A, Year 10
- 10 Ibrahim E, Year 8
- 11 Laura T, Year 7

CAPTIONS
1 Senior Choir performing at the Virtual Christmas Concert



News from the Music Department

At the end of last term, we were able to run a significant number of socially distanced music ensembles in School. Although our large ensembles are unable to run at the moment, our smaller ensembles ensured that everyone had the opportunity to make music together, whether in instrumental groups or choirs.



Year 7 Photography Competition

At the start of the spring term, Year 7 was challenged to take a photograph of 'winter'. With recent snow showers, pupils made very good use of their cameras!

The competition saw a lot of entries and a wide variety of different types of winter photographs, from dramatic landscapes to eye-catching portraits, with all entries capturing the mood of winter. It was a very difficult process for the judges (Dr Hinchliffe, Mrs Tomlinson, Mr Skelton and Mrs Alred) to decide the winners of the competition and those who were placed in the different photography categories.

BY R SKELTON, HEAD OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES



Community

The photographers who were given awards for their exceptional photos were ...

Overall winner

1 Hania P

Overall runner-up

2 Zara Z

Best landscape photograph

1st Place

3 Khadijah N

2nd Place

4 Erin B

3rd Place

5 Siya J

Best portrait photograph

1st Place

6 Millie C

2nd Place

7 Isobel B

3rd Place

8 Harry S

Best photo that captured the essence of winter

1st Place

9 Jessica T

2nd Place

10 Millie C

3rd Place

11 Aleena S

Hloc Age

08 / 09

Are we alone in the universe?

We were treated to an engaging and thought-provoking Open Science Lecture in March by Professor Brad Gibson, Director of the EA Milne Centre for Astrophysics at the University of Hull.

Following the landing of NASA's Perseverance rover on the surface of Mars to look for evidence of life, Prof Gibson took us through a journey examining the current evidence for and against us being alone in the universe. I'm sure all those who attended would agree that the lecture prompted a lot more questions; we await with eager anticipation the results of further explorations to other distant parts of the universe!

Keep an eye out for the summer Open Science Lecture which will be presented by Old Bradfordian Professor Andrew Carr (1977) from the University of Oxford Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre.

BY M LIVESY, TEACHER OF BIOLOGY & CHEMISTRY

“...”
Professor Gibson took us through a journey examining the current evidence for and against us being alone in the universe.

CAPTIONS

1 Professor Brad Gibson treated us to an insightful virtual Open Science Lecture



CAPTIONS

- 1 OB Peter Higgins (1981) paid a visit to BGS to promote the work of the charity Mary's Meals
- 2 Sixth Form students helped deliver some treats to some of our local Old Bradfordians

Fundraising for Mary's Meals exceeds £20K target!

In December, OB Peter Higgins (1981) paid a visit to BGS to promote the work of the charity Mary's Meals. Peter last visited BGS in 2015 and since then the School has supported this wonderful charity, donating funds via a **BGS giving page**.

Peter's assemblies to four Senior School year groups were followed by a live-streamed assembly to Clock House, and an entertaining talk for older students entitled 'How to run your own business'. He made it clear how much difference even small donations can make – in Malawi just £9 covers the cost of school dinners for a child accessing a full year's education.

Over Christmas, the Department for International Development matched all donations made to Mary's Meals, so the £3,000 raised by BGS families following Peter's visit was worth double that to the charity. The total raised by School over the past five years has now exceeded £20,500!

BY J CHAPMAN, ASSISTANT HEAD (PASTORAL)

READ MORE ABOUT MARY'S MEALS ...
<http://bit.ly/about-marys-meals>



DONATE VIA THE BGS GIVING PAGE ...
<http://bit.ly/BGS-Giving-Page>



BGS Befriending Scheme

In the wake of the first national lockdown, the School launched a campaign to combat social isolation amongst self-isolating Old Bradfordians. Twelve trained volunteers (consisting of current students, recent school leavers and a BGS parent), took to the phones to chat, offer practical support, and alleviate loneliness amongst the over 65s.

Students did their best to maintain these connections as the coronavirus crisis continued, culminating in a Christmas drop-off of goodies made by our Executive Chef Dean Winter to locally based Old Bradfordians.



More than 220 Old Bradfordians were also sent Christmas messages from students, which informally launched something of a pen pal arrangement! Many Old Bradfordians have written back to share their memories of school and offer advice and perspectives about life, the universe, and more besides!

“...”
The campaign continued into 2021, thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of our students ...

The campaign continued into 2021, thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of our students – all keen to support those who came before them. In February, ten student volunteers took to the phones, reaching out once again to chat to more than 360 Old Bradfordians, offering them support during the latest lockdown.

Junior Year



Bradford Grammar School

JUNIORS

SPRING 2021

EVENTS
VISITS
LIFE



Old Bradfordian and visual effects producer Umar Hussain (2010) has worked on films such as 'The Lion King' and the recent 'Star Wars' trilogy. He was delighted to virtually return to School to deliver an insightful careers talk to our Year 5 children.



Welcome from the Junior School Headmaster

Welcome to our Spring Term edition of the 'Hoc Age' magazine.

“...”
Enjoy reading this edition of the magazine ...

I continue to be amazed by our generation of young learners and the progress they are making during challenging times. Children across the world have experienced a period of 'Hokey Cokey' education where they have been in school, out of school and back in again! The real skill of the Clock House children and their teachers has been their ability to change tracks at short notice whilst maintaining momentum.

Despite the challenges, I am sure this generation of young learners will have developed many skills and attributes which will offer them unique advantages later in life. Their digital literacy has flourished and we now have six-year-olds confidently navigating their way around Office 365.

Whilst learning remotely this term, the Clock House children have continued to grasp the opportunities available to them and engage with their teachers. I hope you enjoy hearing from two of our young learners in the 'day in the life' section.

Enjoy reading this edition of the magazine: I hope it gives you a flavour of the learning taking place in our School, from the wonderful Year 4 work on polar explorers, to the all-round sporting successes in PE and much more in between.

Richard Ribeiro

Mr Richard Ribeiro
Junior School Headmaster

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Clock House Careers Talks

This term, Mrs Orviss and I wanted to use our year group assemblies to connect with the wider BGS community. We got in contact with the Development Office, who asked for Old Bradfordian volunteers to share their experiences/careers with the children. To date, we have had three amazing careers talks and the children have loved every second!

The first talk was with Molly Orviss (2015). Molly reminisced about the time she travelled and worked in a Fijian School. The children were fascinated to find out about life in Fiji, noticing the similarities and differences to their own experiences.

The second presentation was delivered by Liz Heard (2014) who works for Planet Patrol. They focus on setting up projects to help protect the environment. Liz talked about first volunteering for the company and impressing them with her dedication, which led to her role as Project Coordinator.

The third and most recent talk was with Umar Hussain (2010), who now works for Industrial Light & Magic (part of Lucasfilm & Disney) as a visual effects producer. Umar worked hard to climb the visual effects ladder and has had the privilege of working on films such as 'Guardians of the Galaxy', 'The Lion King', and the recent 'Star Wars' trilogy.

BY A BUCKLEY, JUNIOR SCHOOL TEACHER

and having the chance to spend time with others. A supermarket sweep game was particularly popular and saw children racing around their respective homes!

All of the children took part in special lessons throughout the week where they shared their ways of expressing themselves. The children enjoyed one another's presentations which included musical performances, wood whittling and dancing. The whole week culminated in an 'Express Yourself' day with the chance to wear whatever the children chose and an enormous assembly sharing their efforts.

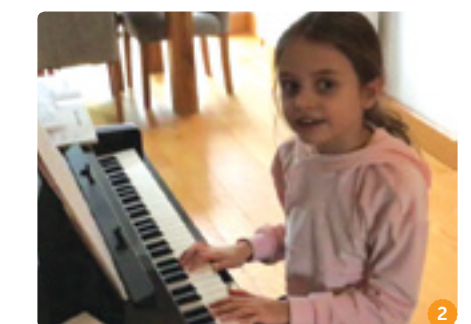
BY F ROBERTSHAW HUGHES,
DEPUTY HEAD (PASTORAL)

Children's Mental Health Week

This year, perhaps more than any other, Children's Mental Health Week was a very important event for Clock House children.

We wanted to make it a supportive event which celebrated the unique strength and determination that our children have demonstrated.

Time to Talk, a whole school live social meeting, was enjoyed by approximately 60 children who enjoyed chatting, playing games



Hoc Age

CAPTIONS

1 Old Bradfordian Umar Hussain (2010) delivered an insightful careers talk to Clock House pupils

2 Alice in Year 3 shared a virtual musical performance for Children's Mental Health Week

6 May
Virtual Open Event

Get Social

Search for 'Bradford Grammar School' and follow us for the latest news and information relating to the school ...



8 June
Sports Day

15 June
Young Voices –
The Big Sing

15 June
New Pupils' Day

23 June
Grandparents' Day

1 July
Prize Giving

*Events may be subject to change



CAPTIONS
1 Remote learners –
Ingrid and Morgan

Day in the life of remote learners – Morgan and Ingrid

Two of our Clock House
pupils share their experiences
of remote learning ...

“...”
We get all the support
that we need ...

Morgan, Year 4

‘Lessons are the same as in school, from 9am to 3.20pm and they’re around 40 minutes long. Every day we will have maths and English and they’re always a live lesson. In Design Technology we’ve been designing masks for a carnival in Rio!

‘We have registration every day just like we do in school. Last week our class teacher was at home and took registration while feeding one of her lambs live, so that was fun!

‘I like my virtual piano and drum lessons and I enjoy form time with my class teacher too. I like all of the lessons. We get all the support that we need and we can always talk to our teachers if we need any help.

‘Outside of school, Ingrid and I like doing Joe Wicks’ workouts. We started in the first lockdown and we’ve kept on doing it. He has a quiz on a Wednesday and he’s very funny. It makes you feel better after you’ve done it.

‘I miss seeing my friends and doing sports like swimming. We’re both missing our teachers too and we’re looking forward to getting back to school. We’ve been sledging and had snowball fights which has been good fun.’

Ingrid, Year 2

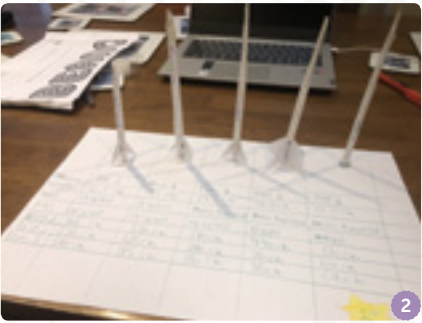
‘We’re quite used to remote learning now. We didn’t have any cameras on when we first started, so we couldn’t see our friends, whereas now we can.

‘My favourite lesson is art and I also enjoy the weekly assemblies with the whole school where awards are given out. I have Mrs Morley for art and she’ll show us the first step and we copy that and then we do the rest.

‘I also like my virtual piano lessons and I enjoy some of the live science experiments. We just did one to show how germs can still be left on your hands even after you’ve washed them, using pepper!

‘For sport they set us tasks to do and we do some 60 second challenges every week. I do gymnastics outside of school and I’m looking forward to doing hockey, rugby and swimming when I get back. I miss my friends and I miss my teachers too. And I especially miss school dinners – pizza and fish and chips are my favourites!

‘The library is one of my favourite places at school and I’m looking forward to going back there and seeing my teachers. They give you so much support.’



Year 5 Space Cadets

During the spring term, our Year 5 scientists embarked on an astro-science challenge, which required them to complete seven space missions. The missions were all very different in nature, encompassing the varied skills and requirements of a true space cadet.

A blend of research and practical activities kept the children busy, as they learned about the range of challenges faced by astronauts in space; the cadets learned about space weather, analysed their own physical fitness and built and tested rockets. Cadet Finlay’s rockets were particularly impressive, showing attention to detail and precise construction.

One of the challenges saw the cadets having to complete a physical task whilst wearing gloves. Cadet Holly enjoyed playing her violin and piano in gloves – she earned her ‘Fit for Space’ badge!

We also really enjoyed seeing the cadets’ model solar systems, especially cadet Ellie’s, which was constructed from iced shortbread biscuits.

BY C ORVISS, JUNIOR SCHOOL DEPUTY HEAD (ACADEMIC)

Polar explorer gets in touch with Year 4 pupils

Back in the Autumn term, Year 4 embraced their topic of Polar climates and were fortunate enough to post hand written letters to intrepid explorers, including Mike Horn, one of the world’s greatest modern day adventurer-explorers, and British polar explorer Felicity Aston, who became the first woman to ski alone across Antarctica in 2012.

More recently, Year 4 were delighted to learn that accomplished Polar athlete and explorer since 1996, Rosie Stancer, had replied to them with a truthful and heart-warming letter about her incredible expeditions, including skiing solo to the South Pole in 2003, and in 2007, journeying alone over the surface of the frozen Arctic Ocean for 84 days.

BY L MARSDEN, JUNIOR SCHOOL TEACHER

READ A SAMPLE OF HER REPLY ...
<http://bit.ly/BGS-RosieStancer>



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ROSIE ...
<https://rosiesticancer.com/about-rosie/>



CAPTIONS
1 Ellie S created a solar system model out of biscuits!
2 Finlay T made some very impressive rockets
3 Holly B played her violin in gloves and earned her Fit for Space badge
4 Polar Explorer, Rosie Stancer
(© Martin Hartley)



Despite not being at School and the challenges that creates for the nature of teaching and learning PE, the PE staff team and the Junior School pupils have found lots of creative ways to remain active whilst in lockdown.

CAPTIONS
1-3 Alice, Finlay and Rebecca found creative ways to remain active during lockdown
4 Year 2 discovered what it was like to work in medicine in the mid-19th century

Clock House Remote PE Learning



In addition to family walks, cycle rides and runs, our pupils have spent this half term taking part in weekly 60 second challenges. In these they have been able to work throughout the week to reach targets and achieve medals in things such as plank, speed bounce, passing the ball around the legs in a figure of eight and so on ... Many of the children have been reporting their progress on 'Teams' chat and at times, the challenge has become quite competitive with pupils trying to beat their own or their classmates' scores.

We have also challenged pupils to complete a fitness session at home each week which has been delivered by various members of the PE department and in recent weeks we have really enjoyed seeing the pupils on a Friday afternoon for 'live' PE lessons.

Many of our fantastic home learners have used the time as an opportunity to 'skill up' in juggling, netball, hockey, tennis and rugby using the co-curricular resources provided by our Specialist Sports Coaches.

We have rewarded pupils' efforts with House Points and have been naming an 'Athlete of the Week' for each class every week. The 'Athletes of the Week' are commended for pushing themselves to reach their best in all the challenges, carrying out the fitness session as well as engaging in co-curricular activities.

It has been a brilliant effort from our children in the most difficult of circumstances and we are very proud of their motivation to stay active.

BY G JONES, HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL PE & GAMES



Year 2 learning achievements in lockdown

Age is no barrier to remote learning: even the youngest children at Clock House have adapted to the challenges that lockdown has brought to all. This didn't mean, however, that the fun had to be removed from learning.

During this half term, Year 2 discovered what it was like to work in medicine in the mid-19th century – stepping up to the high standards dictated by nursing pioneer Florence Nightingale, and learning about why health and hygiene are so important, especially at this current time.

They also 'skilled up' on their scientific knowledge of how and why soap works and imagined the medical developments they foresee for the future.

BY H SMITH, JUNIOR SCHOOL TEACHER



Library support during lockdown

'How can you run a school library when you are working from home?!' This is a question which all library staff have been asked since the start of the first lockdown – and it has been a challenge!

BGS is lucky to have such a fantastic and well-resourced library space in The Clarkson Library, and both library staff and students are missing being able to work and study there in the usual manner.

“...”

BGS is lucky to have such a fantastic and well-resourced library space ...

On our return to school back in September 2020, lots of changes had to be made to ensure a COVID-safe environment. Clock House pupils were still able to access the ground floor and borrow books during their weekly library lessons and Years 12 and 13 were able to utilise the study areas on the top floor in a socially distanced manner. 'It's the library Jim, but not as we know it!' A pop-up library stall appeared on The Link corridor for all other year groups to exchange books and since we have been back in lockdown this term, we've had lots of interaction with our keen readers by email. Library clubs and reading groups have now moved online, and we have also taken to **Instagram** and **Twitter**. We continue to develop **The Clarkson Library** web pages with study resources, competitions, virtual displays and lots of boredom-busting activities. Do take a look!

BY S O'CONNOR, LIBRARY ASSISTANT



CAPTIONS
1 Marcus Mackenzie (1983)
2 Mark Learmonth (1981)
3 Richard Punt (1984)



“...”
Parents and Sixth Form students can also access Beyond Bradford – our exclusive networking site for Old Bradfordians, which also offers opportunities for help and support in a wide variety of sectors.

beyondBradford

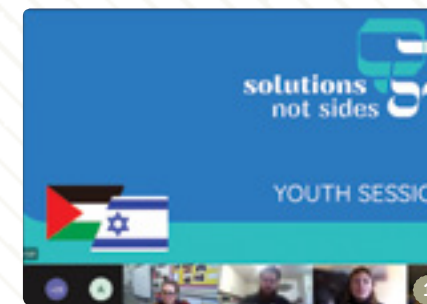
Beyond BGS

This term, pupils have continued to benefit from our regular ‘Beyond BGS’ Careers talks, held virtually over Microsoft Teams. We have been delighted to welcome back Old Bradfordians from a variety of careers, from the more traditional law and finance routes, to roles as diverse as the Head of Brand & Engagement at the International Paralympic Committee and the Head of Finance at Zimbabwe’s largest gold mine! This enables pupils to become more aware of what certain career paths might offer and involve, but also to realise the diverse opportunities available to them and the support available via the BGS network.

Parents and Sixth Form students can also access **Beyond Bradford** – our exclusive networking site for Old Bradfordians, which also offers opportunities for help and support in a wide variety of sectors. As part of our Higher Education program, we continue to host talks from universities and highlight the wide range of webinars and virtual courses available from Higher Education providers.

BY S FLAHERTY, HEAD OF HIGHER EDUCATION & CAREERS

VISIT BEYOND BRADFORD ...
www.beyondbradford.com



Personal Development programme goes virtual

This term’s lockdown has once again presented the challenge of maintaining the momentum of the School’s Personal Development programme online. Some year groups have been engaged with the Careers Education programme, with some looking at the changing nature of the world of work and the impact of the boom in AI technology, whilst others have explored Unifrog, a destinations platform that supports research into a range of careers and highlights key skills required in the workplace.

Our Year 11 pupils were given the opportunity to take part in a live virtual session with Solutions Not Sides (SNS), an education programme with whom the School has worked with for a number of years. SNS aims to provide humanising encounters, diverse narratives and critical-thinking tools to empower young people with the knowledge, empathy and skills needed to promote dialogue and conflict resolution, and to challenge prejudice in the UK.

The session gave pupils a chance to explore different perspectives from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Who would have believed that lockdown would be the stimulus for us to host guests live from Bethlehem and Nablus, as well as from Jerusalem and Ben Ami, Palestinians and Israelis, sharing their stories of growing up amid a violent conflict? The session offered positive messages to work hard to make a difference, build bridges and foster good relationships, no matter what challenges we might face. As humans we are all equal.

BY D CHALASHIKA, HEAD OF PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Year 7 Virtual Baking Club

The pupils who do ‘Handmade’ in Year 7 Activities have been able to complete various tasks despite being in lockdown. On 27 January they swapped their sewing machines for electric beaters and made ‘Chocolate Chip Cookies’ from the Hummingbird Bakery recipe book.

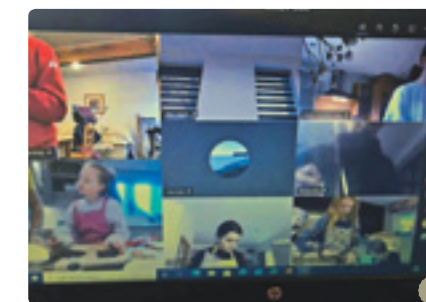
Each in their own kitchens, they created their masterpieces together over an hour – it was like a mini ‘bake off’! They even did the washing up together!

As you can see from the pictures, the end results were fabulous, and the pupils were able to enjoy their baked goods with their families.

Crafting and making have become very popular during lockdown – mindful activities are enriching and provide a much-needed break from screens.

BY E TOMLINSON, HEAD OF YEAR 7

TO VIEW THE HUMMINGBIRD BAKERY CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES RECIPE VISIT ...
<http://bit.ly/HB-cookies>



Flac Age

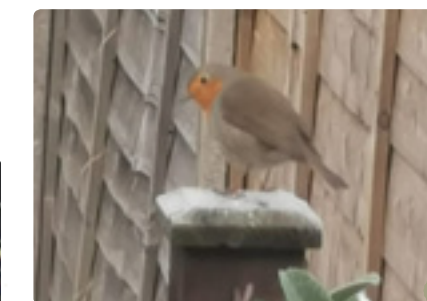
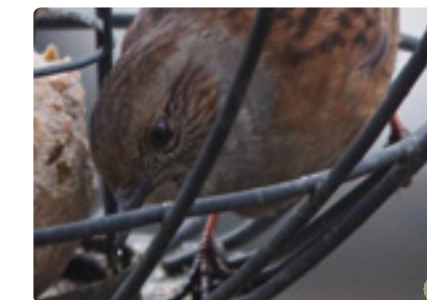
Year 7 take part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

Over the weekend of 29-31 January, Year 7 pupils and their families took part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. It was a welcome way to spend an hour outdoors (or at least looking at the great outdoors!) away from screens and recording findings.

Those in their gardens saw blue tits, robins, blackbirds and sparrows, whereas those on walks spotted pigeons, geese, moorhens and even a heron.

It has been reported that wildlife has flourished due to lockdown, with fewer people being out and about, and that was certainly what our Year 7 pupils found. The results of the nationwide survey are published at rspb.org.uk

BY E TOMLINSON, HEAD OF YEAR 7



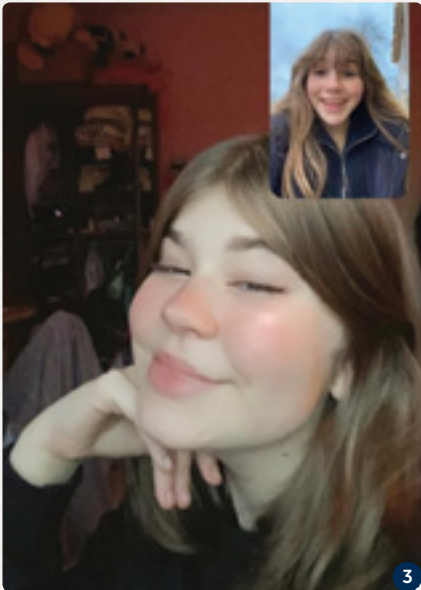
CAPTIONS
1 Year 11 pupils took part in a live virtual PD session with Solutions Not Sides
2-3 On 27 January, Year 7 ‘Handmade’ pupils swapped their sewing machines for electric beaters and took part in a mini ‘bake-off’, creating their masterpieces together and doing the washing up!
4-6 Year 7 pupils took to their gardens over the weekend of 29-31 January to take part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch



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Virtual French Exchange

CAPTIONS

1-4 This year's French Exchange for Years 9 and 10 went virtual, where pupils kept busy exchanging emails and messages with their French partners

5 Oxford University

6-7 Towards the end of last term, our Year 12 French students wrote Christmas cards to some French-Canadian care home residents, sending them some festive cheer – in French of course!

Our longstanding partnership with a collège in Auvergne, France had to move online this year, but that didn't deter our Year 9 and 10 pupils from participating.

More pupils than ever signed up to be paired with a French partner and they were soon busy exchanging emails and messages about their lives. Pupils communicated in a mixture of French and English to compare their experiences of lockdown as well as sharing details of what they did in the Christmas holidays and how they spend their free time.

We're looking forward to all being back in school so that we can make short videos of BGS to send to France. These photos were taken outside the house of one of the families in Auvergne, showing the impressive amounts of snowfall this year. It looks like we missed out on some good cross-country skiing!

BY L KINGSLEY, HEAD OF FRENCH

Trans-atlantique Christmas cheer in French

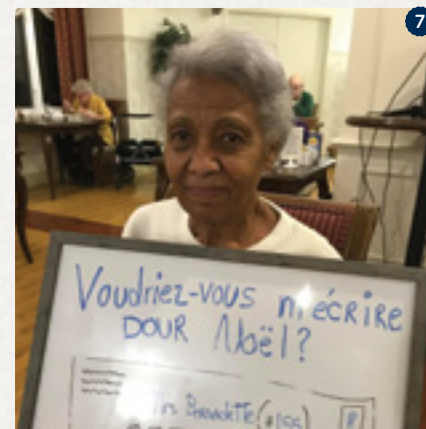
Towards the end of last term, our Year 12 French students spotted an appeal on social media from a French-Canadian care home for older residents.

They were asking for people to send Christmas cards to their French-speaking residents who were feeling isolated due to the COVID-pandemic and unable to see their families – our BGS French students leapt at the chance with touching enthusiasm. Each student chose a resident and wrote a friendly message, explaining how they would be spending the Christmas holidays and wishing the older person festive cheer – all in French of course!

BY L KINGSLEY, HEAD OF FRENCH



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La Fête des Rois

In our study of foreign languages, one of the most enjoyable elements is learning about the traditions and customs of life in the foreign country. One of the traditions we've recently learnt about in French is La Fête des Rois (Kings Day) which marks Epiphany.

On 6 January, families across France typically eat a Galette des Rois, a frangipane-filled tart which contains a hidden fève, a lucky charm. The person who finds the charm in their slice of cake is allowed to wear a crown and be king or queen for the day.

This year, we unfortunately couldn't share cakes in school, but our lovely French assistant Muriel shared a recipe with our A Level students and asked them to make their own version at home. The results were pretty amazing!

BY L KINGSLEY, HEAD OF FRENCH

Oxford and Cambridge University Success

In the current climate, it becomes increasingly challenging to secure an offer of a place to study at Oxford or Cambridge University. These highly prestigious universities only offer places to the most academically gifted students and it is, therefore, extremely impressive that nine of our current Year 13 students have received offers to study at Oxford and Cambridge, starting next academic year.

Three students have been offered a place to study at Oxford, reading French and Spanish, History and French respectively. Six students have been offered a place to study at Cambridge, to read Natural Sciences, Engineering, Music, History and History and Russian.

We would like to congratulate these nine students on their phenomenal success; BGS is very proud!

BY S DENBY, ASSISTANT HEAD OF HIGHER EDUCATION