



Bradford
Grammar
School

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The Bradfordian





The proof of our success is clear...

... and reflected in the continuity of education and care that our pupils have experienced in and out of lockdown, and also the positive mood and laughter when folk have been online together and on campus.

Dr Simon Hinchliffe
Headmaster
Extract from Virtual Speech Day 2021

For the full speech
please turn to page 07

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School Notes

From the Headmaster ...

Welcome to the 2021 edition of our whole school digest, 'The Bradfordian'.

It remains a privilege to be part of the Bradford Grammar School family as a parent and member of staff. From these complementary vantage points I can attest to the spirit and cooperative endeavour shown by our pupils, staff and parents this past year.

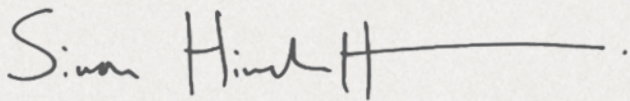
The pandemic has worn on and we have done our best to meet its attendant challenges. There is no sugar coating the difficulties we have shared and which in many senses are still with us. But there is no denying either that we have demonstrated some fortitude and confidence, supported each other by showing patience and understanding, lent a sympathetic ear and a helping hand, and kept smiling as much as possible. The proof of our success is clear and reflected in the continuity of education and care that our pupils have experienced in and out of lockdown, and also the positive mood and laughter when folk have been online together and on campus. Let's not forget that there have been lighter moments too this past year. Needless to say, I am proud of our School family and perhaps see with clearer sight than ever before the true value of education and community.

There is a quote that I like, one I have kept coming back to since March 2020. It's a well-known encouragement of sorts from an iconic film. It begins with 'The world ain't all sunshine and rainbows' but I particularly like the closing lines: 'If you know what you're worth, then go out and get what you're worth, but you gotta be willing to take the hits, and not pointing fingers saying you ain't where you wanna be because of him, or her, or anybody. Cowards do that and that ain't you! You're better than that!' ('Rocky Balboa', 2006).

These words as much as any seem apt to me, not just for present circumstances. And to Old Bradfordians of a certain vintage, please do not despair, for balance I'll be channelling Herodotus next week!

My grateful thanks are extended to Governors, colleagues, pupils and parents, Old Bradfordians, benefactors and friends of our School for everything you have contributed to BGS. We have continued to work hard on behalf of the pupils at our School, delivering the best education and best value we can muster to all BGS families. Our resolve to foster high aspirations and empower young people to make the most of every opportunity, thus enriching their own lives and those of others, remains undimmed. To these abiding tenets of School ethos, we hold true.

Hoc Age



Dr Simon Hinchliffe
BA, MEd, PhD, FRSA
Headmaster



Virtual Speech Day 2021 Headmaster's Speech

Greetings one and all from Bradford Grammar School and thank you, Lady Morrison, for those opening remarks. In all honesty, I don't think either of us expected to be back on camera again for BGS Speech Day, but here we are.

I was told after last year's broadcast that I 'don't possess the good looks for TV'. Or the charisma. A 'face for radio' was mentioned. Needless to say, I thanked my wife for her comments! It gets worse of course, one year on and I feel like I've aged at least ten. It has not been the most straightforward twelve months to say the least. But we are still standing, still moving forwards and happily, despite the trials of life, ending the year with much to celebrate.

So, welcome Governors, colleagues, Old Bradfordians, benefactors, friends of BGS, our guest speaker – Old Bradfordian, medic, TV personality and champion of good causes – Dr Amir Khan, and of course, welcome parents and pupils to our Senior School Speech Day and Prize Giving 2021.

...

Virtual Speech Day 2021
Headmaster's Speech

It remains an honour and a privilege to lead BGS, particularly at this moment in our history. On days like today when we take stock of the many laudable activities and achievements of our pupils, we are filled with justifiable grounds for hope for the future. I am brim-full of pride, admiration and affection for our pupils, and for my colleagues too, who have met, and continue to meet, the challenges of the pandemic. With the understanding and support of parents and the wider BGS family, I firmly believe that our School will go forwards strongly whatever comes next, 'flourishing in adversity' as one respected OB and former teacher put it.

BGS had to adjust quickly to a new school routine when lockdown and remote education first took hold in 2020. We were determined early on to sustain pastoral, academic and co-curricular provision, and mimic as far as was practicable the rhythm of a normal school day. At the same time, we understood it would be beneficial to deliver age appropriate programmes, begin steadily with remote education in order to leave no one behind and allow headroom for incremental improvement to keep things fresh.

We also sought to deliver a degree of flexibility recognising that both pupils and teachers would be facing many various and mounting pressures. Meanwhile families and friends were distancing, our people were falling ill and sadly some of us lost loved ones. Balancing professional and personal lives was far from easy for BGS employees and families alike and it remains difficult for many. The test, educational, operational and commercial, is ongoing. But it is a test that we are meeting.

Long serving US politician, Alan K Simpson said: 'If you have integrity, nothing else matters. If you don't have integrity, nothing else matters'. I've quoted these words before and they continue to resonate as I contemplate the manner in which all of us, you and I alike, have conducted ourselves of late.

It has been a struggle. Anxieties remain, for example surrounding Teacher Assessed Grades (or TAGs for short) and the awarding of fair and meritocratic qualifications. Through it all, both our support and teaching colleagues have worked incredibly hard to safeguard as best we can the health and welfare of our young people, whilst at the same time providing continuity of high-quality education. We have pulled out all the stops and had to move fast, often in the face of changing and sometimes apparently inconsistent guidance.

I believe that Bradford Grammar School has supported the national cause, demonstrated character and astonishing resilience during the pandemic. By necessity there has been a muscular element to our meeting of recent and present conditions. But we are kind, patient, empathetic and ultimately supportive of each other too. This balance of qualities will continue to see us through, even though we are now somewhat weather beaten by it all. With that in mind, my most sincere praise and respect is reserved for our young people, and in particular those who have once again been forced to navigate the cancellation of public exams. Looking ahead, challenges are inevitably morphing into opportunities for development and growth, and there is no question that BGS is in great shape to embrace these in the future.

But cast your gaze more widely and there is a gathering concern that speaks of lost learning, a lost generation, teachers and a notional army of tutors plugging deepening gaps, bridging a gulf between the most disadvantaged children and their peers. A crisis. Bleak prospects for blighted youth. No one denies the worrying truth that education for some school children has been severely disrupted during the pandemic. The dominant talk of disadvantage and future detriment is concerning, but it does not, I would suggest, provide a truly comprehensive narrative.

Over the course of long periods of remote learning and much altered school routines, our young people, not just at BGS, have successfully completed courses on time and demonstrated the acquisition and understanding of new knowledge and skills. They have discussed, created, experimented, cooperated, exercised and enjoyed a virtual programme of lessons, co-curricular clubs and activities. For many, school life has remained busy and rich. Much valuable and secure learning has taken place, some of which, for example in the fields of digital capability and confidence, executive function and independence has prospered, although we accept the learning curve has been steep. It would be helpful, I think, to acknowledge that things have been gained, not just lost in the world of education these past months.

Talk of missed lessons, academic shortfalls and hard-hit mental health is justified in many contexts and will require a collective effort to address. No one can deny this, and all schools must collaborate and enter in partnerships to do their bit. But let us also champion our young people, the qualities they have shown and their achievements. They ought to be a source of national pride. Those aforementioned TAGs, whatever their strength, will never tell the whole story. I'm talking about work ethic, character and spirit. I'm talking about integrity.

In accordance with tradition, we say goodbye today to Senior School staff who have left or are leaving this year and acknowledge their contribution to BGS life. Please forgive me if I miss anyone out, which is possible as this piece to camera is being filmed in advance of the end of term.

Thank you, Sports Graduate Assistant Alex Percival who will soon take up a PGCE place. Nick Hindle began at BGS in a similar capacity and it has been lovely to retain his services for an extra twelve months. Sports Teacher Gabby Leeson has also stayed on for a little longer than was initially anticipated, for that we are grateful. Oliver Stokes, our Music Graduate Assistant, has had an equally positive impact and we wish him every success as he too begins a PGCE.

Thanks go to BGS nurse Kelly Mistry who has provided a helping hand to students and staff alike, Gareth Openshaw and Helen Edwards who have provided maternity cover, and also to Biology Technician Rebecca Allington, German Language Assistant Jana Hopley and IT Manager Andy Birch who played a vital role when teaching and learning and wider services migrated online during the pandemic.

Also leaving this year is Christine Harvey, Head of Computer Science, who has ushered in many curriculum changes during her time with us. Mike Simpson leaves Bradford Grammar School after 35 years. A one-time lynch pin of the BGS peloton, Mike is a familiar figure at BGS and amongst many Old Bradfordians. He is an experienced teacher and senior examiner and has inspired many A Level students with his deep subject knowledge and love of politics. Thank you also to Library Manager, Lesley Purcell. Our Clarkson library has changed and improved of late, in no small part due to Lesley's creativity and enthusiastic leadership.

[Since recording this speech it has been confirmed to me that Michelle Harling, who has taught in the sport and religious studies departments, Sarah Howe, to whom we are grateful for providing cover in the art department, Mike McCartney, long serving teacher in the social sciences department and ardent supporter of BGS Running, and Lewis Pattison who has tended expertly to our grounds are also leaving this year. To them we too pay tribute.]

Later, Mr Ribeiro will share some words about colleagues who are leaving Clock House, but for now please let me record my gratitude to all colleagues, in support and teaching departments, Junior and Senior Schools, who leave BGS this year.

Finally, we pause to remember Mr Will Norman, artist, teacher, colleague and friend, who is greatly missed. Will lost his battle with illness earlier in the year having taught art at BGS since 2013. Sarah Horsfield, Head of Art, said of Will that he 'brought something special to every aspect of his teaching, and his softly spoken nature encouraged all he met to be comfortable, confident and to flourish' whilst his good friend Mr Ross McOwen, Teacher of Music and Head of Year 12, remembers Will as 'a superb, inspirational teacher of art and Sixth Form tutor who was genuinely interested in the wellbeing and development of his tutees. Eternally modest, he was a gifted and original artist in his own right – the kindest and most gentle man you could ever meet ... The BGS family will miss Will dearly; he was a wonderful gift to us all'. Will's life and his death remind us that time and opportunity are precious gifts and not to be wasted.

Congratulations to our prize winners. Your hard work and achievements are recognised today, and you set an example for others to emulate. Well done! But as I always say, this moment is for every BGS student. It is one where we celebrate and encourage aspiration, reaffirm our commitment to scholarship, to good manners and wider pursuits, to playing a role in our communities and public benefit. The prospect of building a better future for ourselves and for others is one that we embrace today. This is our BGS.

Thank you for listening.

Virtual Speech Day 2021
Headmaster's Speech

Headmaster's closing remarks ...

Well done once again to all prize winners; indeed, well done to all pupils at BGS for your continued engagement in school life and for supporting each other. And thank you Dr Amir Khan for taking time out of your busy schedule to share some insightful and energising thoughts with us at Speech Day 2021.

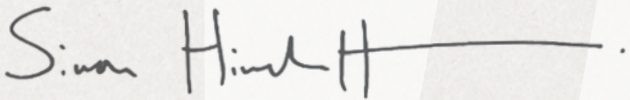
Thank you to my superb colleagues, across all support and teaching departments, Junior and Senior Schools. You have once again shown a dedication to our young people that is humbling. I am sincerely grateful to you all.

As Speech Day draws to close, we look forward to the road ahead. Amongst other ongoing work, our key priorities will be the Junior School, developing the educational offering for our youngest pupils, and also our public benefit activities. Realising additional Assisted Places to widen access and transform young lives, under the auspices of the new 1662 Fund, speaks to vital aspects of school identity and is of paramount importance for the long-term health of BGS. Similar claims can be made for outreach and partnership activities, and to that end I will close with some words shared by colleagues at nearby St Walburga's Catholic Primary School, who said:

'We are grateful for all the generous support that BGS has provided to us over the years: from the early days of our children visiting Clock House to experience work in a DT lab and access tools and machinery that would normally be unavailable to them, to our current involvement in PE outreach which the children absolutely adore. Our children, staff and parents are grateful for the time and sharing of expertise which has subsequently impacted on our foundation ... and the delivery of lessons. Children have been able to experience high level teaching by specialists, visit and compete at BGS's state-of-the-art sports facilities, which has been a real privilege for them. We look forward to the partnership continuing to flourish in the future.'

All I would add is that such partnerships are very much a two-way street and all parties benefit equally, either through long-standing relationships such as that just mentioned or our latest project with 'Future Transformation' inspiring engineers and space explorers of the future. (We think big at BGS!). Being a good neighbour in Bradford and Yorkshire is at the heart of our mission.

On that note, I wish you all good health and happiness for the remainder of summer term and for holiday to come. Thank you for joining us today and look after yourselves.



Dr Simon Hinchliffe
BA, MEd, PhD, FRSA
Headmaster

Thank you to my superb colleagues...

... across all support and teaching departments, Junior and Senior Schools. You have once again shown a dedication to our young people that is humbling. I am sincerely grateful to you all.

Dr Simon Hinchliffe
BA, MEd, PhD, FRSA
Headmaster

From the Junior School Headmaster ...

**Virtual Junior School
Speech Day 2021**
Junior School
Headmaster's Speech

Good afternoon pupils, teachers, parents and Governors. Today we celebrate the many successes in Clock House this year.

This will be the first Prize Giving in the Price Hall for many of you. Last year I filmed the Prize Giving from my office and most of you were at home, so whilst we are disappointed that parents have not been able to attend in person, it is lovely for the School to experience the event in this way.

This has been an unprecedented year. A year of challenges which have demanded a strong and resolute response from us all in Clock House as individuals and collectively as a team.

The pandemic has meant that in all walks of life people have had to learn how to live and carry out their work in different ways – you and children across the country have had to find a new way to learn and have become IT experts!

We have all had to step out of our comfort zones whether we have liked it or not. This feels uncomfortable at first but then we realise something - we realise we can do it, we can take brave steps, learning and growing as we move forward.

Our aim in Clock House has been to keep you all learning and to continue to give you opportunities to thrive and flourish. You have responded brilliantly and have continued to grasp the opportunities available to you, despite the challenges which we have had to face. We are so proud of you all.

Your successes have been achieved through a fantastic team effort with everyone playing a part. Starting with you and your positive attitudes and of course your superb teachers who have worked tirelessly and thought very hard about how to keep you all learning. Also, your parents have had to become 'home school' experts giving you support and encouragement. Thumbs up if you think your parents did a good job?

But there have been even more people involved to help and this has been a much bigger team effort; people that you might not always think about. The caretakers and Estates team who behind the scenes have been keeping us all safe; they have supervised the car parks and kept us stocked up on sanitiser, and the cleaners who have wiped down surfaces and kept School clean for us. The Catering team have had to think differently about how to feed us, they have even wheeled pasta to you every Friday and the Sports Graduates have shuttled you to school in your bubbles every single morning since September, always with a smile and a cheery word for you as you start the day.

In a recent assembly, Mrs Robertshaw Hughes asked you 'what have you been proud about this year?'. I thoroughly

enjoyed listening to your answers which ranged from a Merit in Grade 3 Flute exam, to a Year 3 Gold Certificate from Mr Smith, to singing and acting in the Year 6 production – and there were many more.

Despite the challenges this has been a rich year of learning in Clock House – you have worked hard in and out of the classroom. We have had visiting speakers from all walks of life sharing their experiences; we celebrated International Women's Day and Science Week with a fascinating assembly delivered by Professor Elspeth Garman, a famous molecular biophysicist who has worked in the field of vaccine development, you have produced imaginative and detailed art work, with much of it on display in School, we had a Year 6 WW1 soldier portrait in Yorkshire Life magazine. You have had opportunities to act and perform (Shakespeare Week, and the Year 6 play the 'X Factory' with so many superb performances), opportunities to sing and play instruments (The Young Voices Big Sing, and house music competition), opportunities to think of others (raising money for charity events – I think of Mary's Meals and the blue mugs!), an amazing Sports Day in beautiful weather and well done to 2S and your achievements as chick hatches!

So, success in adversity, a year to be very proud of and I hope you are all proud of yourselves.

At the end of this term we say farewell to Mrs Orviss (Deputy Head Academic) and Mrs Allen (Junior School Teacher), who have been wonderful teachers in Clock House. We thank them both and wish them well in their future endeavours. We also say goodbye and thank you to Mr Hindle and wish him well following the completion of his PGCE. We also say thank you, but not goodbye, to Mr Tatham and Mrs Tatham for their additional support this year.

Today, prizes will be handed out to some of you and we will rightly recognise and celebrate these individual successes, but whether you walk on the stage or not, you have all had a year to be extremely proud of and I am immensely proud of the team effort and the qualities and attitudes you have displayed this year.

So, enjoy this afternoon, be proud of Clock House and be proud of yourselves. Hoc Age.



Mr Richard Ribeiro
Junior School Headmaster



Staff Leavers

Carol Lee

By S Thrippleton, HR Officer

Carol's career has always been in an education setting and she joined BGS in September 2015 after a long career with Bradford College.

It was there that she began as an Exams Assistant, then moving to the role of Overseas Liaison Officer and eventually International Centre Manager. These roles gave her the opportunity of travelling to some faraway places and left her with many fond memories. After leaving Bradford College, Carol went to East Ardsley Primary School where she volunteered as a Classroom Assistant before taking up the role of part-time receptionist here at BGS.

So, after five years at BGS, how will Carol fill her Friday mornings? We hope she continues to enjoy her jigsaws, reading, knitting and of course walking with her dog Abby and if all else fails, we're sure her husband, Nigel will find things for her to do!

It's been a pleasure working with you, Carol, and we all wish her well for the times ahead, particularly post COVID. Continuing to enjoy the pleasures in life, the great outdoors, holidays, fine wine and dining to name but a few.



Annum Khan

By the Junior Leadership Team (JLT)

We were delighted to welcome Miss Khan to Clock House in September 2017.

Annum joined us initially as a Year 4 form teacher and, subsequently, Year 5. We gave our congratulations and a very fond farewell to Miss Khan in 2020 when she married and moved to London. We wish her every happiness for the future and look forward to hearing her news. With our very best wishes to you, Miss Khan, from your friends and colleagues at Clock House.



Diane Siggers

By L Carroll and D Bates,
Catering Department

Diane left BGS in October 2020 after working for the School for 14 years.

Diane was a quiet lady but also had an amusing side. One day, Diane had all the washroom staff looking for her wedding ring, but later found it at home inside her gardening glove!

Diane was a keen gardener and a well-liked member of the team and we wish her all the best.



Charity Orviss

By the Junior Leadership Team (JLT)

Mrs Orviss's relationship with Bradford Grammar School began in 2006 when her children joined Clock House.

After a rewarding career in law, Mrs Orviss first joined BGS in the Marketing Department. Then, following a period of study, she qualified as a teacher and joined Clock House in September 2013.

During her time as a Year 5 Form Teacher and Teacher of Year 6 English, it was soon apparent that Mrs Orviss's passion for English was a gift that our pupils could truly benefit from. Her keen eye for detail enabled her to encourage her pupils to consistently produce their best work.

Mrs Orviss was promoted to Subject Lead for English, RS and Humanities in 2015 and was a valued addition to the Junior Leadership Team. She was subsequently promoted to Director of Teaching and Learning in 2016; and in 2017, Mrs Orviss accepted the role of Deputy Head, Academic.

The huge success of the School's theatrical productions has to be accredited to the dedication and expertise of Mrs Orviss. Her patience and high standards ensured that pupils always achieved their true potential when performing.

Highly respected by pupils and parents alike, as well as her colleagues and friends at Clock House, Mrs Orviss's unfailing good judgement, hard work and support of her pupils and peers will be very much missed. We would all like to take this opportunity to wish her well in her pursuit of pastures new and to assure her of our gratitude for the exemplary academic legacy she leaves behind. Thank you, Mrs Orviss. We will miss you!



Christine Harvey

By S Hinchliffe, Headmaster and T Birkinshaw,
Teacher of Computer Science

Christine Harvey, Head of Computer Science, joined BGS on 1 September 2002 and has since ushered in many curriculum changes including the transition from IT to Computer Science, a discipline that is thriving at BGS today. She has taught expertly and enthusiastically, inspiring cohorts of students to achieve excellent academic results and deepen their interest in the wider world of computing.

Christine is that teacher who encourages students to 'have a go' and stretch themselves beyond the taught course. It has been heartening to see our young people engage in all manners of robotics and cybersecurity challenges, picking up prestigious accolades on behalf of BGS and achieving competitive scholarships and university places. In recent years, her efforts have led to national successes in varied competitions such as PiWars, First Lego League, CyberFirst for Girls and the TCS Oxford Computing Challenge.

That wider perspective beyond our BD9 fence line is evident too in the professional networks to which Christine belongs and it is clear that she has not only supported the development of colleagues at BGS but in other schools too through her involvement in organisations such as CAS and the NCCE. She is a well-known figure at School as a loyal and long serving teacher and BGS parent of three wonderful girls. We wish Christine every success and happiness in her new role as the Director of ICT and Digital Learning with the White Rose Trust.



Hayley Sanders

By S Cuffy, Cleaning Manager

Hayley was a valuable member of the BGS cleaning team for over 15 years.

She was hardworking and very enthusiastic in her work as a cleaner and took on the role as cleaning supervisor to cover when required – she did a very good job!

During her time at BGS, Hayley got married and had a family. As her children are getting older, Hayley decided she would like to spend more time with her family and made the decision to leave BGS in November 2020. We wish her every happiness for the future.



Jana Hopley

By S Haslam, Head of Modern Foreign Languages

Jana joined BGS on 3 October 2005, coincidentally the date of an important public holiday in her native Germany, der Tag der deutschen Einheit, German Unity Day. As our German Language Assistant, Jana's role is to develop the speaking skills of our students so that, ultimately, they achieve the best possible grades in the speaking components of external exams.

It sounds simple enough, but Jana has spent many hours becoming familiar with changing exam specifications and preparing engaging activities which the students will enjoy and which will develop the necessary skills.

She has also, on occasion, had to coax the odd shy Sixth Former out of his or her shell, as 45 minutes of 1-1 conversation go by incredibly slowly if only one person is talking! Alongside this, Jana has brought German culture alive to our students, from preparing quizzes about German life for the annual European Day of Languages events at both Clock House and in the Senior School, to choosing a pupil each day to open the next window of the "Adventskalender" she keeps in her room. As well as all this, she has worked individually with the pupils lucky enough to have lived in Germany or a German-speaking country who wish to enter GCSE and A Level exams early to hone their exam technique and ensure they achieve the best possible grades. Jana embarks on a real adventure in summer, leaving BGS to return to her native Germany, where she has obtained a position at the International School of Ulm. At the very least, she will find her chosen mode of transport – cycling – considerably safer there than cycling through Leeds and round the Bradford ring road! We wish her all the very best for the future.

Oliver Stokes

By E White, Director of Music

Mr Oliver Stokes joined us in January 2020 as our Music Graduate.

Although only here for a short time, he has contributed significantly to the smooth running of the busy Music Department. In this difficult two years, Oliver has been responsible for moving our department 'online,' recording and editing videos for release, videoing students' music exams, and doing endless admin and organising. Loved by staff and students alike, from Year 2 to Year 13, we will miss Oliver so much but wish him well as he trains to be a Music Teacher in Manchester. Goodbye and good luck!



Jo Allen

By the Junior Leadership Team (JLT)

After 10 years of teaching at Clock House, we say goodbye to Mrs Allen, who, after 31 years in the profession, has decided to explore other options as she approaches her retirement.

Mrs Allen's boundless energy and her enthusiasm for all aspects of school life have been a joy. Her ability to create solutions for any challenge has been much admired and we will miss her quick-thinking and ever-positive attitude. Her dedication to Clock House pupils is second to none and their happiness has always been at the forefront of her teaching. She has enjoyed taking the time to get to know pupils and parents and is well respected within the whole BGS community.

Mrs Allen's flair for design came to the fore at Junior School events, such as World Book Day and Clock House's biennial theatrical production. She has spent many hours of her own free time creating costumes and set designs to a professional standard. We feel very fortunate to have benefitted from such expertise and generosity. We look forward to seeing where Mrs Allen's next step in her life take her and will not be at all surprised if her path takes a creative turn. It is impossible to imagine that she will be short of ideas or options, whatever she decides to do next.

Mrs Allen's family life is also extremely important to her and no doubt she will enjoy having more time to share with them in various parts of the country. We have had many a happy time hearing her news about her various family social events, her holidays in Cornwall and her restaurant and book recommendations have always been very well received.

We look forward to catching up with Mrs Allen when she visits us at our school events and, in the meantime, would like to wish her all the very best for her future endeavours. With fondest wishes from your friends and colleagues at Clock House.



Nathan Hughes

By I Clint, Estates Manager

Nathan joined BGS as a Caretaker in March 2018.

He left us in January 2021 to spend more time with his young family and we wish him well for the future.



Rebecca Allington

By S Hoath, Teacher of Biology

After travelling and working in Australia, Becky joined the department as the full-time Biology Technician.

Working closely with Senior Technician, Diane Allen, Becky has made great progress with bringing the department 'kicking and screaming' into the electronic world by updating systems, policies and procedures. We are thankful to Becky for all her efforts and wish her well as she leaves Yorkshire to move to Exeter to take up a role with the NHS 111 service.



Kelly Mistry

By J Chapman, Assistant Head (Pastoral)

Kelly joined the School in January 2019, coming from the Gynaecology Department at the Bradford Royal Infirmary.

Although new to school nursing, with Sally Martindale's support, she soon made the role her own and became a valued member of the pastoral and safeguarding teams, supporting students and colleagues, and delivering RHSE lessons. Kelly impressively managed to achieve a first-class degree in Clinical Nursing Practice in 2020, fitting in study-time around work and family. She has been a rock for many students struggling with their mental health. We shall miss her professionalism, emotional intelligence and cheery smile as she resumes her career in the NHS.



Lewis Pattinson

By I Clint, Estates Manager

Lewis joined BGS in July 2019 after a successful career working in professional multi-use stadiums up and down the country, including his last job as Deputy Head Groundsman at London Stadium for West Ham United.

This was evident from the start as his knowledge and experience transformed the School grounds. His first big change was purchasing new hinged aluminium rugby posts and correctly squaring off the pitches incorporating GPS marking systems. Lewis then created a custom fertiliser plan after meeting with an agronomist who still works for the Premier League today and the results were outstanding.

Before Lewis departs BGS, he has committed to a very busy summer works programme including renovations to the sports pitches, hockey pitches, cricket squares and revamping Alfresco Drive. In his words, 'The condition of the School grounds will be fantastic for when pupils and staff return in September – it is a real shame I won't be here to see the results but I am glad I could leave my mark'.

Lewis leaves us to work with his brother in the family construction business and to further develop this from a landscaping perspective.



Lesley Purcell

By S O'Connor, S Jones, T Lord,
D Reynolds and A Kausar –
Library Department

Having previously worked in schools and public libraries, and a WWII archive, Lesley began work as Assistant Librarian at BGS in September 2005.

Lesley delivered library skills classes to Clock House pupils and she loved the fact that the rapport with Year 2 pupils would continue through to Year 13.

Lesley ran stands at PA Summer Fairs including the 350th Anniversary of the BGS Charter in 2013 where she created a 1700s doctor's surgery. Children had to match the ailment to the (horrifying) cures, and it proved to be quite the hit. Obviously, kids were attracted to the fake blood! Another year she dressed as the White Rabbit from Alice in Wonderland, and still has flashbacks to being shouted at by the Queen of Hearts (then PA Chair, Lesley Burke).

She organised many events including a visit from Holocaust survivor Ibby Knill, who came into the library and spoke to Sixth Form students about her experiences in Auschwitz. There were few dry eyes left at the end of Ibby's talk.

In July 2013, Lesley took on the role of Library Manager at an exciting time of change for the department, with the library refurbishment imminent. Lesley was involved in the process from the start with the trusty library team – decanting everything out of the old library into storage and temporary accommodation, through to completing placing the final book on its shelf in the shiny new library ready for the 2015 school year. The grand opening with illustrator Axel Scheffler, was a great success, though the staff and students manning the very hot Gruffalo costume possibly felt differently.

Lesley's greatest enjoyment has been getting pupils and colleagues engaged in library events and activities; she loves coming up with ideas to bring the larger BGS community together, such as creating the National Album Day staff playlist, or the whole library celebration of the year 1969.

Lesley will be very much missed. Only this week a box of chocolates arrived from a Sixth Form student who has been at BGS since Year 2 with the message 'the impact you had on me is mind blowing! You made my day much brighter and I hope you never forget me'.

It was a difficult decision for Lesley to leave BGS, but she is going back to her creative roots and art, and she is looking forward to having lots of trips away in her campervan with her partner Matt, and a new four-legged friend. She is leaving with many happy memories, and a lot of lifelong friendships.

Diane Heaton

By G Woods, Assistant Head (Curriculum)

Diane started work at Bradford Grammar School in September 2007 as the SIMS Administrator and Secretary to the Assistant Heads.

She immediately threw herself into the maelstrom that is the School Office, completing every task with her customary dedication and attention to detail. Diane's hard work and her determination to ensure that the administration of the school's academic systems was first-class and soon led to her very well-deserved promotion to be the SIMS and Office Manager. In this position, Diane led the staff in the School Office with great distinction, ensuring that they completed all their allotted tasks to the best of their abilities and that the whole team gave the academic and pastoral functions of the school superb support.

In her time at BGS, Diane involved herself in many different aspects of school life, both as a valued colleague and as the parent of two OBs, William and Edward. She helped with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, was Secretary to the Boat Club for a time, and attended many concerts and plays, greatly enjoying the performances that our pupils gave, particularly those of her two musically very talented sons. For pupils and members of both the teaching and support staff, Diane will be remembered above all as a considerate and generous colleague and a smiling and friendly face in the office, somebody for whom nothing was ever too much trouble. If you had a question about a puzzling aspect of SIMS, if you had left your ID card at home, if you needed to order a last-minute packed lunch, if you couldn't format your Word document properly, or if you just wanted a good chat and a laugh, Diane was without any doubt your best bet.

After fourteen years at BGS, Diane would now like a new challenge, but one where the daily pressures are not quite so intense. She is moving to Brooklands, a special school in Skipton, where she will be their part-time office administrator. This role will give her more time to enjoy all the things she loves to do when she isn't working – walking in the local countryside and seeing her two sons who are based over the Pennines, as well as meeting up with friends, doing voluntary work and spending time in the garden with her husband Rod. We shall all miss Diane very much – not just for the superb service that she has given BGS over the years, or for the beautifully knitted cardigans that she produced for staff babies, but also because of the laughter, friendship and kindness that she brought to the School Office. We wish her all good fortune in her new role and hope very much that she will keep in touch with her many friends at BGS.





Mike Simpson

By S Hinchliffe, Headmaster and P Merckx, Assistant Head (Development)

BGS has been very lucky to have had a teacher of Mike's calibre on the staff for so many years. Having been a student at BGS, Mike then went to Oxford University. After five years in banking, Mike studied for a PGCE and then accepted a job back at BGS, this time as teacher, not pupil. Mike leaves us after 34 years teaching but says it doesn't feel that long because he has enjoyed himself.

The breadth of Mike's talents is illustrated by the range of subjects he has taught over the years. He joined the School to teach Economics, diversified into History and then built the BGS Politics Department, going on to become Chief Examiner in this subject. His command of Spanish is strong enough to have earned him a stint teaching in the Modern Languages Department. Mike's subject knowledge has been a huge benefit to generations of BGS students, American Politics being a particular strength. Mike's educational visit to Washington DC and New York was ground-breaking when he set it up.

It is Mike's personality and his sense of humour which are especially remembered by students. His classroom is an informal place where politics is discussed in a friendly atmosphere. He encourages the reluctant student, admonishing gently where necessary, and he has a knack for making you want to work for him. Former students returning to BGS are always very keen to drop in on Mr Simpson to catch up.

Mike loves giving pupils of all ages the broadest education possible. As well as the USA Politics trip, he has been abroad with historians on the Battlefields trip and skied and mountain biked with School trips to the Alps, supervised Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions groups and assisted with Modern Language tours.

Mike's passions outside of BGS include sport and music. As a cyclist, Mike was a founding member of the BGS Sinvergüenzas staff cycling club which still meets to this day. He was also a key player in the BGS staff football team, both on the pitch and during post-match refreshments. Mike is a big fan of local sport, keen to see the area's football and rugby teams succeed, and a lover of sport generally with a knack for knowing enough to hold a conversation about pretty much anything. As for the music, ask Mike anything about The Clash as a starter-for-ten, and see where the conversation leads!

Mike is one of the big personalities of the BGS teaching staff. He is one of the last of a generation of BGS teachers and the School will miss him. We wish him every happiness and a long retirement.

Michelle Harling

By J Chapman, Assistant Head (Pastoral)

Michelle Harling joined the School in 2001, one of only two female sports teachers with responsibility for providing sport for girls in the early days of BGS co-education. Michelle taught part-time initially but before long took on a full-time role and, with Caroline Taylor, developed the girls' sports curriculum, built up a fixture list and helped found the Netball Parents Association (NPA) to raise funds for tours.

The NPA Fashion Show and Christmas Fair soon became established highlights in the School calendar and Michelle was key in creating these. Michelle helped to run the very first girls' netball tour to South Africa and went on to assist on tennis tours to South Africa, Canada and the USA, Italy and Croatia. She was also responsible for annual junior netball tours within the UK. Michelle not only contributed hugely to netball and tennis, but in 2019 she stepped up to coach an U14 boys' rugby team, becoming the School's first female rugby coach.

For the past seven years, Michelle has been a member of the RS department, delivering the curriculum in Years 7, 8 and 9. She has also become a valued member of Debbie Chalashika's Personal Development Team, teaching challenging Relationships, Sex and Health Education topics most effectively and with the sensitivity they required.

As ITT coordinator for almost a decade, Michelle supported a series of trainee teachers as they cut their teeth at the School. Her success in this role is perhaps best shown by the number who stayed on at BGS afterwards and are still on the staff today.

In a BGS career spanning 20 years, Michelle has seen many changes in the School. She joined when girls were still something of a novelty at BGS and played a part in establishing them fully within the School. She has also contributed significantly over the years to the pastoral care of the students at the School, both as a Year 7 and Year 8 form tutor and also as mentor to her netballers and other young sportsmen and women. Her patience, empathy and kindness have enabled her to make a meaningful difference to the school lives of many students over the past two decades. The same qualities have cemented lasting friendships among the staff who will miss her generous nature, lovely sense of humour and commitment always to do the best by her colleagues and her pupils.



Mike McCartney

By S Hinchliffe, Headmaster

Mike McCartney is a gifted and charismatic teacher who has played a full role in both the academic and co-curricular spheres at BGS. Students of Geography, Business Studies, Politics and Economics have all benefitted from Mike's instruction.

He has taught and inspired many young people in the classroom and also enriched their lives, broadening their intellectual horizons through his leadership of, for example, BGS elections, Economics Book Club, The Healey magazine, Share Trade Games, trips to Washington DC, the list goes on. Additionally, through his dedication to our young athletes, Mike rightly stands amongst the greats of BGS running. It is little surprise therefore that Mike is respected as an authority in his field, expert pedagogue and passionate custodian of our illustrious BGS running tradition.

Friend and colleague, Matt Wilde said of Mike: 'Macca will be greatly missed, not only as a teacher but also as a colleague, member of the staff football team, member of 'Los Sinvergüenzas CC' (fuelled largely by Yorkshire Tea), and friend. Many of his colleagues both past and present have benefitted from his warmth, wit and friendship and we wish him and Danny well.'

Mike began his career at BGS in 1996. He then left to take up a teaching position at St Paul's, London but happily returned to us, initially in a part-time capacity, in January 2011. The persistent draw of the capital and the prospect of a fresh challenge has once again lured Mike away and he now takes up a position as the Head of Economics at a prestigious London state school. Needless to say we are sincerely grateful to Mike for his long service to BGS, for the difference he has made (an overused phrase but apposite in Mike's case), and we all wish him every happiness and success in his new role bringing learning and culture (!) to 'the south'.

Thank you...

... to the following staff for their contributions to the School

Alexander Percival
Graduate Sports Assistant, Hockey

Andrew Birch
Head of Information Technology

Gabrielle Leeson
Teacher of PE & Games

Hayley Jacques
Cleaner

Helen Edwards
Teacher of Biology

Lindsay Jacques
Cleaner

Nicholas Hindle
Former Graduate Sports Assistant
(stayed on an extra year to complete a PGCE)

Sarah Howe
Teacher of Art

Sharon Dalby
Finance Assistant



A special mention ...

Will Norman

By S Horsfield, Head of Art
Will made a huge impact on the Art family at BGS from day one.

He had a presence that would calm everyone and open the floor for interesting and knowledgeable conversation, never with judgement or opinion. Will brought value to every aspect of his teaching, his softly spoken nature encouraged all who met him to be comfortable and confident, and to flourish as an individual.

I will always hold dear his unfailing loyalty and cheeky loving nature. It is true to say that when things got tough, Will would brighten the room with his intellectual wit and ability to put all into perspective – often I would find cartoons drawn on meeting notes where I and the rest of the department would find ourselves squirming not to laugh out loud. Will also had the courage to step away from teaching for a short period of time and focus on his love of painting and photography, completing an MA, and he continued to explore his creativity in painting up until very recently.

Amsterdam was a true collaboration for Will and me and brief trips away consolidated rich learning experiences for all that came along. Together we had direction and flair and most of all, so much fun, but it has to be said his 6 foot 5 stature was always leading the way through the crowds while I ran behind watching the tall figure bob up and down leading the students to the next gallery. A giant of a man with the heart of a lion, he will be sorely missed, and we are all the richer for knowing him albeit for a short period of time.



University Degree Course Admissions and Vocations – 2021 Leavers

A	
Zaeem Abbas	St George's – University of London, Medicine
Joanna Adams	The University of Edinburgh, Nursing Studies
Uzair Ahmed	Aston University – Birmingham, Medicine
Cerys Ali	Leeds Arts University, Art Foundation
Oscar Andrews	University of Nottingham, Politics and International Relations
Ayesha Ashfaq	Imperial College London, Medicine
Shaan Aziz	King's College London –University of London, Politics
B	
Lara Baines	UCL (University College London), Biological Sciences
Pranav Balabhadra	Hull York Medical School, Medicine
Alice Barnes	University of Manchester, Pharmacy
Maeve Barrett	University of Sheffield, Architecture
Hassan Bashir	University of Manchester, Accounting and Finance
Daisy Bathily	University of Oxford, French and Spanish
Freya Bellamy	University of Exeter, Exercise and Sport Sciences
Bhavani Bhardwaj	King's College London – University of London, Medicine
Hardeep Bhogal	University of Sheffield, Biosciences (with foundation year)
James Bowmer	Lancaster University, Physics, Astrophysics and Cosmology
Max Bradley	Queen's University Belfast, Medicine
Muzna Burhan	University of Warwick, Computer Systems Engineering
Hamzah Butt	University of Cambridge, History
Freddie Butterfield	University of Sheffield, Software Engineering
C	
Zachary Cansdale	Durham University, Mathematics
Ben Carroll	University of Nottingham, History
James Carroll	University of Nottingham, History
Evie Clark	Oxford School of Drama, Foundation Course in Acting
Rebecca Clynes	University of Bath, Chemistry
Anna Cooper	University of Manchester, Mechanical Engineering
William Craske	University of Liverpool, Medicine
Hannah Crookes	Durham University, Biological Sciences

D	
Oliver Davies	Manchester Metropolitan University, Spanish Studies
Daya Dhesi	University of Manchester, Dentistry
Madigan Drury	University of Nottingham, American Studies and English
E	
Maryam Ellam	Lancaster University, Medicine and Surgery
Obi Ene	Newcastle University, Business Accounting and Finance – Flying Start Degree Programme
Victoria Eyre	Northumbria University – Newcastle, Interior Design
F	
Leezza Faboro Davidson	Kent and Medway Medical School, Medicine
Bilal Faisal	University of Leeds, Gateway Year to Medicine
Saffah Farooq	University of Leeds, Medicine
Danyal Fiaz	University of Southampton, Accounting and Finance
G	
Lex Galloway	Newcastle University, Mechanical Engineering
Ella Gill	Apprenticeship with Arrup
George Gillgrass	Newcastle University, Engineering
Joshua Greene	Queen's University Belfast, Music and Audio Production
Natalie Griffith	University of Nottingham, Engineering and Physical Sciences (with foundation year)
H	
Imaan Haider	University of Oxford, History
Aneeq Hamdani	Universidad Catolica de Valencia, Dentistry
Lorcan Hanafin	University of Bath, Politics and International Relations
Seb Handley	University of Warwick, Classics
Gemma Harrison	UCL (University College London), Psychology and Language Sciences
Lucy Hinch Spencer	Durham University, Modern Languages and Cultures (with year abroad)
James Hirst	London School of Economics and Political Science – University of London, Geography
Will Holt	Lancaster University, Business Management
Theo Horsley	University of Cambridge, Natural Sciences
Thomas Howson	University of Salford, Acoustical and Audio Engineering
Lydia Huby	University of Reading, Film & Television
K	
Gowri Kanakath	University of Sheffield, Medicine
Charlie Kelly	University of Cambridge, Engineering
Isabella Kenyon	University of Manchester, Medicine
Aliza Khaliq	University of Liverpool, Medicine
Daniyah Khan	University of Bradford, Biomedical Science
Mariya Khan	University of Huddersfield, Optometry
Neesha Khan	University of Sunderland, Medicine
Omar Khan	University of Leeds, Gateway Year to Medicine
Aaisha Khan	University of Huddersfield, History
Hibbah Khokhar	University of Leicester, Medicine
Lottie Kingsley	University of Glasgow, English Language & Linguistics
Matthew Kuncheria	University of York, Electronic and Computer Engineering

L			
Grace Lancaster	University of Nottingham, Medicine		
Jasper Lawrence	Northumbria University – Newcastle, International Relations and Politics		
Tabi Lee	Loughborough University, Textile Design (with placement year)		
Eva Lockett	University of Manchester, Modern Language and Business & Management (French)		
Toby Logan	The University of Edinburgh, Philosophy		
M			
Sufyan Mahmood	Swansea University, Medical Pharmacology		
Adam Mahmood	University of Leicester, Medicine		
Nehal Malik	Newcastle University, Pharmacy		
Pav Mann	University of Bradford, Business and Management (with placement year)		
Ben Marsden	Durham University, History		
James Masterton	University of Manchester, Physics		
Georgina Mathers	Manchester Metropolitan University, Linguistics		
Anna McCormack	Durham University, History		
Jacob Midgley	Cardiff University, Architecture		
Kate Mighell	University of York, Biology		
Isla Milwain	The University of Edinburgh, Art		
Armani Mir	University of Manchester, Medicine		
Olivia Mitchell	University of Cambridge, History and Modern Languages		
Ibraheem Monks	Loughborough University, Product Design Engineering (with placement year)		
Luke Moran	Nottingham Trent University, Business Management and Marketing		
Eve Murphy	The University of Edinburgh, Business Management		
N			
Peter Nix	University of Cambridge, Natural Sciences		
Elizabeth Norton	University of Birmingham, Law		
O			
Funmi Ogunde	University of Oxford, French		
Millen Olak	Degree Apprenticeship with Ernst & Young		
Usman Omar	University of Sheffield, Medicine		
Lily Orton	Falmouth University, Sustainable Product Design		
P			
Thomas Padgett	Durham University, Accounting (with placement year)		
Dylan Patel	University of Sheffield, Accounting and Financial Management		
Sophie Pettit	University of Exeter, Zoology		
Laurenne Pickard	University of Manchester, History and French		
May Pickles	King's College London – University of London, Neuroscience and Psychology (with professional placement year)		
Alicia Pollard	New College of the Humanities, Philosophy with Law		
R			
Fred Reed-Purvis	University of Nottingham, Politics and International Relations		
Antonia Robson	University of Salford, Music: Creative Music Technology		
Harriet Rushworth	Queen's University Belfast, Economics		
Max Rutherford	Newcastle University, Business Management		
S			
Sian Sandhu	Leeds Beckett University, Biomedical Sciences		
John Scholey	Royal Holloway – University of London, Music		
Amrit Sharma	University of Nottingham, Politics and International Relations		
Vistar Sharma	University of Nottingham, Economics		
Hamdaan Sheikh	University of Leeds, Civil and Structural Engineering		
Mahum Sheraz	University of Bolton, Medical Biology		
Lui Shvrtiel	University of York, Chemistry		
Kate South	University of Cambridge, Music		
Amelia Stephenson	University of Liverpool, Biological and Medical Sciences		
Sophie Still	UCL (University College London), Biomedical Sciences		
Adam Suleman	University of Leicester, Medicine		
Millie Sunderland	Leeds Arts University, Art Foundation		
T			
Harry Tomlinson	University of Birmingham, Politics and International Relations		
W			
Lawrence Wade	University of Sheffield, Medicine		
Angela Wang	King's College London – University of London, Mathematics with Statistics		
Alfie Weston	Newcastle University, Business Management		
Woody Whitaker	University of Sheffield, International Relations and Politics		
Jacob Whiteley-Guest	London School of Economics and Political Science – University of London, Anthropology and Law		
John Winn-Berry	University of Plymouth, Marine Biology		
Y			
Sam Young	Loughborough University, Accounting and Financial Management (with placement year)		
Zarah Yousaf	University of Plymouth, Clinical Psychology		
Z			
Nouman Zahid	Queen Mary University of London, Medicine		
Abdullah Zaman	University of Leeds, Computer Science (Digital & Technology Solutions)		

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Examination Results 2021

General Certificate of Education (A Level) 2021

A	
Joanna Adams	Biology ^, Chemistry ^*, Mathematics ^*
Uzair Ahmed	Biology ^, Chemistry ^*, Mathematics ^
Cerys Ali	Art ^, Biology, Psychology
Oscar Andrews	Economics ^, Geography, Politics ^
Ayesha Ashfaq	Biology ^, Chemistry ^*, Mathematics ^
Shaan Aziz	Economics ^*, Music Technology ^, Politics ^*
B	
Lara Baines	Biology ^*, Chemistry ^*, Mathematics ^*, Further Mathematics ^*
Pranav Balabhadra	Biology ^, Chemistry ^, Computer Science ^*
Alice Barnes	Biology, Chemistry ^, Mathematics
Maeve Barrett	Art ^, History ^*, Mathematics ^
Daisy Bathily	Biology ^, French ^*, Spanish ^*
Jaime Berry	Biology, Chemistry, DT Product Design ^*
Will Bertrand	Mathematics ^, Physics ^, Psychology ^
Hardeep Bhogal	Biology, Business, Mathematics
William Birch	Biology ^, Chemistry ^, Geography ^
James Bowmer	Chemistry ^*, Mathematics ^, Physics ^*
Max Bradley	Biology ^*, Chemistry ^*, Spanish ^
Muzna Burhan	Chemistry ^*, Mathematics ^, Further Mathematics ^, Physics ^
Hamzah Butt	Economics ^*, History ^*, Mathematics, Politics ^*
Freddie Butterfield	Computer Science ^*, Mathematics ^, Physics ^
C	
Naomi Calvert	Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics
Zachary Cansdale	French ^*, Mathematics ^*, Further Mathematics ^*
Ben Carroll	Geography ^, History ^, Politics ^
James Carroll	English Literature, Geography ^, History ^
Mbako Chalashika	Business ^, Economics ^, Mathematics
Evie Clark	Art ^, French, Music ^
Ben Clifford	Chemistry ^*, Economics ^*, Mathematics ^*, Further Mathematics ^*
Rebecca Clynes	Chemistry ^, Computer Science ^*, Mathematics
Anna Cooper	DT Product Design ^*, Mathematics ^, Physics
William Craske	Biology ^, Chemistry ^*, Economics ^*
Hannah Crookes	Biology ^*, French ^*, Mathematics ^*
Olivia Cummins	Biology, Chemistry, Psychology

D	
Oliver Davies	Mathematics, Politics, Spanish
Daya Dhesi	Biology ^, Chemistry ^, History ^*
Rajan Dhesi	Biology ^, Chemistry ^, Psychology ^*, Spanish ^*
Madigan Drury	Business, English Language, Psychology
E	
Maryam Ellam	Biology ^*, Chemistry ^*, Mathematics ^*
Obi Ene	Business ^, Economics ^, Politics ^
Victoria Eyre	Business, DT Product Design ^, Physical Education ^
F	
Leezza	
Faboro Davidson	Biology ^*, Chemistry ^*, Latin ^*
Bilal Faisal	Biology, Business ^, Chemistry
Saffah Farooq	Biology ^, Chemistry ^, Mathematics
G	
Lex Galloway	Chemistry, Mathematics ^, Further Mathematics, Physics ^
Ella Gill	Business ^, DT Product Design ^, Geography ^
George Gillgrass	DT Product Design ^, Mathematics, Physics
Tabby Glennon	Biology ^, English Language ^*, English Literature ^*
Joshua Greene	Art ^*, Economics, Music Technology ^*
Natalie Griffith	Mathematics, Physical Education, Physics
Rohan Gujral	Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics
H	
Imaan Haider	Biology ^*, Chemistry ^, History ^*
Aneeq Hamdani	Biology, Chemistry ^, Mathematics
Lorcan Hanafin	Economics ^*, Geography ^, Politics ^
Seb Handley	German ^, History ^*, Latin ^*
Ed Harrison	Mathematics, Music Technology, Physics
James Hirst	Economics ^*, French ^*, Geography ^*
Will Holt	Business, Economics, English Language
Theo Horsley	Chemistry ^*, Mathematics ^*, Further Mathematics ^*, Physics ^*
Thomas Howson	Mathematics, Music Technology, Physics
Lydia Huby	English Language, English Literature, Psychology
Hasan Hussain	Biology ^, Chemistry, Mathematics
Zak Hussnain	Biology, Chemistry ^, Religious Studies ^
I	
Madeleine Isbecque	Biology, Chemistry, Religious Studies ^*

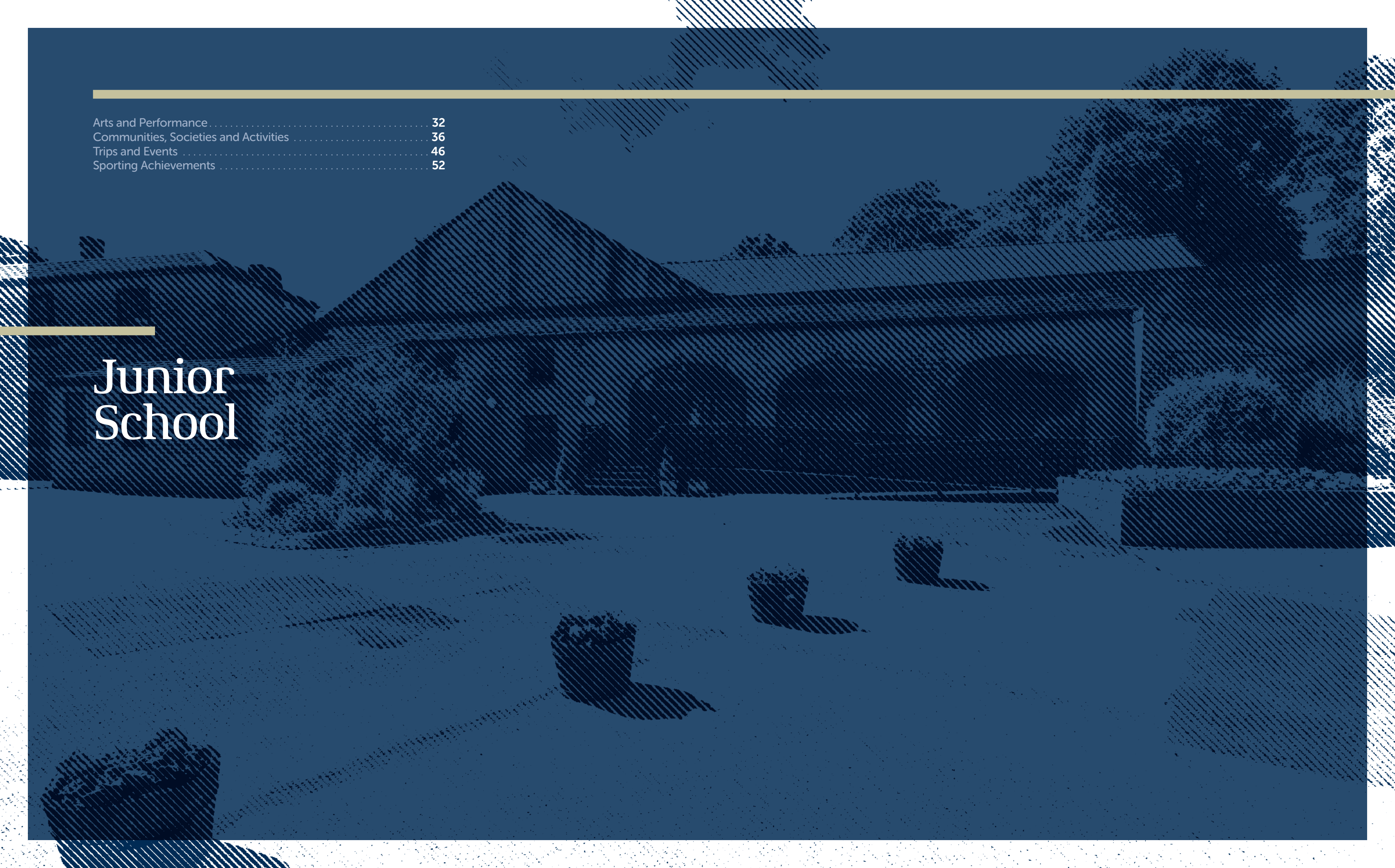
J	
Glesni Jones	Biology, Physical Education ^*, Psychology
K	
Gowri Kanakath	Biology ^*, Chemistry ^, Spanish ^*
Charlie Kelly	Chemistry ^*, Mathematics ^*, Further Mathematics ^*, Physics ^*
Isabella Kenyon	Biology ^, Chemistry ^, French ^*, Spanish ^*
Aliza Khaliq	Biology ^*, Chemistry ^, Latin ^
Daniyah Khan	Art ^, Biology, Chemistry
Mariya Khan	Biology, Chemistry, Religious Studies ^
Neesha Khan	Biology ^, Chemistry ^*, Mathematics ^*
Hibbah Khokhar	Biology ^, Chemistry ^, History ^
Lottie Kingsley	Drama & Theatre ^*, English Language ^*, English Literature ^*
Grace Kitching	Biology, Chemistry, Physical Education ^
Sofia Koenig Gimeno	Biology ^, Chemistry ^, Mathematics ^
L	
Jasper Lawrence	Business, English Language, Politics ^
Tabi Lee	Art ^*, Psychology, Religious Studies
Eva Lockett	French, Physical Education ^, Spanish
Toby Logan	History ^, Latin ^, Politics ^
Will Luxton	Business ^, History, Physical Education
M	
Sufyan Mahmood	Chemistry ^, Mathematics, Religious Studies ^*
Zara Mahmood	Biology, Chemistry, French
Nehal Malik	Biology ^*, Chemistry ^*, Mathematics ^
Pav Mann	Business, Economics, Mathematics
Ben Marsden	English Language ^, Geography ^*, History ^
James Masterton	Chemistry ^, Mathematics ^*, Further Mathematics ^, Physics ^*
Georgina Mathers	Business, English Language, Psychology ^
Anna McCormack	Geography ^*, History ^*, Psychology ^
Jacob Midgley	Art ^*, Biology, Physics
Kate Mighell	Biology ^*, Chemistry ^*, Latin ^, Physics ^*
Isla Milwain	Art ^, DT Product Design ^*, Psychology ^
Olivia Mitchell	History ^*, Russian ^*, Spanish ^*
Luke Moran	Business, DT Product Design ^, Mathematics
Ans Muhammad	Biology ^, Chemistry ^*, Religious Studies ^*
Eve Murphy	Business ^*, History ^, Politics ^*
N	
Ahmed Naveed	Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics
Peter Nix	Biology ^*, Chemistry ^*, Mathematics ^*, Further Mathematics ^*
Elizabeth Norton	German ^, History ^, Mathematics ^
O	
Funmi Ogunde	Chemistry ^*, French ^, Spanish ^
Millen Olak	Chemistry ^, Mathematics ^, Politics ^*
Lily Orton	Art ^, Business, DT Product Design ^*

P	
Thomas Padgett	Business ^, Economics ^, Mathematics ^
Dylan Patel	Business ^, Chemistry, Economics
Sophie Pettit	Biology, Geography, Mathematics
Laurenne Pickard	Economics ^*, French ^, History ^
May Pickles	Biology, English Literature, Psychology ^
Alicia Pollard	History, Music, Religious Studies
R	
Prithvee Rameshraj	Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics
Fred Reed-Purvis	French, History ^, Politics ^
Eloise Rees	Biology ^, Chemistry, History ^
Antonia Robson	Art ^*, Drama & Theatre ^*, English Literature, Music Technology ^*
Harriet Rushworth	Economics ^, Geography, Mathematics
Max Rutherford	Business ^, DT Product Design ^*, Economics
S	
Sian Sandhu	Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematics
John Scholey	German, Music ^, Physics
Amrit Sharma	Chemistry ^*, History ^, Politics ^*
Vistar Sharma	Economics ^, Mathematics ^, Spanish ^*
Hamdaan Sheikh	Business ^, Mathematics ^, Physics ^
Mahum Sheraz	Biology, Chemistry, Religious Studies ^*
Lui Shivtiel	Chemistry ^*, German ^*, Psychology ^*
Henry Sisley	Business, History, Politics
Kate South	Drama & Theatre ^*, English Literature ^*, Music ^*
Lucy Spencer	Computer Science ^, French ^, Russian ^*
Freddie Stonelake	Biology ^, Chemistry ^*, Mathematics ^*
Adam Suleman	Chemistry ^*, Computer Science ^*, Mathematics ^
Millie Sunderland	Art ^, Business ^, Psychology ^
T	
Harry Tomlinson	Business, Geography, Politics ^
Sam Tullie	Computer Science ^, Economics ^, Mathematics ^
W	
Lawrence Wade	Biology ^*, Chemistry ^*, Geography ^*
Angela Wang	Chinese ^*, Computer Science, English Language, Mathematics ^, Further Mathematics ^
Alfie Weston	Business ^, DT Product Design ^*, Geography ^
Woody Whitaker	DT Product Design ^*, History, Politics ^*
Jacob Whiteley-Guest	Economics ^, English Literature ^, Psychology ^*
Y	
Sam Young	Biology ^, Chemistry ^, Mathematics
Z	
Nouman Zahid	Biology ^*, Chemistry ^*, Mathematics ^*, Physics ^*

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Junior School



Arts and Performance



Brothers hit the high note with National Children's Orchestra

– SUMMER TERM 2021

Clock House brothers Joseph and Oliver are enjoying sessions with the National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain's first ever digital programme and are looking forward to being part of a national live stream event on 1 July.

Joseph, who plays viola in the Under 12 orchestra, and Oliver, who plays double bass in the Under 10 orchestra, attend the course via a specially created website where there are musical activities online managed by more than 80 freelance professionals. It entails taking part in online sectionals every Sunday and online sessions covering different aspects of playing throughout the week.

The programme has also focused on the health and wellbeing aspects to playing a musical instrument, with Henry Cookey, Olympic Taekwondo athlete doing exercise sessions with them. Meanwhile the brothers have also enjoyed the Composing for Film sessions with Aardman productions and have learnt how to set their own music to a film score.

The main instrumental sessions have focused on playing various orchestral extracts and practising their parts for On The Move, a special composition by the whole NCOGB orchestra. Once they've recorded all five movements, they will be added with everyone else's videos to create a live stream on YouTube broadcast on 1 July, which will share some of the events and engagement that has happened over the 15 weeks.



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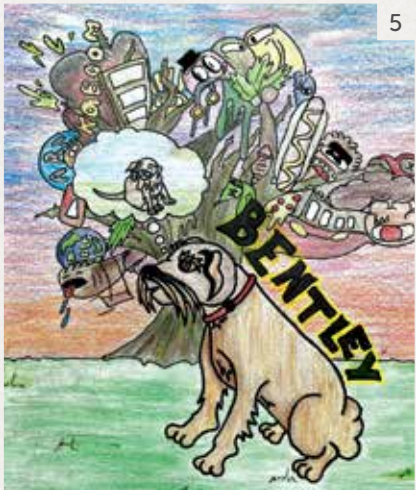
Joseph said: 'There are so many resources for us to take part in which are lots of fun. When I'm playing with the recording it feels like I'm playing with the whole orchestra, which is amazing. I really enjoyed making the soundtrack with Aardman because we got to improvise, and I love Wallace and Gromit! These social sessions have really helped me to stay happy with a smile on my face.'

Oliver added: 'It's nice to do the National Children's Orchestra in the same room as Joseph. It's really strange because I feel like I'm in an orchestra but if I look around, I'm in the sitting room! I like the social sessions because I can show off my juggling.'

The brothers are hoping to be able to audition to take part in live events next year.



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Junior School
Arts and Performance

'My Dog Bentley' Year 6 Art Competition

– SUMMER TERM 2021

By S Morley, Junior School Teacher of Art

Earlier this term, Year 6 took part in an exciting art competition organised by the Head of Senior School Art, Mrs Horsfield.

For the competition, the children had to follow instructions from Mrs Horsfield's video which guided them step-by-step to draw an outline of her dog, Bentley. The children were then shown how to colour their drawing to show the furry texture of Bentley.

A fantastic set of pictures were entered by the whole of Year 6, which included exciting backgrounds and even included some drawings of their own pets.

Prizes were awarded to joint winners Maya A and Addison S. Runners up were Nurayni G and Katy H and two special prizes were given to Eesa A and Muhammad T. They each received a variety of art equipment to help develop their creative skills.

Well done Year 6!

Joint winners

1. Maya A
2. Addison S

Runners up

3. Nurayni G
4. Katy H

Special prizes

5. Eesa A
6. Muhammad 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.

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

Year 6 Art

– AUTUMN TERM 2020

By S Morley, Teacher of Art

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.

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.

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The children copied Monet's quick, brushstrokes of paint, which is characteristic of the impressionist style, as the artists needed to work quickly because of the changing light conditions.

Communities, Societies and Activities



House Captains

– AUTUMN TERM 2020

By F Robertshaw-Hughes, Junior School
Deputy Head (Pastoral)

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!



'Clock House is like my second home'

Day in a Life of a Year 6 pupil: Fia
– AUTUMN TERM 2020

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.

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 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.

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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 or 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.

Pen Pals

– AUTUMN TERM 2020

By P Tatham, Junior School Teacher

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 a 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.

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 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!



We're Going on a Bear Hunt

– AUTUMN TERM 2020

By H Smith, Year 2 Teacher

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.



We Are Scientists

– AUTUMN TERM 2020

By C Orviss, Junior School Deputy Head (Academic)

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.

Year 5 Space Cadets

– SPRING TERM 2021

By C Orviss, Junior School Deputy Head (Academic)

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.

Year 2 learning achievements in lockdown

– SPRING TERM 2021

By H Smith, Junior School Teacher

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.



Day in the life of remote learners – Morgan and Ingrid

– SPRING TERM 2021

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

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.'



Polar explorer gets in touch with Year 4 pupils

– SPRING TERM 2021

By L Marsden, Junior School Teacher

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.

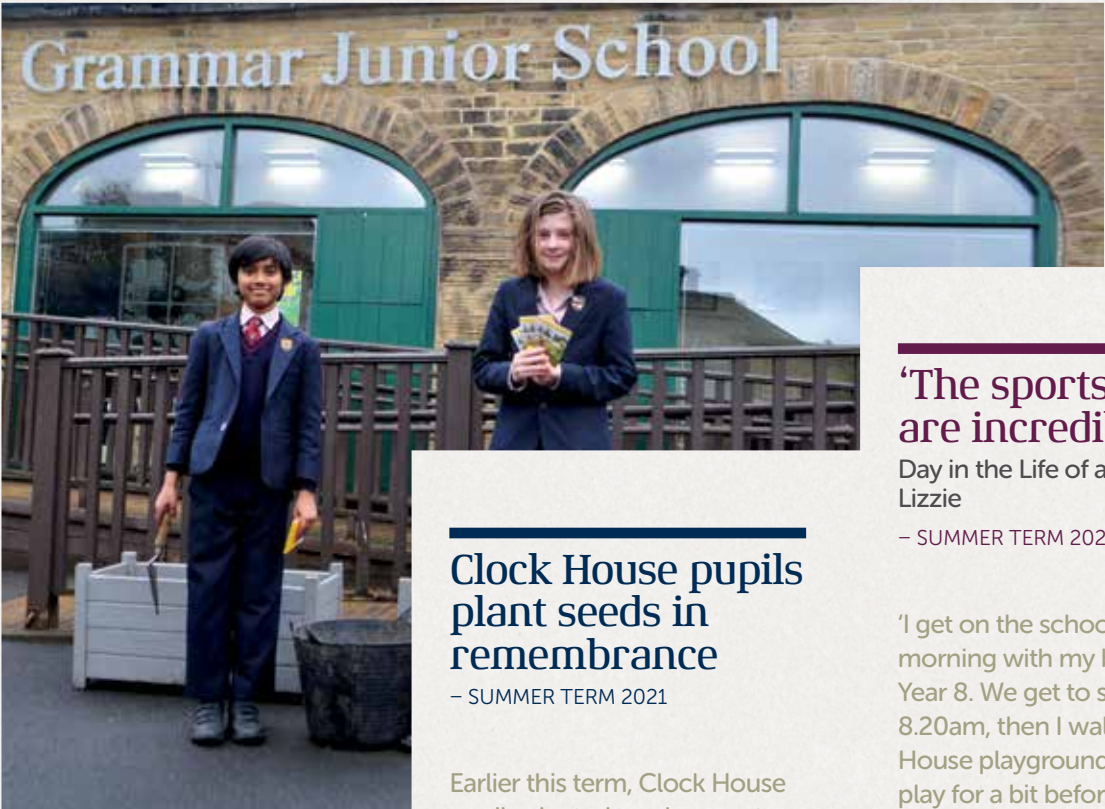
More recently, Year 4 were delighted to learn that accomplished Polar athlete and explorer since 1996, Rosie Stancer, had replied to them with a truthful and heart-warming letter about her incredible expeditions, including skiing solo to the South Pole in 2003, and in 2007, journeying alone over the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

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

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

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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 ...



Clock House pupils plant seeds in remembrance

– SUMMER TERM 2021

Earlier this term, Clock House pupils planted seeds as part of the Commonwealth War Graves Foundation project, ‘Plant wildflowers in remembrance’.

Elizabeth Smith from the foundation visited School on 23 June to talk to the pupils about the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and answered any questions that the pupils had. It was a great assembly with lots of valuable knowledge shared. Once the wildflowers have bloomed, we hope to hold a dedication ceremony for all the Old Bradfordians who fought in the war.

Alongside this, the OBA Committee and Development & Old Bradfordians’ Office are running a ‘Gone but not forgotten’ project, where artefacts, photos and other memorabilia are being collected from relatives of Old Bradfordians who fought in the Second World War. This information is being stored at School for future generations to see and is a wonderful way to keep their stories alive. We are excited to be able to share these memories of our Old Bradfordians with Clock House pupils.

‘The sports facilities are incredible ...’

Day in the Life of a Year 6 pupil:
Lizzie

– SUMMER TERM 2021

‘I get on the school bus each morning with my brother who is in Year 8. We get to school at around 8.20am, then I walk to the Clock House playground, where we can play for a bit before we line up and go to our classrooms. I sometimes wait for my friends who come on a different bus and we walk up together, but I sometimes just go straight to the playground as there is always someone to play with.

At first I was worried about getting on the bus with the older boys and girls, but I soon realised it was actually fun – some of my friends that I have out of school and who are in different year groups get on the same bus, so I spend most of the journey chatting!

I joined Clock House in Year 4, and I was nervous at first – I thought it might be hard to make new friends, but I couldn’t have been more wrong! There were other children who also joined in the same year and everyone was so friendly and kind, so I soon settled in. Everyone – the teachers and pupils are really lovely. We are like a big family!

When we go into school, we go to our classrooms for registration. There are a few tasks each morning written on the whiteboard, such as catching up on a piece of work. Mrs Green, my form teacher is so nice and kind. She takes us for most of our subjects, and she explains



things really well – I like how she builds up the level of work gradually to make sure we all understand.

I enjoy most of my subjects, but my real passion is sport. The sports facilities at school are incredible, and we’ve great coaches to support us.

At lunchtime, I like to play netball with my best friend in the playground and on alternate Mondays, I play hockey. I also do after-school clubs for netball and cricket. I really love cricket – it’s my favourite sport, and I’m getting better the more I practise.

My brother gave me one of his old cricket bats when I was five and since then, I’ve been hooked! I started training with a local cricket club when I was seven, and when I was nine, I played a whole season for the West Yorkshire U11 squad. I recently trialled for Yorkshire and have just found out that I have made their squad for this season. I can’t wait to start playing games and am so happy to have made the team.

I’m excited to move over to the Senior School next year and as we’ve some lessons over there already, it isn’t scary. The only difference in moving to Senior School is that we might get more homework, but I’m ready for it.

I also have school dinners in the main dining hall twice a week. I love it when we have pizza, but I also love the chicken dinner – I really like parsnips!

Being at Clock House is really fun. I’m happy and feel safe and looked after. Even though we are near the city centre, we have lots of space and it’s peaceful with lots of green fields. I feel like I’m in the countryside!



Egg-citement for Year 2 as they welcome some new visitors!

– SUMMER TERM 2021

By H Smith, Year 2 Teacher

Summer term’s focus for Year 2 was all about growing and changing – and it was started in style when a parcel of an incubator and eggs were spotted in the classroom on the first day of term.

Over the following few days, faces young and old lit up with delight as eggs hatched and we became responsible for looking after twelve little chicks for the first two weeks of their lives.

‘Every day we had to weigh them, feed them and make sure they were happy. Miss Smith cleaned the poo in the brooding box,’ said Aamina.

The hatching project gave the Year 2 children a wonderful, engaging, enriching and educational experience along with the opportunity to develop their cross curricular learning in a fun and interactive way. The children now want to know – can we keep them?

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I recently trialled for Yorkshire and have just found out that I have made their squad for this season. I can’t wait to start playing games and am so happy to have made the team.



Eco-Bricks

– SUMMER TERM 2021

By N Watson, Junior School Teacher

This term, Year 5 children have been learning about plastic, how it is produced, and the impact single-use plastic is having on the planet.

Armed with their new knowledge, the children decided they wanted to do something to reduce the amount of single-use plastic they throw away. Then they found out about Eco-Bricks. These bricks are created when used plastic bottles are packed to a specified weight with other pieces of single-use plastic. When completed, they are durable enough to build with.

Year 5 created enough Eco-Bricks to build three planters and are now growing vegetables in the Clock House garden! They also collected empty water bottles and have turned them in to plant pots.

Not satisfied with their endeavours, the children also signed up to complete three climate pledges. These are aimed at reducing their carbon footprints. When they have successfully completed their pledges, they will earn a Blue Peter Green badge. What an amazing term's work!



Year 6 Census Topic

– SUMMER TERM 2021

By F Robertshaw-Hughes,
Junior School Deputy Head (Pastoral)

As this year is a census year, we wanted to seize the opportunity for the children to learn about the history of their local area and how it has changed over the years. The children pored over census records and used them to find out all sorts of information, such as why Bradford is such a diverse city and about the protests of the suffragettes.

Year 6 pupils also learned about censuses through history and how the government use the data to help with planning and policy. They thought about their family's links with censuses and loved making predictions about what they will be recording in 2031.

Another firm favourite was the opportunity to write and complete their own children's census in computing lessons. This included some super questions such as 'Who are your role models?' and 'What is your dream job for the future?'. The topic was a great opportunity to consider our community and the part we all play in it.

Trips and Events

Virtual visit to Antarctica

– AUTUMN TERM 2020

By A Buckley, Junior School Teacher

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!

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 Adéli Penguins to name a few! The children and teachers were in awe and were so grateful for the time he gave to us.

Year 5 Egyptian Workshop

– AUTUMN TERM 2020

By Ellie S, Year 5

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 worshipping his brother, so Seth tried to kill Osiris.

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

Year 6 Medical Mavericks

– AUTUMN TERM 2020

By N Watson, Junior School Teacher

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.

Medical Mavericks was an extremely fun and educational experience for the whole year.

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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.

Founders' Day

– AUTUMN TERM 2020

By Maya A, Year 6

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 traveled 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.



Ilkley Literature Festival 2020

– AUTUMN TERM 2020

By C Orviss, Junior School Deputy Head (Academic)

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!



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.

Clock House Careers Talks

– SPRING TERM 2021

By A Buckley, Junior School Teacher

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



European Day of Languages

– AUTUMN TERM 2020

By E Green, Junior School Teacher

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!

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.





Children’s Mental Health Week

– SPRING TERM 2021

By F Robertshaw Hughes, Deputy Head (Pastoral)

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 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.

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All of the children took part in special lessons throughout the week where they shared their ways of expressing themselves.



Anglo-Saxon Workshop

– SUMMER TERM 2021

By L Marsden and K Atkinson,
Year 4 Teachers

Earlier in the summer term, Year 4 were treated to a fantastic Anglo-Saxon workshop delivered by an educational company called Dantastic, providing pupils with a perfect hook for their new topic.

Activities included using historically accurate items, props, video presentations and group discussions. Some of the favourite topics experienced were ‘Anglo-Saxon Warriors’, ‘Conquering of Britain’ and ‘Looking at Historical Weapons’. Handling the artefacts proved very exciting and after the workshop, pupils came up with so many questions as a result, which directed their learning. Dantastic said: ‘Bringing history to life from a young age will help every child to retain a love for learning throughout their future school years.’

We look forward to potentially welcoming Dantastic in the future and offering pupils more practical opportunities to learn about the past.



Discovering the Outdoors

– SUMMER TERM 2021

By L Marsden, Year 4 Teacher

This term, Clock House pupils have been lucky enough to partake in a range of outdoor bushcraft sessions, delivered by Pennine Bushcraft. The idea of the sessions was to share with one another a love of, and passion for, outdoor learning.

Pupils explored team building, fire building and foraging as part of their sessions and thoroughly enjoyed being at one with nature.

The sessions allowed pupils the opportunity to learn more about the natural world and also equipped them with lifelong survival tips and skills.

Each class was fortunate enough to enjoy two sessions with Josh Hemingway who was introduced to the natural world himself as a young boy by his Dad, who taught him how to recognise trees by their bark, and birds by their calls.

We wonder if some of our young pupils may go on to enjoy careers in the outdoors!



Sporting Achievements



Medal success for BGS bros!

– AUTUMN TERM 2020

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

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'

READ MORE ...
bradfordgrammar.com/news



Inter-House Cross Country Competition

– AUTUMN TERM 2020

By G Jones, Head of Junior School PE & Games

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.

Each group participated in a 'sustained' running programme, where they built up each week the amount of time they could run continuously for. This then culminated in an inter-house cross country competition within the year group bubbles. We were extremely pleased and proud of the way that the pupils approached both the unit of work as a whole and the competition. Well done to all Year 5 and 6 pupils upon gaining points for your house.

The overall results were as follows:

Year 6	Year 5
1st Founders	1st Freeman
2nd Bradford	2nd Royal
3rd Royal	3rd Bradford
4th Freeman	4th Founders

“
Joseph and Oliver have been inspired by Old Bradfordians, Olympic triathletes and brothers, Alistair and Jonny Brownlee.



Clock House Remote PE Learning

– SPRING TERM 2021

By G Jones, Head of Junior School PE & Games

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.

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.



Cricket success for Clock House pupils

– SUMMER TERM 2021

By A Buckley, Year 5 Teacher

It is with immense joy that we share the cricketing success of two of our pupils: Anish M in Year 6, who plays for the West Yorkshire Asteroids and Alex G in Year 5, who plays for the U10s West Yorkshire Regional Cricket Squad.

Anish joined Saltaire Cricket Club at the young age of six! He is a keen left-hand pace bowler, so it is no surprise that his favourite cricketer is Trent Boult, who also plays the same role. His proudest moment was when he took his first wicket for West Yorkshire against North Yorkshire.

Alex joined Lightcliffe Cricket Club also at the age of six. Alex is an opening fast bowler and a middle order batsman. His proudest moment was when his team won the Bradford U9 cricket league when he was only seven and playing for West Yorkshire.

The boys are grateful for the support they have received from Mrs Jones and Mr Kellett. We are so proud of their achievements to date. Well done, boys!





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Senior School and Sixth Form

Arts and Performance

Arts and Performance



Year 7 Drama Club
– AUTUMN TERM 2020

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!

Everyone worked as a team and showed real commitment ... it was very exciting to see such thespian potential at this early stage in the year.



Music Roundup: Autumn 2020

– AUTUMN TERM 2020

By E White, Director of Music

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!



News from the Music Department: Spring 2021

– SPRING TERM 2021

By E White, Director of Music

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.

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!

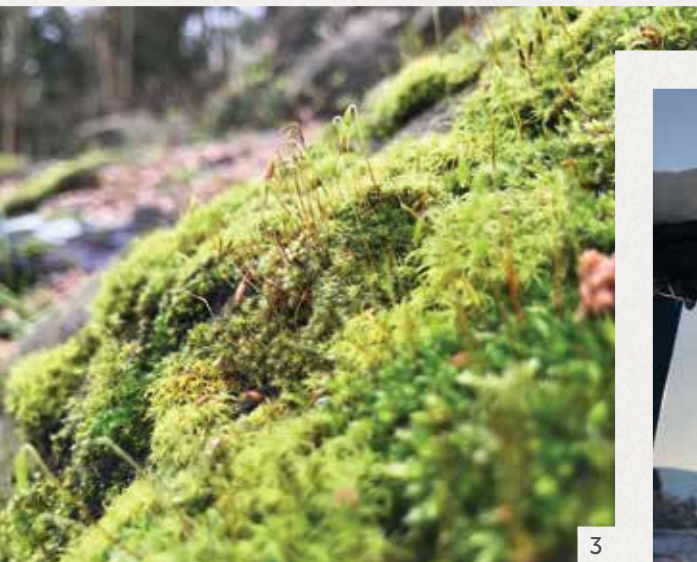
And so we turn our thoughts to our remaining concerts this year – while (at the time of writing) we are sadly unable to have a live audience in School, we are already planning a fitting tribute to our Year 13 musicians next term with solo items and ensemble recordings. Watch this space!



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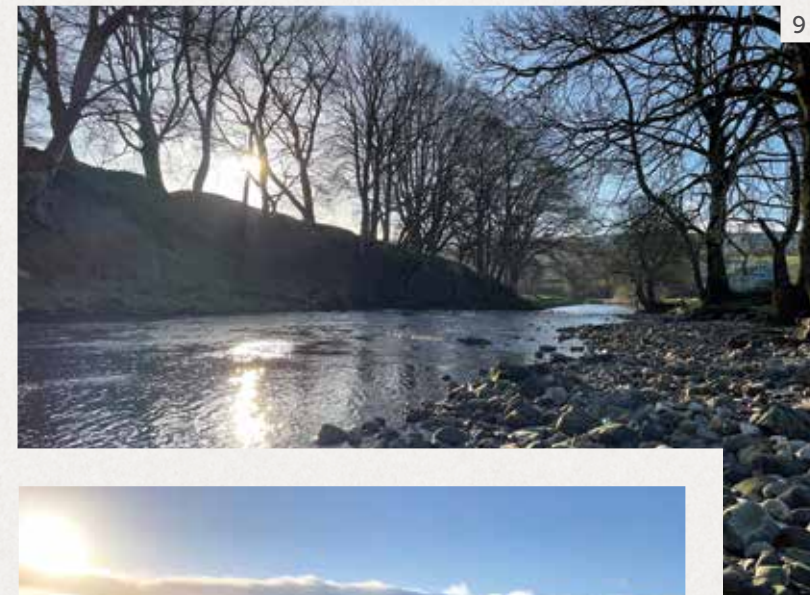
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Year 7 Photography Competition

– SPRING TERM 2021

By R Skelton, Head of Religious Studies

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.

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

Overall winner: Hania P (1)

Overall runner-up: Zara Z (2)

Best portrait photograph

1st Place: Millie C (3)

2nd Place: Isobel B (4)

3rd Place: Harry S (5)

Best photo that captured the essence of winter

1st Place: Jessica T (6)

2nd Place: Millie C (7)

3rd Place: Aleena S (8)

Best landscape photograph

1st Place: Khadijah N (9)

2nd Place: Erin B (10)

3rd Place: Siya J (11)

Music Roundup: Summer 2021

– SUMMER TERM 2021

By E White, Director of Music

This term we have worked hard in the Music Department building up and starting our ensembles again – students have shown great resilience as we disrupt our usual schedule of activities and find COVID secure spaces. It's been quite a challenge! We've had Orchestra and Concert Band rehearsals in the Price Hall, Choir in the Hockney Theatre and various other ensembles in the Music Department. It really has been like a game of musical chairs!

Joking aside, I have been struck by the enthusiasm of the pupils and desperation (for want of a better word!) to get our large ensembles up and running again. After rehearsals in the Price Hall, echoing around the School, I have been approached by many members of staff declaring how wonderful it is to hear music once again. We now have every instrumental music group up and running from pre-COVID times and our two largest choirs. Thank you to the staff who have made these rehearsals happen.

Our Leavers' Recital moved online this year, and featured soloists from our Year 13 cohort. We have also created online Friday lunchtime recitals, one of which was from the Interact Club, all skilfully edited together by Mr Stokes, our Music Graduate. Congratulations must also go out to our many students who have completed digital music exams this term. Well done all.

In the summer we will bid a fond farewell to Mr Oliver Stokes, our Music Graduate. I cannot do him justice in this short article but to say he has transformed our department is an understatement. He has been responsible for all our digital content during COVID times and he has videoed and edited hours of lunchtime recitals, music exams, Year 10 performance exams, A Level recitals, Chamber Concerts and our Leavers' Recital. He will be missed by pupils and staff alike. We wish him all the best as he goes to Manchester to train to be a music teacher. Thank you for everything you have done in the department, Mr Stokes!

Looking to the future, we feel excited about a hopeful return to normality in September. The choirs are already rehearsing hard for Founders' Day in September, and we are in the early stages of planning for our whole-school musical. Watch this space!

Charlotte shines in lockdown

– SUMMER TERM 2021

Year 8 pupil, Charlotte D, showed true Hoc Age spirit during lockdown and the pandemic when she succeeded in keeping up with her hobbies and passing several exams.

Charlotte took the decision prior to lockdown to keep up with the arts subjects she loves, from dance and singing to acting and piano.

Her dedication saw her pass her Grade 3 piano as well as gaining distinctions in:

- **Grade 4 ballet**
- **Grade 3 modern jazz dance**
- **Grade 4 singing**
- **Grade 4 LAMDA acting**

Charlotte also competed in two national Summit Dance competitions, where she was placed first and third; undertook a six-week screen acting course in the summer and successfully auditioned for a dance collaboration video, which will be filmed later in the year.

She continued her dance training throughout lockdown and was lucky enough to take classes with people from all over the world, including Francesca Hayward, principal ballerina with The Royal Ballet.

Dr Simon Hinchliffe, Headmaster, said: 'Charlotte, like many of our students, kept her spirits up and achieved an incredible amount during lockdown. She is an inspiration in the way she has continued with her training and lessons, successfully passing all of her exams, most of them with distinctions. Well done Charlotte!'

“

Charlotte, like many of our students, kept her spirits up and achieved an incredible amount during lockdown. She is an inspiration in the way she has continued with her training and lessons ...



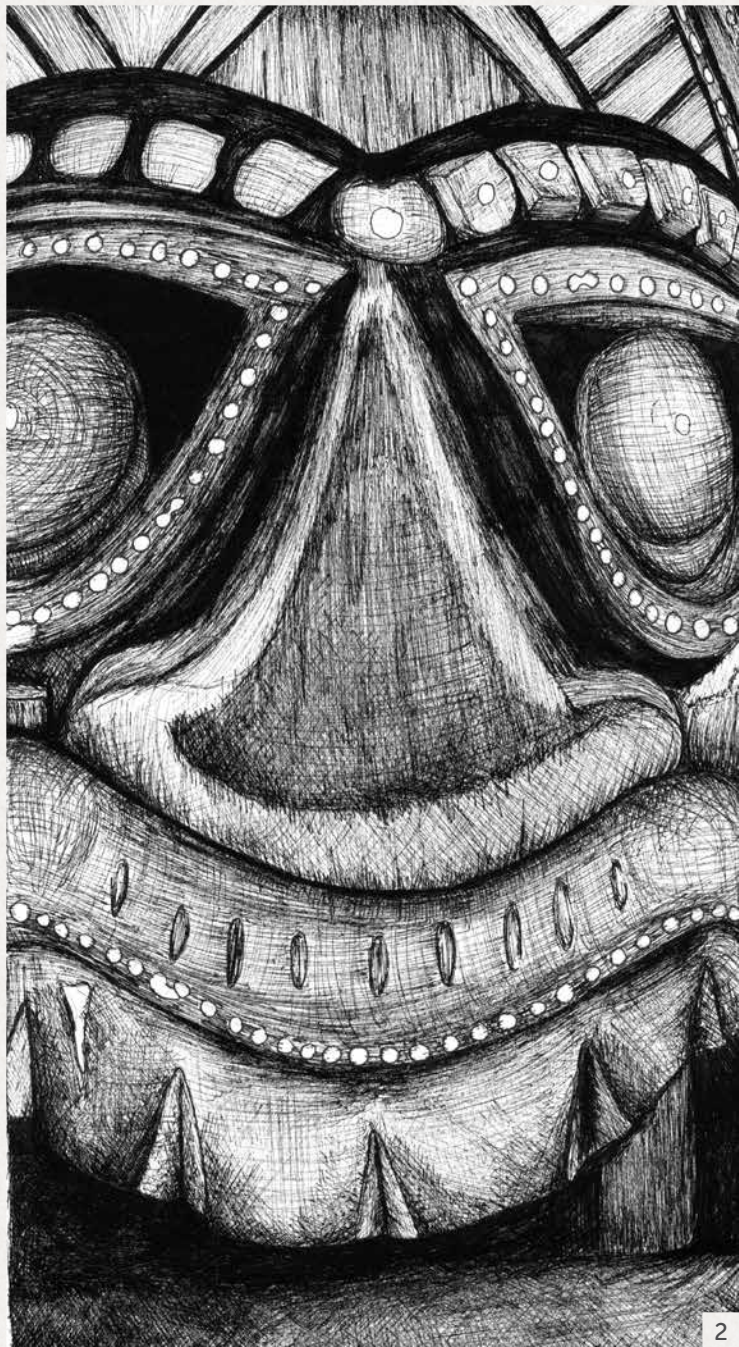


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Talent snapshot

Arts subjects may be under threat nationally but they are thriving at BGS. We're proud to present this snapshot of incredible artwork created by our pupils.

1. Charity C, Year 10
2. Amelia B, Year 10
3. Sam D, Year 9
4. Florence H, Year 10
5. Ibrahim E, Year 8
6. Lara T, Year 9
7. Aarti S, Year 9
8. Zara B, Year 10
9. Ronald G, Year 10
10. Carla B, Year 10
11. Archie S, Year 7
12. Carla B, Year 10
13. Harry B, Year 10
14. Tamarai T, Year 9
15. Laura T, Year 7



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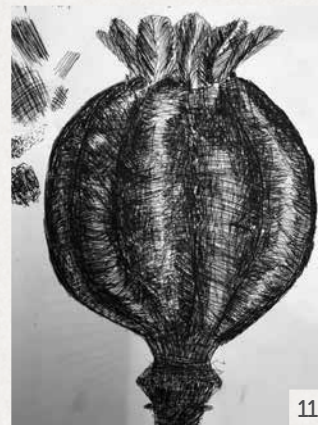
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Communities, Societies and Activities



Double essay writing award win for BGS!

– AUTUMN TERM 2020

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.'

READ MORE ...
bradfordgrammar.com/news



Harvest Appeal

– AUTUMN TERM 2020

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



Creative Writing Film and Media Society

– AUTUMN TERM 2020

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).

Telescopes donated by Old Bradfordian to Physics department

– AUTUMN TERM 2020

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.



The Interact Club

– AUTUMN TERM 2020

By Tzavier T, Vice-President of 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.

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

– AUTUMN TERM 2020

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.'



BGS say #HelloYellow on World Mental Health Day

– AUTUMN TERM 2020

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.

“

Over £740 was raised through donations made by students and staff ...





Meet our Head Prefects

– AUTUMN TERM 2020

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?

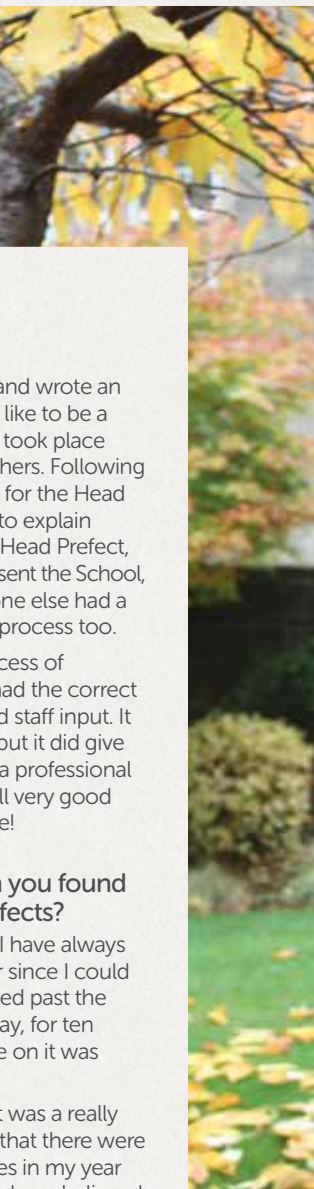
Shaan I was lost for words. I have always strived for the position, ever since I could remember at BGS. I've walked past the Head Prefect board every day, for ten years now. Seeing my name on it was an incredible feeling.

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.

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!



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

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

– SPRING TERM 2021

By J Chapman, Assistant Head (Pastoral)

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!

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

– SPRING TERM 2021

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 – 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.

La Fête des Rois

– SPRING TERM 2021

By L Kingsley, Head of French

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!

Trans-atlantique Christmas cheer in French

– SPRING TERM 2021

By L Kingsley, Head of 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!

Personal Development programme goes virtual

– SPRING TERM 2021

By D Chalashika, Head of Personal Development

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.



Library support during lockdown

– SPRING TERM 2021

By S O'Connor, Library Assistant

'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.

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!



Year 7 Virtual Baking Club

– SPRING TERM 2021

By E Tomlinson, Head of Year 7

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.

TO VIEW THE HUMMINGBIRD BAKERY CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES RECIPE VISIT ...

<http://bit.ly/HB-cookies>

Oxford and Cambridge University Success

– SPRING TERM 2021

By S Denby, Assistant Head of Higher Education

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!



Meet our codebreaking cyber superstars!

– SUMMER TERM 2021

Four codebreaking BGS pupils beat more than 6,500 other girls to compete in the finals of a national cybersecurity competition ...

Bradford Grammar School Year 8 students Ruqaiyah A, Eliza S, Eloise B, and Fiona L, won through to the CyberFirst Girls final as North of England champions following the fast-paced semi-finals.

The girls worked hard all day solving online puzzles about logic and coding, networking, cybersecurity and cryptography.

Christine Harvey, Head of Computer Science, said: 'BGS had entered this competition for the past three years and had never got to the semi-finals, so the girls did amazingly well. The semis were fun but challenging, with the top place on the leader board changing several times in the last few minutes. It was very exciting to win the semi-final and to represent the North of England at the national final. On finals day, we just missed out on a top position despite the girl's teamwork and determination.'

The competition was run by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), part of GCHQ. Now in its fifth year, the competition aims to inspire girls to pursue their interests in technology and consider a career in cybersecurity.

Chris Ensor, NCSC Deputy Director for Cyber Growth, said: 'It's inspiring to see girls up and down the country engaging in the competition with such enthusiasm and skill, and we hope many will consider taking their interest in cybersecurity further.'



Classics competition successes

– SUMMER TERM 2021

By K Meakin, Head of Classics

The annual Leeds University Classics Competition took place online this year and saw an explosion of entries from across the country, but BGS pupils held their own!

Daniel B was placed first in the Junior Classical Drama category for his insightful talk on Patroclus, while Tom T took third place with his evaluation of Aristotle.

Edwin v-L, reading Ovid's telling of the story of Midas, was awarded first place in Junior Latin, while Ben J took third place in Senior Latin with a rendition of Livy's violent encounter between Romulus and Remus. Honourable mentions went to Harry B, Will C and Sophie T.

Meanwhile Charity C and Pollyanna G-W showed enterprise and an appetite for serious research in entering the Cambridge University Classics Faculty Audio-visual Competition. Their podcast on the deification of Alexander the Great impressed the judges, earning them first place along with a £75 prize.

BGS AstroNews

– SUMMER TERM 2021

By J King, Teacher of Physics

As part of the Astronomy course in the Year 7 Wednesday morning Activities programme, a group of Year 7 pupils have been producing a regular astronomy newsletter called 'BGS AstroNews'.

This is distributed online to a number of local primary schools. Each edition keeps readers updated on what's happening in the night sky, highlighting the phases of the Moon, eclipses, meteor showers and the positions of the planets – all of which can be seen without the need for a telescope.

THE LATEST EDITION OF BGS ASTRONEWS IS AVAILABLE TO VIEW AT ...
<http://bit.ly/astronews-may2021>

BGS's first telethon!

– SUMMER TERM 2021

By L Davis, Director of Development & External Relations

In July, BGS is launching our first ever telethon!

The Development & Old Bradfordians' Office is recruiting 13 student callers from across Sixth Form and our recent leavers. Callers will reach out to Old Bradfordians and raise money for the School's new 1662 Fund for Assisted Places.

10 per cent of students currently receive funding and we want to increase this to 20 per cent over the next seven years. The 1662 Fund has raised more than £1 million in its first year of operation, so this represents the chance to be part of a truly ground-breaking campaign from the very start!

BGS students are the best advocates for all that our School offers, and they will be fully trained before taking to the phones. They'll develop new communication skills, talk to interesting people from a range of backgrounds, and have the chance to boost their CV and find out about new careers.



Top marks for Arjun!

– SUMMER TERM 2021

Year 8 pupil Arjun M is celebrating after taking his iGCSE Maths exam three years early and gaining a Grade 9.

Arjun, 13, from Saltaire, said his mum had also taken her GCSE early and had encouraged him to do the same.


He said: 'I was happy and relieved when I found out I'd passed. I really enjoy maths and I like how it's logical. I'm now hoping to do my Maths A Level early too.'

Phil Watson, Head of Mathematics said it was clear Arjun had a talent for maths from an early age in Clock House. While in Years 5 and 6, he had had regular weekly lunchtime meetings in the Senior School to be introduced to more advanced concepts. He then worked very hard with Mrs Nazil in Year 7 and Mr Crabtree in Year 8 to prepare himself for his iGCSE.

Said Mr Watson: 'Arjun has shown great determination in learning concepts normally first introduced to Year 11 pupils as well as super self-discipline in the period of remote learning last summer.

'It was clear that he was more than ready for the challenges of the iGCSE and he performed extremely well in the examination in January, achieving marks comfortably above the boundary for the top grade. We are extremely delighted and proud of his extraordinary achievement and happy to assist Arjun in the pursuit of his next goal of an A Level in Mathematics.'





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Senior School and Sixth Form

Trips

Trips

Virtual French Exchange

– SPRING TERM 2021

By L Kingsley, Head of French

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!

Humanities Outdoor Learning Day

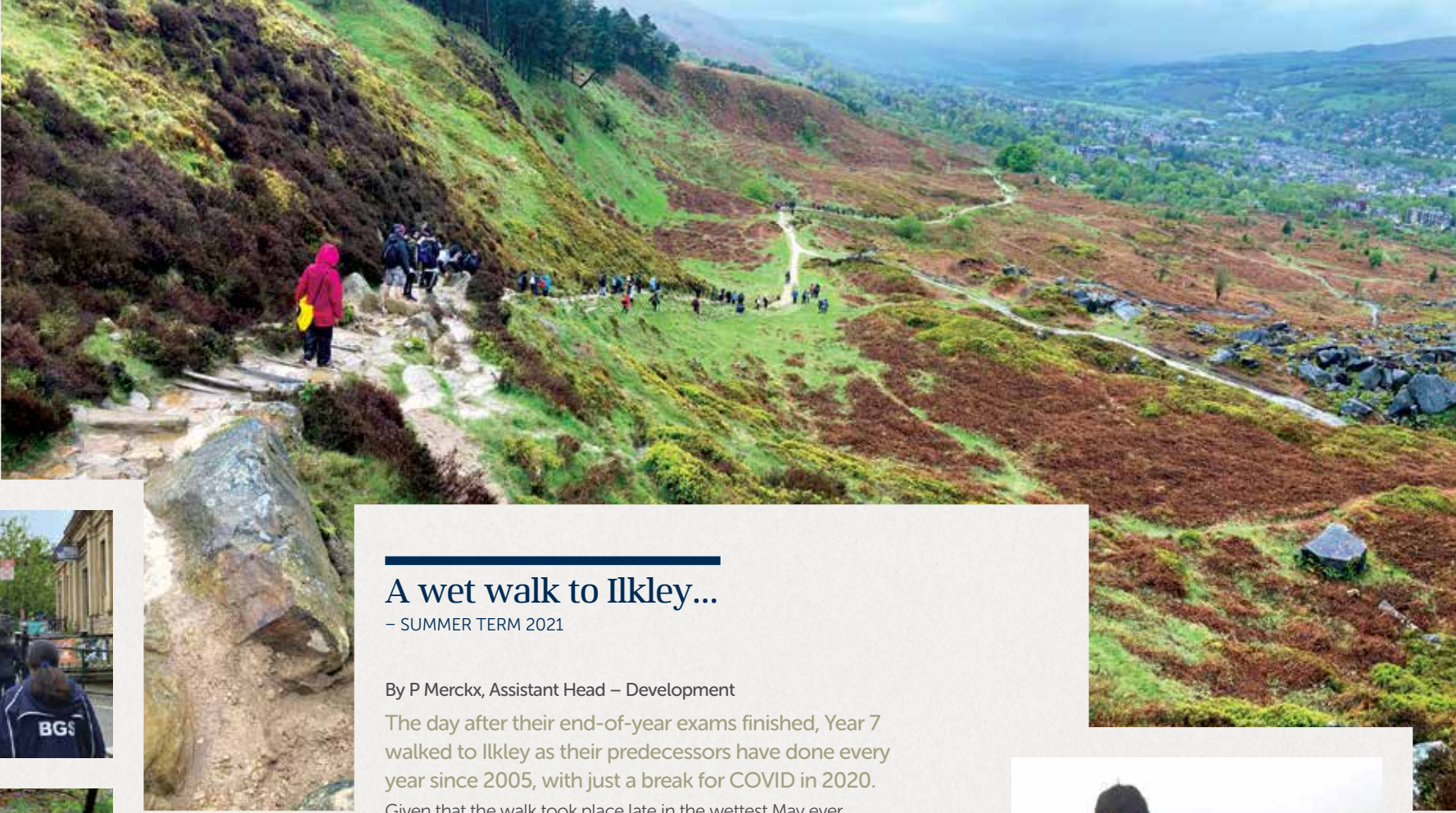
– SUMMER TERM 2021

By H Baines, Head of History

Undeterred by the unseasonably damp weather, the History and Geography departments were delighted to finally get Year 8 out of the classroom for their first proper school trip of the year, taking advantage of the rich learning opportunities on our doorstep.

First stop was a tour of the UNESCO World Heritage site of Saltaire village, helping pupils appreciate the scale of Titus Salt's mill and model community built in the 1850s. Having studied the industrial revolution in class, pupils were able to put Salt's project in its context and explore the concept of philanthropy as we debated Salt's motivation and historical significance.

In the afternoon the Geographers got the chance to get wet and muddy as they practised their fieldwork skills in the lush environment of Heaton Woods; measuring river flow and sediment, scrambling up the banks and learning about valley formation in the ice-age.



A wet walk to Ilkley...

– SUMMER TERM 2021

By P Merckx, Assistant Head – Development

The day after their end-of-year exams finished, Year 7 walked to Ilkley as their predecessors have done every year since 2005, with just a break for COVID in 2020.

Given that the walk took place late in the wettest May ever recorded, it was a minor miracle that we stayed dry for the first two hours. Spirits were high as we left Shipley Glen behind, crossed the Baildon gallops and headed out onto Bingley Moor.

Then it got wet.

First it was wet underfoot. 'You could actually drown in that one' was a reasonable assessment of one puddle. Then, belatedly, the rain arrived, blown in by a northerly wind that came from nowhere. The traditional picnic at the Twelve Apostles was cut short.

Amazingly, Year 7 never flagged once. They got wet, they sang, they ran, they laughed. Maisie the Dinosaur kept the backmarkers moving along.

The Ilkley Walk is always a memorable day, this one more than most. Congratulations and thanks to everyone who took part, staff and pupils alike.

“

Amazingly, Year 7 never flagged once. They got wet, they sang, they ran, they laughed ... the Ilkley Walk is always a memorable day, this one more than most.



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Senior School and Sixth Form

Events and Visiting Speakers

Events and Visiting Speakers

Digital Theatre – ‘A Disappearing Number’

– AUTUMN TERM 2020

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!

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!



Open Science Lecture: ‘Presentations Beyond the Matrix’

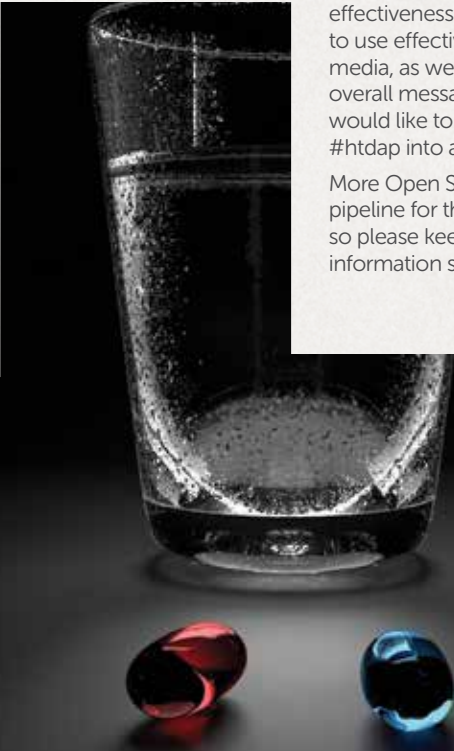
– AUTUMN TERM 2020

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.



Faiths in the City

– AUTUMN TERM 2020

‘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.



European Day of Languages

– AUTUMN TERM 2020

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.



Beyond BGS: Virtual Careers Talks

– AUTUMN TERM 2020

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.

READ MORE ...

bradfordgrammar.com/news

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 ...



Are we alone in the universe?

– SPRING TERM 2021

By M Livesey, Teacher of Biology & Chemistry

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.



Year 7 take part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

– SPRING TERM 2021

By E Tomlinson, Head of Year 7

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



Beyond BGS

– SPRING TERM 2021

By S Flaherty, Head of Higher Education & Careers

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.

VISIT BEYOND BRADFORD ...
www.beyondbradford.com

beyondBradford



Victory for BGS Barristers in the 2021 Schools’ Mock Trial Competition

– SUMMER TERM 2021

By J Reeson, Teacher of Classics

Thanks to a team of Year 12 students, a man charged with causing injury while dancing over-enthusiastically in a night-club just before lockdown has been acquitted; a celebrity graffiti-artist has walked free from charges of vandalism; and a Bradford student has been found guilty of theft, despite pleading that her sheltered upbringing on a Scottish island did not prepare her for shopping in the big city.

Admittedly, these were all fictitious court cases, created by the Law Faculty at the University of Bradford for the 2021 Schools’ Mock Trial Competition; but, by acting as advocates in these cases, our students progressed through the rounds to the final, presided over by HHJ Jonathan Rose.

Their victory against Cardinal Newman College means that BGS retain their competition crown and are 2021 champions. It may not be long before Fraz A, Harry B, Grace D, Courtney E-S, Alex F, Jasmine M, and Muskan R are advocates in real, not mock, trials.



Year 10 Tug of War Tournament

– SUMMER TERM 2021

By E Greaves, Head of Year 10

Since our return to School in March, Year 10 pupils have developed a new routine on Tuesday lunchtimes, cooked dinner then war (tug of war to be precise).

What started as a fun way to socialise and reconnect with their peers, quickly became a heated competition in which the form tutors were as keen to be as victorious as their tutees.

Over the course of four weeks, 10EEM romped to victory while 10JER were left with the inaugural wooden spoon. During week five 10EEM took on ‘the best of the rest’ and were finally defeated.

The greatest excitement was left until Tuesday 11 May when each form took on the staff team, which included the Headmaster. The staff showed they were just as competitive as the pupils and were undefeated. As one Year 10 pupil remarked on one Tuesday lunch; ‘It’s all a bit random, Miss. But I like it!’

Year 12 Grounds for Hope Day

– SUMMER TERM 2021

By D Alcock, Teacher of Geography

Climate change. Inequality. Racial discrimination. Sometimes it can feel like the world is a terrible place and getting worse. But there are 'Grounds for Hope', and in a day of the same name in April, our Year 12 students took a closer look at long-term global, social and environmental trends and started to place current challenges in a historical context.

Teachers led a series of talks and workshops aimed at restoring students' hope for the future and boosting their sense of agency, so that they can shape a better future. In one session, students examined how humanity has combated previous threats to our lives and our planet, and considered how, in Newton's words, we are 'standing on the shoulders of giants'. In another, students were inspired by how music, prose and poetry can foster hope. The day ended with a meditative 'silent disco', followed by a fun tug of war contest and a barbecue.



BGS compete in Durham University's virtual debating competition

– SUMMER TERM 2021

By S Seager, Teacher of English

On Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 March, the BGS Debating Society entered Durham University's first (and hopefully only) virtual debating competition, in which close to 500 participants from schools around the country competed.

Motions on fair-trade, politicians on social media, 'doxxing' and more kept our teams busy throughout the weekend. Our pupils – many of whom were novices – did a fine job representing the School but missed out on breaking to the semi-finals on Sunday afternoon.

There were a few personal successes in the form of Harry B and Fred A, Anuli O and Emma D, and Tom O and Ben A, who managed to place first in one of their in-rounds.

A special mention should also go to Moazzam N, who, brand new to debating, competed as an 'ironman' in his first ever round. We are all keeping our fingers crossed for a return to in-person debating competitions next year!

Motions on fair-trade, politicians on social media, 'doxxing' and more kept our teams busy throughout the weekend. Our pupils – many of whom were novices – did a fine job representing the School ...



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Senior School and Sixth Form

Sport

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Sporting Achievements

Year 7 Sport Roundup

– AUTUMN TERM 2020

By O Rogers, Director of Sport

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.

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 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!

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.



We have been so impressed with our student athletes in this very strange start to the year ...



Funky Friday Live Fitness Sessions

– SPRING TERM 2021

By B Nabozny, Specialist Sports Coach, Strength & Conditioning

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.'



Putting the FUN into Fundraising!

– SPRING TERM 2021

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



Race ace Oliver's Tour de Yorkshire ambitions

– SPRING TERM 2021

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 one day and secure a place on a team abroad.'



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.

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Sixth Form student signs for Yorkshire CCC Academy

– SPRING TERM 2021

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

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.'



BGS trio enjoy Yorkshire Rugby Academy season

– SUMMER TERM 2021

Three BGS senior rugby players have enjoyed being part of the U18 Yorkshire Rugby Academy squad during the pandemic.

Obi E, Ed H and George G were allowed to continue playing with the academy, after the RFU confirmed all Premiership academy players could continue training during lockdown under elite sport exemption.

Head of BGS Rugby, Dan Scarbrough, said: 'It's been a very tough year for the promising group of senior rugby players at Bradford Grammar by not being able to fulfil their ambition to represent the school in their final year. But well done to Obi, Ed and George for continuing their development with The Yorkshire Academy.'

The boys played matches in the Academy League against other Premiership academies including Wasps, Leicester Tigers, Sale Sharks and Newcastle Falcons across weekends throughout May.

READ THE FULL STORY ...
<http://bit.ly/yorkshirerugbyacademy>

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It's been a very tough year for the promising group of senior rugby players at Bradford Grammar by not being able to fulfil their ambition to represent the school in their final year.



There’s no stopping our BGS cross country runners

– SUMMER TERM 2021

By M McCartney, Cross Country Coach
Our BGS runners have experienced some outstanding success recently. As is well known, school sport has been greatly reduced of late, but the organisers of the English Schools’ Cross Country Championships have been proactive in promoting a virtual version.

For Years 8 and 9 this was over a distance of 2km, and for the older age groups, the distance was 5km. In the senior boys’ race Alex F was an impressive 11th overall and Ben H placed 13th in the intermediate boys’ category.

Not to be outdone, the intermediate girls placed two in the top ten in the individual race. Amelie L was fifth and Rebecca F was not far behind in ninth.

In the team event, the BGS girls really excelled. Incredibly, the West Yorkshire team that was placed the fourth county in England, consisted entirely of BGS pupils. In addition to Amelie and Rebecca, Emily G, Carla B, Elsa F, and Serena K completed the six who counted for the team standings.

Cross country coach, Mike McCartney said: ‘This is staggering. I’ve been involved in the sport for a long time now, and I’ve been racking my brains trying to think of a precedent. Maybe there isn’t one? Massive kudos must go to the girls: they truly deserve it for continuing to put in the hard work over the last twelve months.’



BGS netball captain’s double success!

– SUMMER TERM 2021

By A Smith, Specialist Sports Coach, Netball
Eva L, our BGS Netball Club captain works tirelessly (even throughout lockdown) to maintain her netball skills and fitness levels. And the results have paid off as not only has she been selected to play for the Leeds Rhinos Netball Academy U19 squad, but she has also been named captain for the side. This is a tremendous achievement and one that we are all very proud of.

During lockdown, our younger girls were lucky enough to experience a virtual Q&A session with Eva. Many questioned what it takes to play high-level netball and Eva managed to stir some real excitement and determination amongst our youngsters to pursue their netball journey.

Eva has managed to balance her netball alongside passing her umpiring, coaching and lifeguarding qualifications, passing her Grade 8 exam in saxophone, juggling three A Levels and applying to university. She is an inspiration to us all and fully embodies the BGS ‘Hoc Age’ motto.

Congratulations Eva, we are all so proud of you.



There’s no stopping Alex!

– SUMMER TERM 2021

It has been a successful and busy year for Year 9 pupil Alexander W despite the COVID-19 pandemic, where he has thrived with his loves of both sport and music.

An avid sportsman, Alex has been selected to once again play for the Yorkshire County Cricket Futures Team. In addition, Alex has also been selected to play for the West Yorkshire and North East England hockey team, culminating in being asked to attend the North of England Hockey Performance Centre in Durham.

To top things off, Alex also passed his Grade 5 saxophone exam during what has been a very strange year for us all.

Well done Alex – you have fully embraced the Hoc Age spirit!

Sport Reports



Athletic Development

By B Nabozny, Specialist Sports Coach
(Athletic Development)

The 2020/21 co-curricular Athletic Development Programme had over 100 students committed on a weekly basis across all year groups and sports, with the core focus to improve athleticism, physical development, literacy and long-term athletic development.

The sessions were all gym based with the aims of:

1. **Developing key fundamental movement patterns via a 5-level movement competency tier system.**
2. **Develop strength, power, speed and change of direction via plyometrics and resistance training methods.**
3. **Build robustness and resilience so students' bodies can tolerate the demands that sport and playing/training places upon them.**
4. **Learn to train in a gym environment safely and with structured training and purpose.**

All the students were given their own training sheet to record progress, and developed nicely across the year improving technique, control and strength. Special mentions go to Bella M in Year 8 who in a short period of time demonstrated technical proficiency and physical capacity to progress, through a great work ethic and commitment. Harry L in Year 10 made great improvements in his movement capabilities and control, again through consistency and repetition of mastering the key movements, such as the hinge pattern. Caitlin R and Amber H in Year 11 have been committed students to the programme and are also taking on

a responsibility through their own experiences and the benefits gained are helping spread the awareness of the importance of partaking in physical/athletic development focused training.

A big positive this year was that there is now a significant increase in girls and lower school participation, which looks likely to build going into 2021/22 and beyond.

The last half-term of the year we also introduced the Year 7 cohort into some introduction sessions in preparation for the following year, which had great interest and had over 25 students involved.

Athletic development continues to be delivered within curriculum sport/games lessons, generally on field/court alongside students' technical and tactical sports training and lessons to ensure every student can improve their athletic motor skill competency, physical literacy and general understanding. The aim is to not only improve their long-term athletic development and sports performance, but to provide the tools for when students go into their adult livelihood, be for general fitness and health reasons or to continue with their sporting journey and performance.



Athletics

By G Morrison, Specialist Sports Coach
(Athletics)

Unfortunately, once again, the summer athletics term was hampered by the COVID pandemic. That being said we were able to have curriculum lessons with both Year 7 and Year 8 pupils for their first time since joining BGS. Both age groups really took to the athletics programme and we had large numbers also attending the co-curricular lunch time 'throw and jump' clubs.

We were also able to run a couple of Year 7 and Year 8 inter form track competitions with some outstanding times being run. This was highlighted with BGS hosting a Tri School Track Event with Parkside and Emmanuel schools in attendance. The event was a chance for all students selected to be able to have a feel for competitive athletics and a sense of normality. All in attendance competed hard and with smiles on their faces and it was great to see the students being able to interact with other schools (in a COVID safe environment).

Next year we will be hosting the annual BAL events with three heats and a final. Alongside this we will also be hosting a number of tri school events similar to this year's successful event.

The future of BGS athletics looks very strong and we all can't wait to next year's Summer term.

Girls' cricket continues to grow under the tutelage of Mr Birch, with weekly sessions attracting excellent numbers and with a full set of fixtures for every age group; next season this will only gather momentum.

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Cricket

By S Kellett, Specialist Sports Coach (Cricket)

The 2021 cricket season was very much truncated due to the ongoing global pandemic. However, over 150 boys and girls represented the School in the fixtures that were able to take place. Fixtures were cancelled at very short notice on numerous occasions but despite this, our student cricketers always remained focused and had a smile on their faces.

After very little pre-season training our results were outstanding. The first XI played six fixtures and managed to win five, only losing at North Marine Road, Scarborough to the excellence of the Scarborough Cricket College. The Under 14s earlier that week had recorded a comprehensive victory over the same school to even matters up.

The annual BGS 6-a-side was played, again with Scarborough taking the honours, but it was a day enjoyed by all and is a format the young cricketers all look for in the diary. Girls' cricket continues to grow under the tutelage of Mr Birch, with weekly sessions attracting excellent numbers and with a full set of fixtures for every age group; next season this will only gather momentum. We had two girls that reached the heights of county selection in Erin G and Lizzie P and they are very promising cricketers.

We had many regional and county performers throughout the school and George L in Year 8 recorded a remarkable score of 154 in a representative game. One person, however, has had the year of years. Three years ago, I made a phone call to the Under 15 Yorkshire coach

suggesting they must have a very good team to be leaving this young lad out of the squad. This boy was named Will L and this season as he left BGS, he made his Yorkshire debut top scoring with 68. Not only did he gain fantastic A Level results he has now been chosen to represent the England Under 19s at the World Cup in the Caribbean in February.

After Christmas the preparation will again start for the 2022 season and any technical faults will be ironed out in readiness for a full block next summer. Cricket at BGS remains very much on the up and exciting times lie ahead. Just ask Will L what can be achieved!



Cross Country

By O Rogers, Director of Sport

Running is one of the sports where students and parents have been able stay active over the pandemic. The rise in numbers and levels of fitness have been influenced largely by constraints and before this, the accessibility of the parkruns dotted around the country. At BGS we have a strong reputation within cross-country circles that goes back many years, and this is largely based on hard work and commitment to regularly getting out and putting in the miles.

Obviously meets have been adapted to being virtual, however with the advancements of technology it has worked well to challenge yourself against others from all over the country.

The English Schools' Cross Country Championships was a super chance for the students to flex their lungs and show what they could do. We had great performances from all the students, and I am sure they are looking forward to getting back to racing face-to-face.

The King Henry VIII relay race is always a highlight in the cross-country calendar and this year was no exception. Again, it moved to being virtual. So, off the runners went to Leeds to find a suitable parkrun course to register their times. After an amazing turn out of students, staff and parents, times were submitted and then was the wait for the results to come back! The boys team came a very respectable sixth place and the two girls' teams came an amazing first and third place! Being only one of two schools in the country that have ever won both the boys' and girls' events, we now join an elite group of schools who have defended the title!

Over the summer, BGS students had the honour of representing their country. In July, Rebecca F was part of the England team for the U18 Mountain Running Cup in Ambleside, finishing second for England, fifth overall and winning a team silver medal. More recently, four pupils from Years 11 and 12 (Amelie L, Rebecca F, Emily G and Theo C) ran for England in the Junior Home International Fell Championship in Northern Ireland. Amelie finished an impressive second overall, with England taking the team gold medal position.

A massive well done to all involved. I would like to thank Mr Mike McCartney for his support and guidance over the years with the runners. Mrs Sally Barennes will now take over the reins and I know she is looking forward to getting stuck into the new season.

Senior School and Sixth Form
Sport Reports – Cross Country

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The English Schools' Cross Country Championships was a super chance for the students to flex their lungs and show what they could do. We had great performances from all the students, and I am sure they are looking forward to getting back to racing face-to-face.

Hockey

By D Birch, Specialist Sports Coach (Hockey)

BGS hockey celebrated its 10-year anniversary this year. Despite the impact of COVID-19, our hockey groups fully engaged in what was on offer and they had a good year – participation rates remained high throughout the year, in both Senior School and Clock House.

Starting with our girls programme; our senior squad had a challenging year trying to balance their workload off the pitch whilst continuing to develop on the pitch. The group did well in committing to their training all year round and have put themselves in a good position for the next stage in their hockey journeys. We say goodbye to a number of talented Year 13 pupils who will no doubt go on to great things, both on and off the pitch. A special mention to Natalie G, finishing her A Levels this year. Natalie is only our second pupil at BGS to have played in the England Hockey National League – we wish her all the best and look forward to seeing what she goes on to achieve.

A special thank you must also go out to our Captains, Laurene P and Amy D, who have done a superb job this year in helping the senior programme grow and get where it is. They have also done a great job in looking out for younger year groups in what has been a tricky time; their support really was invaluable at this time.

With planning already well underway for next season, we are very excited to be introducing a second squad into our senior programme next year due to the volume of pupils coming through the younger year groups. We are also thrilled to be introducing an indoor squad into the senior programme for the first time. With a lot of next year's senior players having been on the U16 indoor programme in previous years, we feel their experience will put them in good stead for their senior indoor journey.

Our U16 girls have been phenomenal throughout the year, having covered core game principles to set them up nicely for senior hockey over the next two years. A notable achievement from our U16 squad was their fundraising event, where they ran/walked from BGS to Rotterdam, Holland (which is where their tour is in April 2022), a total of 491 miles, and they raised a grand total of £795. Ten per cent of this went to the Hockey Parents' Association's associated charity, 'Hockey 4 Heroes'. The girls completed this challenge in just seven days, a great achievement and group effort!

The U12-U15 age groups engaged very well in the Saturday programme, where sessions primarily entailed small unit play, internal games and learning new skills. Mr Percival and Miss Leeson did a superb job with all year groups and we look forward to seeing all squads put what they have learnt in the last year into practice when fixtures return. It also came as no surprise to see so many of our girls representing West Yorkshire hockey, some of whom are looking to break into an England Hockey Performance Centre! Well done to all involved!

One of the impacts we have had on our programme this year has been our indoor programme, which has made good strides over the last two years, most recently finishing third in the North East in the 2019 season. Our U15s were determined to continue the momentum from the last couple of years and committed to training throughout the first term. The girls primarily focused on particular skills, which has assisted their development in the outdoor game, where the rules are different. The players and Mr Birch are very excited for the 2021 indoor season and feel, with the re-introduction of other year groups, they are on the verge of achieving something special.

Our boys in Years 7 to 9, unfortunately, had a shortened season, only getting to experience three weeks of school hockey this year. Nonetheless, it was amazing to see what talent we have in the lower year groups and the future of boys' hockey is certainly bright at BGS. Many of our pupils are being recognised for their talent outside of school in club and West Yorkshire environments. A couple of our boys managed to be a part of an England Hockey Performance Centre this year, which has been amazing to hear about.

The notable progression within boys hockey this year lay with our U15 and U16 squads. Having being able to participate in lessons for two terms under the provision of Miss Leeson and Mr Birch, both sets of squads made huge strides in their development and we are excited to see what they can achieve in the next couple of years, with the main aim of fielding our first formal 1XI Boys Squad in the 2022/23 season.

Along with our Senior School successes, it has been very energetic in Clock House with both boys and girls engaging well in lessons and co-curricular. The staff who have led the sessions for Years 4, 5 and 6 have been very impressed with how much our Clock House pupils have improved across the year and we hope to see this level of enthusiasm continue into their Senior School years.



Looking ahead to the 2021/22 season, we have some exciting events coming up which are all heavily supported by the Hockey Parents' Association. We are starting off in September with welcoming the England U16 and U18 boys' goalkeeper coach to do some coaching with our Senior School goalkeepers. We are also planning to welcome a Great Britain superstar (name to be decided) after the Tokyo Olympics, to run a session with our Clock House pupils and local primary schools. Our last planned event for the first term is the 'curry and quiz night' which we are running on Friday 8 October – further details will be released in September.

We would like to thank all pupils, parents and staff for their commitment and support throughout the 2020/21 season, it has been a season like no other and one we hope to not repeat. We are extremely excited to welcome back fixtures, when safe to do so, not just for hockey but to have that BGS community feel back where staff have the chance to interact with parents and supporters and of course seeing our squads put their hard work in training into practice in their fixtures.



Along with our Senior School successes, it has been very energetic in Clock House with both boys and girls engaging well in lessons and co-curricular. The staff who have led the sessions for Years 4, 5 and 6 have been very impressed with how much our Clock House pupils have improved across the year and we hope to see this level of enthusiasm continue into their Senior School years.



Netball

By A Smith, Specialist Sports Coach
(Netball)

The 2020/21 season has been far from ordinary, with COVID restrictions preventing external fixtures, our major fundraisers and cancelling our tour not once, but twice! Nevertheless, the Netball Parents' Association, our coaches and pupils have made the most of the season, found alternative fundraising activities and achieved both individual and team successes.

During the full UK lockdown, our netball sessions took place online via Microsoft Teams. Despite the alternative delivery of sessions, the commitment from our girls was second to none. Our sessions ranged from HIIT to yoga and ball skills, and many incorporated a competitive and interactive element keeping our athletes (and coaches) engaged and motivated. Our younger netballers in the school were also lucky to experience a Q&A session with our senior committee members; Eva L (Club Captain), Glesni J (1st VII Captain), Eve M (1st VII Vice Captain), Hannah C (2nd VII Captain) and Lara B (2nd VII Vice Captain). During these talks, our Senior Committee were able to share an insight into their netball journey at BGS, provide advice for our young athletes coming through and suggest ways to manage a school, netball and life balance. Well done ladies, an inspiration to our younger athletes, even during a national lockdown!

Upon the long-awaited return to school, despite there being no fixtures, we were keen to keep the importance of Saturday sport at the forefront of our minds. We held weekly Saturday morning training sessions for all our age groups in the school, and again, the commitment to the Saturday netball programme was fantastic. On most weekends, we had over thirty Year 7 pupils turn up for Saturday netball, enabling Mrs Jones to run tournament-based sessions and providing our new Year 7s with as close an experience to a full match day as we possibly could. While match play is vital in young athlete development, our players have shown great progress over the course of the season and we are excited to see many of them flourish with the (hopefully) long awaited return of fixtures next season.



Following the cancellation of our Netball Parents' Association Annual Christmas Fair, we teamed up with BGS RUFC and held an online Auction of Promises. Our Netball family pulled together to donate some fantastic items to our Auction, ranging from hampers to a roof top spa experience and a week's stay in a beautiful cottage in Buttermere. In total, the Auction raised £2,772 with a total of £1,563 being sent to the Netball Parents' Association. A fantastic effort in less than ideal circumstances.

We were hopeful that our second, large annual fundraiser, The Netball Parents' Association Annual Fashion Show, would be able to go ahead. However, soon after Christmas we quickly learned that this would not be the case and we were again left searching for alternative fundraising options, with an aim to raise even just a portion of the monies previously raised at our Fashion Show. Following the postponement of our Senior tour to South Africa, we decided to walk, run, bike or swim the distance from Manchester Airport, UK to Johannesburg Airport, SA. We started the fundraising on 1 February 2021 and aimed to have covered the 9,334km distance to Johannesburg by 31 March 2021. Our netball family all did their part and by just 1 March 2021, we had already covered the distance (and then some), so we set ourselves the target of getting back to Manchester Airport, UK by our original completion date. On 25 March 2021 we completed our task and had travelled a total distance of 18,668.39km to cover the journey from Manchester Airport, UK to Johannesburg Airport, SA and back again! It was a great motivator to get off the couch and get out exercising during lockdown and it was great to see so many netball players, their friends, family and the netball staff give their all to contribute to the overall total distance covered. Overall, we managed to raise a total of £1,222 with this fundraiser. Well done to all involved!

In addition to our successful fundraising efforts we had several individual athlete successes. Over the course of the 2020/21 season our Club Captain and 1st VII player, Eva L, was selected for the Leeds Rhinos Netball U19 Squad. This is a huge achievement and one which many netballers in the region and throughout the country aim for. For the Leeds Rhinos U19s first game and ultimately first squad selection, Eva was not only selected to play in the squad but she was also named as Captain and remained as the Leeds Rhinos U19 Squad Captain for the remainder of the season, leading them through four league games and aiding them in achieving an impressive three out of four wins. Eva L has, and remains, a huge inspiration to all our netballers in the school and we will continue to support Eva L as she leaves BGS to embark on her university adventure and senior netball playing career. Good luck and thank you!

Another notable individual success was Isobel H who, early in the season, was selected as part of an athlete mentoring programme with England Netball Captain Natalie Haythornthwaite, via the Elite Netball Academy. This programme gave Isobel H the opportunity to have one-to-one sessions with Natalie focusing on skill development, conditioning and shooting technique and movements. Most of these sessions took place online via video call and showed evidence of Isobel's dedication and motivation to improve, even in lockdown. Later in the season, Isobel H went on to be selected for and play for the Leeds Rhinos U15 netball squad. Well done, Isobel, a fantastic season and we look forward to seeing what you can achieve both in and out of school netball in the upcoming 2021/22 season.

Joining Isobel H in gaining a place in the Elite Netball Academy were Jessica B, Molly B and Zahra H. Again, a successful season from these wonderful young athletes despite the obstructions put in place with the global pandemic.

As our netball season drew to a close, we were eager to celebrate the commitment

and improvements shown by our athletes and we went ahead with our netball awards. From U12 through to U16, the awards took place after school and included a short presentation accompanied by sweet treats and snacks followed by a game of rounders, or in the case of the U13 team, a sports hall disco and some questionable catwalk shows! The awards available were one Players' Player, two Most Improved and two Coaches Awards for each age group. Please see below to find the lists of worthy winners from each year group.

U12 Award Winners

Players' Player Roop H

Most Improved Millie C & Jessica T

Coaches' Awards Jessica B & Olivia G

U13 Award Winners

Players' Player Bella M

Most Improved Iris E & Fatima A

Coaches' Awards Anaya M & Eleanor C

U14 Award Winners

Players' Player Maya B

Most Improved Eva S & Emily M

Coaches' Awards Samantha B & Falaq K

U15 Award Winners

Players' Player Serena K

Most Improved Serena K & Malaika A

Coaches' Awards Isobel H & Amelia A

U16 Award Winners

Players' Player Molly B

Most Improved Anamaria H & Aliza A

Coaches' Awards Anna R-P & Elissa H

Following the second and final cancellation of the tour, it seemed only right that we made a slightly bigger deal of our senior awards presentation and used some of the money raised from our senior touring party to give the girls the send-off they deserved. To end our senior season, we held a South African themed dinner in the Brownlee Pavilion, giving the girls an opportunity to get dressed up and enjoy a three course meal, some drinks and a bit of karaoke together to celebrate the end

of the extremely strange season. We filled the Pavilion with safari animal themed balloons and disco lights and even managed to get a personal video message from Stacey Francis (England netball and West Coast Fever player) and Team Bath Super League Player, Kim Borger. This fabulous bunch of players made selecting the winners of the awards extremely difficult. Please see the list below to find the final list of Senior Award winners for our 2020/21 netball season.

Senior Award Winners

Players' Player Eva L

Most Improved Emily H & Maddie N

Coaches' Awards Eve M & Emrys S

Overall Contribution Anna C

At our last senior training session, we named our Senior Netball Committee for the upcoming 2021/22 season. Well done to Grace C, who takes over from Eva L as the BGS Netball Club, Club Captain, Amelia B named 1st VII Captain, Rebecca M named 1st VII Vice Captain, Phillipa H named 2nd VII Captain and Lily H named 2nd VII Vice Captain. Congratulations to all five of you. We look forward to seeing you working closely with and inspiring our younger athletes for the duration of the 2021/22 season.

Our senior season officially ended with a Year 13 Rugby vs Netball netball game, giving our Year 13 leavers one final BGS netball fixture before they depart. The rugby boys fought hard throughout the match but the skill and notable knowledge of and abidance by the netball rules, took our Year 13 netball girls to a well-deserved 26-24 victory over the boys.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to all who are part of the BGS Netball Club. The 2020/21 season will definitely be one that we remember and we are so proud of how we all pulled together to make the most of a bad situation, to push on with training and fundraising and to help each other through an extremely scary time for all. That is what being part of the BGS Netball family is and will continue to be about.



Orienteering

By D Alcock, Geography Teacher and Orienteering Coach

Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, BGS orienteers trained hard throughout the year, both in the fortnightly lunchtime sessions and in occasional standalone weekend sessions, sometimes in combination with the local orienteering club, Airienteers. The last year has also seen more student involvement in local, regional, and national competitions, and, in periods of lockdown, several students completed smartphone training events using the MapRunF app.

Whilst there were no national inter-school competitions, we had the biggest and strongest turnout yet at the Yorkshire and Humberside Schools Orienteering Championships, which were held at Fixby and Bradley Woods, near Huddersfield, in May. We missed out by just one point on being crowned county schools' champions; the top spot was taken by Sheffield's High Storrs School, who are one of the top three schools in the UK. At the event, Emily G won Year 11 Girls, Henry H won Year 8 Boys, Tom T was second in Year 10 Boys, Daniel B was second in Year 8 Boys, and Edwin van L was third in Year 9 Boys. BGS orienteers occupied four of the top five spots in the Year 8 Boys category, and they are looking to the British Schools Championships in November 2021, in order to defend the national trophy they won in 2019. Perhaps we will begin to challenge the top orienteering schools in the country for the whole-school category?

Nationally, Emily Gibbins was seventh in the W16A category at the British Middle Distance Championships, and James W was third in M14B. An increasing number of our members have been training with the YHOA Junior Orienteering Squad, and this opportunity will present itself to Year 9 pupils and above next year. Several members have been training and racing with the cross-country club this year, and this cross-fertilisation seems to benefit both clubs: thank you to Mr McCartney and Mrs Flaherty for encouraging the athletes to high levels of physical fitness.

I would like to offer a final thank you to Mr N Schofield and to Year 12 student Declan J for their assistance with lunchtime training sessions.

Captain Emily G

Vice-Captain Thomas T



Rowing

By S Darnbrough, Specialist Sports Coach (Rowing)

COVID 19 restrictions together with a wet autumn had a devastating effect on the Boat Club activities during the school year, with little access to the river for the autumn and spring terms and no competitions being held.

However, when we were in school, the training programme continued unabated, being adjusted to take place entirely in the rowing room on the rowing machines with the only drawback being the need to keep pupils in their year group bubbles. This resulted in specific lunch and after school sessions for each year group, losing both training time and one of the Boat Club's strengths of all age groups being able to train together, with the younger rowers being inspired by the older year groups who in turn encourage the younger year groups.

The time spent in the rowing room has had one positive result, being that the school year group records in Years 7, 8 and 9 have been falling, almost on a weekly basis. This has been fantastic to observe with the competitive spirit of these year groups shining through with personal bests being set throughout, which bodes well for the future of the Boat Club. Of particular note are Year 8 rowers Oliver H and Bella M who over their age group time of three minutes have achieved scores of 844m and 794m respectively, records that I think may stand for some time. The other new record holders are Year 7's Harry S with 532m and

Senior School and Sixth Form Sport Reports – Rowing

Evie H with 488m over two minutes and Year 9 Sophie T with 978m over four minutes.

When rowing was once more able to return to the water in the summer term we still had to keep to our year group 'bubbles' on Saturday mornings, which due to time constraints resulted in shorter outing times and our Year 7's unfortunately being unable to attend at all. However, it is very pleasing to report that despite the restrictions, all year groups have shown tremendous improvement and enthusiasm in this short period of time on the water. Again, of particular note are the Year 8 rowers, who as a whole have strength in depth, with the girls especially showing great promise for the future.

The academic year finished on a very strong note with our traditional 'lunch by the river', the only difference being that due to social distancing rules there was no lunch! However, we were able to hold a scratch regatta with 11 quads racing, with gratifyingly close racing throughout the morning. The awards presented were:

Most Improved Senior Harry A

Most Improved Junior Ed VL

Senior Cox Elise S-D

Junior Cox Benjamin P

Next year's Captain of Boats is Harry B and Vice-Captain is Freddy A who hopefully will have an easier year than our past Captain Will H, who has done a fantastic job despite having the honour of the captaincy during our most disrupted year in history.

Moving forward to the next academic year there are many positives to look forward to. The senior squad will be the strongest that we will have had for some considerable time. However, to realise their potential, some very hard work and dedication will be required both on and off the water. If they do the required work, we will hopefully be sending an eight to Henley Royal Regatta in the summer of 2022, an ambition that we have not had for many years and a target that should inspire the boys. As mentioned previously, the standard and enthusiasm of our younger rowers is encouraging, and their potential bodes well for the future. More good news is that due to the disrupted year that we have endured, our excellent Graduate Coach Megan Jones-Gerrard will once more be at the school giving much needed continuity of coaching staff.

Rugby

By D Scarbrough, Specialist Sports Coach (Rugby)

Throughout a very challenging year for BGS Rugby, some real positives have arisen from a season of limited action which thwarted and eventually halted the rugby season. A forced chance to reflect will hopefully leave the game in a better position once we fully rise out of the COVID nightmare.

Most year groups engaged well, in a season of masks, sanitiser and wipes! Participation rates increased in most year groups throughout the year, in both Senior School and Clock House, particularly in Years 7, 10 and 11.

The programme was challenging yet enabled coaches and players to be creative and try new approaches, in a bid to keep engagement high, whilst challenging and developing our pupils within the limitations of the COVID guidelines. The key to this seemed to be creating competitive situations for individuals and groups alike without the outlet of offline competition against other schools.

Numerous challenges were set by coaches and pupils, normally involving a physical or skill-based challenge. These were attempted at home, whilst in lockdown, in groups where possible, online or in small groups when the boys were allowed back in school. From kicking balls into bins, finger spins, rugby ball kick ups, passes to knock balls off cones, running challenges and to my personal favourite of the 'build a snowman and tackle it challenge'!

One of the larger challenges was taken on by the Year 10 and 11 2022 South Africa tourists. The boys put together the 'Big 5 Migration' which involved teams of buffalo, elephant, rhino, lion and leopard competing to cover the 7,799-mile journey in the fastest time possible! The rules allowed each team to recruit members if they donated to the tour fund. We saw fellow teachers, parents, Old Bradfordians (OBs) and even some sporting celebrities recruited, including British Lion and OB Charlie Hodgson (1999), international rugby players Jamie Noon and Tom May, and British Cyclist and OB Abby-Mae Parkinson (2014). George H even cunningly signed up OB and British Olympian Jonny Brownlee (2008)!

On reaching Cape Town, it was team captains Will B (Year 11) and Thom S's (Year 10) 'Team Buffalo' who covered 2,750 of the total 7,799 miles in just three weeks. There were 916 entries in total which proved how popular the challenge was, engaging not only the rugby players, but also other pupils such as Ben H (Year 10) who covered 328 miles personally. Mr Merckx recorded the most staff miles with 363, Mr Hahn, one of our committee parents recorded 163 miles, Miss Miller completed 139 miles, whilst the best rugby boys were Will S with 235 miles (Year 11) and Oliver T (Year 10) with 115 miles. Headmaster Dr Hinchliffe put in a solid 131 miles – well done to all and thanks for your efforts!

One of the biggest disappointments of the year however was having to cancel the 2020 senior rugby tour to South Africa and Namibia, which sadly means Year 12 will now miss out on a major tour. We do hope things settle so we can return to some normality and give them the final year of rugby they deserve.

Year 7

Year 7 proved to be one of our best intakes for a few years with 80 boys playing rugby in games and over 50 turning up at times for after-school and Saturday practice with energy and enthusiasm. Although there were clear frustrations for the boys who were desperate to represent school, sadly it could not happen in their first year. However, I am sure when they get the opportunity in Year 8, they will be a fantastic team. A big thank you to Mr Hindle and Mr Pullen for their work with this group.

Coaches' Player of the Year Toby A
Coaches' Player of the Year Kamran H
Most Improved Forward Dylan J
Most Improved Back Theo P
Players' Player Oscar Y

Year 8

Year 8 continued to show what a talented group they are and with a little more commitment to extra-curricular sessions will see the making of a good competitive squad throughout their school years. It is hard to single out individuals but one key player to watch is the highly skilled Will E who finds a way to make this team tick! Well done to Mr Coyle for your progress with the year group.

Coaches' Player of the Year Daniel B
Coaches' Player of the Year Sam C
Most Improved Forward Stephen O
Most Improved Back Dylan M
Players' Player Will E

Year 9

Year 9 had a really tough year and being small on numbers made it difficult to offer competitive situations within games lessons. That said, the group developed well and seemed to mature somewhat under the guidance of Mr Wilde this year. There was some excellent commitment, particularly during some of Mr Scarbrough's and Mr Nabozny's online fitness lessons. Arul M, Zach R, Archie A, Alex M, Alex W, Charlie W, Sulaimaan I, and Alistair G were particularly consistent at these sessions.

Coaches' Player of the Year Alexander W
Coaches' Player of the Year Arul M
Most Improved Back Sulaimaan I
Players' Player Alexander M



Year 10

Year 10 proved to be one of the most coachable groups in the school, showing real commitment to everything on offer. Fergus R and Thom S led the way off and on the field when possible, with unlikely players really beginning to develop, including huge improvements from Ben H, Oliver T, Harry L, and Rory K. A good growth in numbers throughout the year was pleasing to see with numerous players being drafted into the England Rugby Developing Player Programme (ERDPP). Beau M signed for Huddersfield Giants' Rugby League Academy, which was testament to his hard work and commitment, and I look forward to continuing to watch him and his peers grow into Year 11. A big well done to all involved, including Mr Nabozny for running the team and imparting his knowledge throughout the two terms.

Coaches' Player of the Year Ben H
Coaches' Player of the Year George W
Most Improved Player Rory K
Most Improved Player Harry L
Players' Player Fergus R

Year 11

Year 11 are strong in number and have enjoyed an internally competitive year under the watchful eye of Mr Morrison. This group have grown and competed in whatever form the COVID laws have allowed, whether it be online, on field, in touch and pass, two touch, Aussie Rules Football and running/biking to Africa. The usual 'George H and Will O show' is now beginning to incorporate more team members who are beginning to challenge them for awards with Will B beginning to pull the strings of the team. Ammar S showed fancy footwork regularly and the muscle in the pack has had an opportunity to push their skills more in lockdown conditions.

Coaches' Player of the Year Will O
Coaches' Player of the Year George H
Most Improved Player Inness M
Most Improved Player Kai D
Players' Player Will B

Seniors

Captain Alfie W
Senior rugby was largely games-based this year and although it was fun and at times competitive, the frustration of a lack of fixtures really did take its toll on Mr Scarbrough and a very talented group of Year 13 boys, who were desperate to finish their school rugby careers with a flourish! Some with ten years of BGS schooling behind them thoroughly enjoyed nothing better than taking on other teams as a group of mates and maintaining the highest win percentage the school has seen for some time!

Sadly, the only competition which was allowed was a touch and pass fixture against the staff! After a tough contest, the pupils finished victorious – three tries to two and this raised the inaugural Staff vs Pupils Cup!

Perhaps this was not the finish they would have liked, but it certainly represented the winning spirit these boys have shown throughout their time at school, this season captained by Alfie W. Three boys George G, Obi E and Ed H represented Yorkshire Academy throughout the lockdown period playing with elite exemption and competing in the Academy League beating Wasps, Northampton Saints and Newcastle Falcons respectively!

Coaches' Player of the Year George G
Coaches' Player of the Year Alfie W
Most Improved Forward Freddie R-P
Most Improved Back Obi E
Players' Player Ed H

Overall Contribution to BGS Rugby
Alfie W

Finally, a big thank you to Lewis and his grounds staff for maintaining the surfaces for us to play on, the cleaners for their extra hard work behind the scenes this season ensuring changing facilities were cleaned and sanitised regularly, the catering staff, fellow coaches and teachers who help with the teams and to parents for supporting what we do, in particular those who do so much for the Rugby Parents' Association chaired this year by Mr Midgley.

Please ensure you keep your eye out for the social quiz night and have this year's Christmas Ball in the diary on 4 December. Please book your Christmas Ball tickets ASAP to avoid disappointment as they are selling fast – this year is certainly going to be a big one!





Sports Day

By O Rogers, Director of Sport

This summer, despite all the disruptions to the normal programmes, BGS held a fantastic Sports Day for all the students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 12.

During the morning sessions the school was abuzz with a large amount of activity and competition between forms. Every student across the year group was involved during both the morning and afternoon meaning that every effort from each student was counted.

Year 8 fiercely competed across the athletics fields event, rowing, swimming, table tennis and the tug of war. Year 9 and 10 fought hard against each other in cricket, rowing, tennis and swimming.

The Year 12s creativity outwitted each other in badminton, table tennis, football and squash.

After a well-deserved lunch all the year groups headed to the athletics track to compete over various distances. The crowds of students roared on the excellent performances from all year groups creating an outstanding atmosphere. Students finishing first, second or third got their moment on the podium as a very nice precursor to the Tokyo Olympics.



Here were the victorious form groups ...

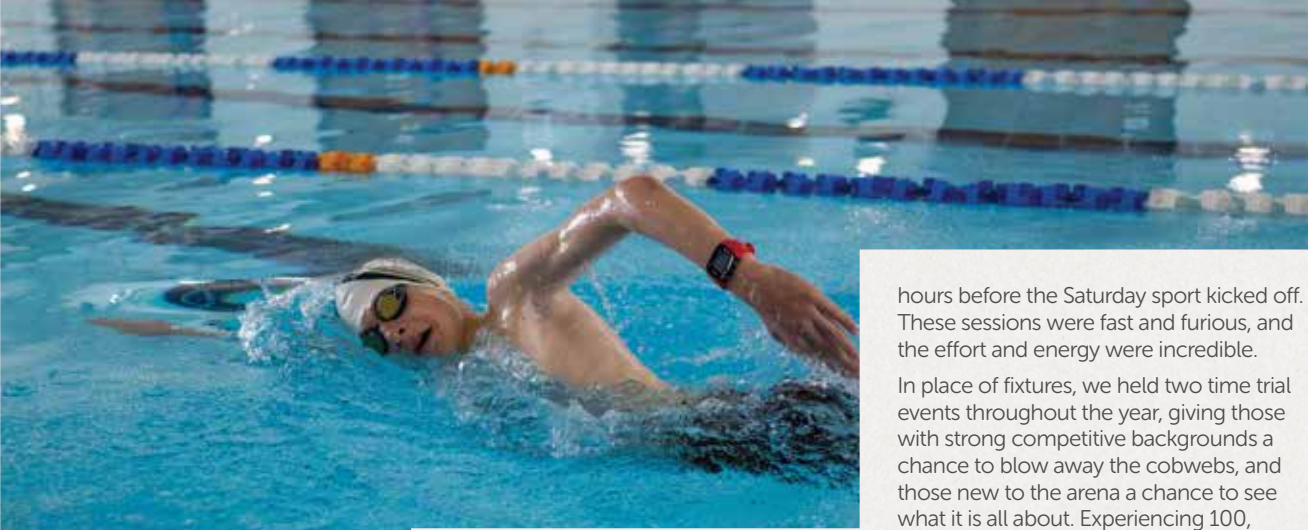
Year 8
1st MLT
2nd VMF
3rd HRT/JIR

Year 9
1st LCL/RES
2nd BCG/EKM
3rd SEH

Year 10
1st EEM
2nd PW
3rd LWH

Year 12
1st MAW
2nd HJB
3rd SLD

It goes without saying that the students should be thanked for their efforts, and I hope they are looking forward to next year! I would also like to thank all the staff (sporting and academic) for their support and enthusiasm on the day. As you can imagine, with all the different activities going on it would not be possible without you. Well done all!



Swimming

By C Robinson, Specialist Sports Coach (Swimming)

In what might have been one of our most exciting years to date, we count ourselves lucky that we were able to swim at all during the last 12 months. A mammoth task of cleaning and re-cleaning to ensure that each 'bubble' could take advantage of the pool kept us up and running almost all year. This was no small task, given many schools were forced to 'mothball' their pools in light of COVID-19.

We were really looking forward to competition this year. With our senior girls dominating the year before, new additions to the boys teams across all of the age groups, and a new set of Year 7 students with talent in abundance, this could have been the season for BGS to topple its local arch-nemesis schools. Next year will look quite different as some key swimmers move into new age groups, but as always, we are confident that BGS students will give their all. Fixtures are starting to shape up for next year and we can only hope that our efforts to keep curriculum and co-curricular sessions afloat will give us the upper hand in the 2021/22 academic year.

An asset of co-curricular swimming is the opportunity to train with and against other genders and age groups, but it took on a different look this year. Swim training in single age groups was a challenge but led to an all-time high in attendance at co-curricular sessions.

Unable to offer access to external organisations, the pool stood empty on Saturdays to begin with, so a select group of committed swimmers who were unable to train with their clubs, were given the opportunity to go hard in the early

hours before the Saturday sport kicked off. These sessions were fast and furious, and the effort and energy were incredible.

In place of fixtures, we held two time trial events throughout the year, giving those with strong competitive backgrounds a chance to blow away the cobwebs, and those new to the arena a chance to see what it is all about. Experiencing 100, 200 and 400 metre events will give them confidence going into the 25 and 50m events, typical of school fixtures, in the 2021/22 academic year.

Being a high-contact sport, water polo was not able to feature much this year. Occasionally we were able to practise ball handling, and we are looking forward to getting back into the swing in September.

We say goodbye to our Swimming and Water Polo Captain Freddie S. Freddie, like his predecessor, has been a continuous presence in the swimming and water polo teams since he joined BGS, and whilst he was never tested, he was ever-present at this year's time trials. He hands over to Harry P, who has already been a guiding influence on many of the younger water polo players and on more than one occasion has demonstrated his 'Hoc Age' spirit to fill a breach in the swimming team. This year, with as many girls swimming as boys, we also welcome a Girls Captain, in Isabel B. Izzy has also been a stalwart member of the swim team for many years and will be a welcoming presence for anyone new to the Swim Team in September 2021.

Captain Freddie S

International Debut

Leah S followed in the footsteps of her older sister and OB Ciara S when she was selected to represent Team GB at the European Junior Championships in Rome last July. Her international debut was a fantastic achievement given the lack of access to the pool the 16-year-old has had in the last 12 months. Leah S competed well in the 400m Individual Medley, made the semi-finals of the 200m Medley, and swimming the breaststroke leg of the Girls 4x100m Medley Relay Team won a Bronze medal. As one of the youngest eligible athletes for the competition, Leah will be hungry to achieve more next year.

Tennis

By B Crichton, Specialist Sports Coach
(Tennis)

2020/2021 was an up and down year for tennis in the same way it was for every other sport, in that COVID got in the way of most fixtures and training.

The individual programme went from strength to strength expanding its player base and seeing a dramatic increase in quality, as players started to play more outside of school as well as inside. Whilst people were unable to play tennis outside of school for most of the year, the pupils of BGS were at a great advantage, being able to play in school due to the superb facilities on offer.

Going into 2021/22, the programme will be expanding further, through the employment of an assistant coach to support Mr Crichton, so that the school can provide further quality provision to even more players.

Due to the demand for tennis in the summer term in curriculum and co-curriculum, there were three extra courts added onto the half astro-turf hockey pitch. These courts were used to the full extent every lunch time with all nine courts at school filled with pupils playing tennis and competing with their friends.

The extra courts were a great help in terms of managing tennis in PE as it meant that more players had more space. The extra space and subsequent time on court has led to a dramatic improvement of the general base level of tennis.

Due to the cancellation of fixtures because of the pandemic, on the Saturdays up until May half term, there was an internal leaderboard set up. The leaderboard was kindly sponsored by CJ Rackets. The prizes of the leaderboard which rewarded winning but also commitment to participating every Saturday were vouchers consisting of £30 to the winner, £20 to the runner up and £10 to the player in third place. This was the same across all the various year group leaderboards.

Across the half term, around 130 players competed for positions up and down the leaderboard, with the results being very close.

The prize winners of the leaderboards are as follows:

Year 7

- 1st** Thomas H
- 2nd** Paddy D
- 3rd** Robyn L

Year 8

- 1st** Evie S
- 2nd** Henry S
- 3rd** Daniel B

Year 9 onward

- 1st** Rebecca F
- 2nd** Burhan H
- 3rd** Anna B

Invitational Matchplay

- 1st** Will B
- 2nd** Lucas A
- 3rd** Charlie H

After May half term we were given the green light to organise fixtures. May half term to summer was unusually short this year, consisting of only four weeks, meaning there were only three Saturdays available.

Our first fixture saw the boys go away to St Peter's. The girls also played away to a triangular with St Peter's and Queen Margaret's.

The fixtures were a great opportunity to experience a day outside of school and a chance to be on court against another school for the first time in two years. Results were not important, but the experience was there to be enjoyed by all. All teams represented themselves well, experiencing the highs of wins and the lows of losses, a feeling not felt in a long time. Other than getting stuck in a traffic jam for two hours, the day was a great success and enjoyed by all in the sun.



The next fixture was due to be against Hymers College, which was unfortunately cancelled due to rising COVID cases in the Hull area.

The final Saturday fixture of the year was against Pocklington. The 12s and 13s went to Pocklington and the 14s and 15s stayed at home. Each team consisted of six players rather than the usual four which allowed some players who may not usually get a game a chance to show what they can do. The 14s and 15s put in a great performance winning all their matches against Pocklington, finishing the year off in style.

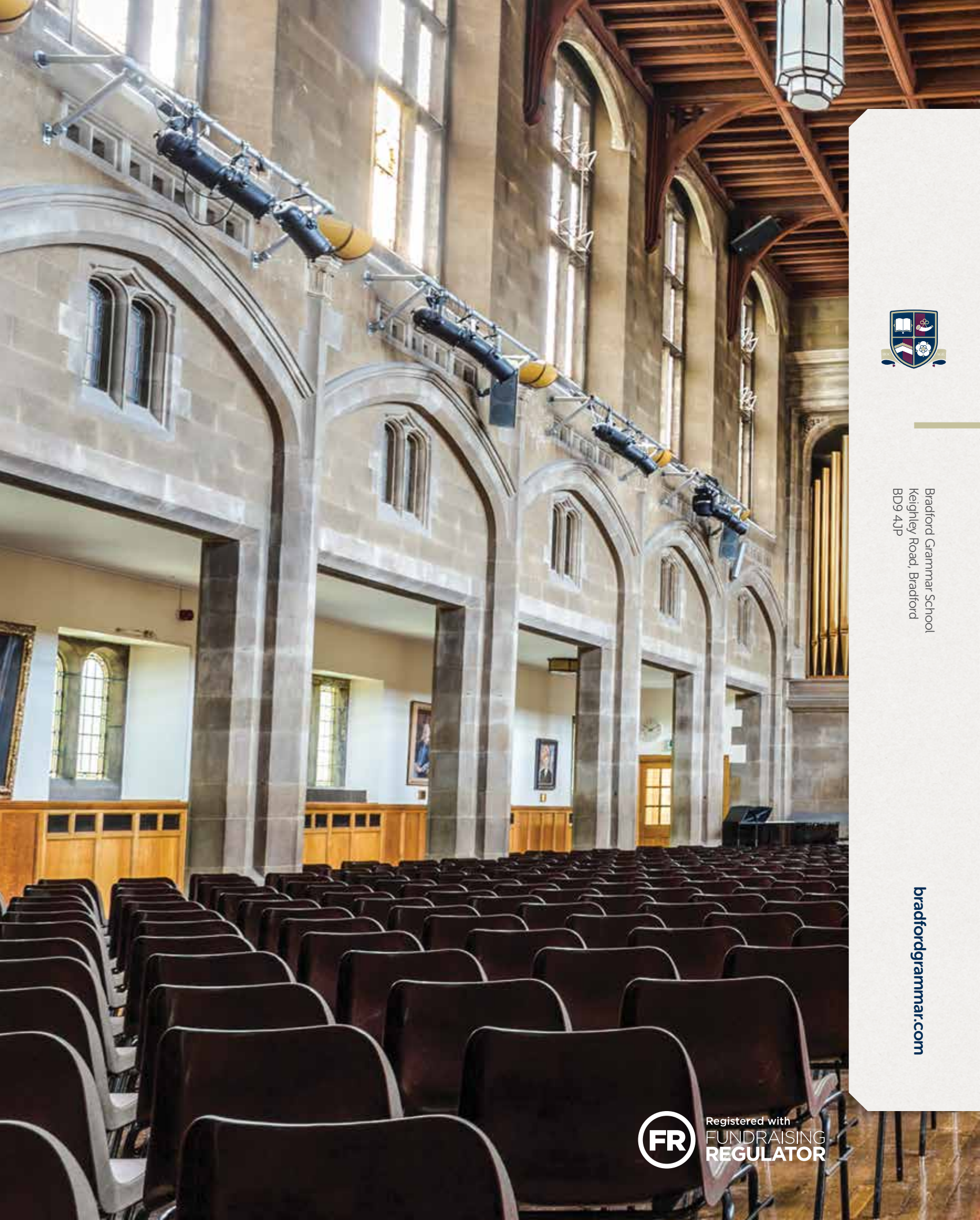
Away at Pocklington the 13s were very evenly matched with their opponents. This ensured there was some very competitive matches in which the team managed to come through with a 6-3 win overall.

Hopefully 2021/22 will be a more stable year where BGS tennis can continue to go from strength to strength. Well done to all players who have engaged well over the term.



Thank you

... to every pupil, parent and
member of staff for helping
to make this year at BGS
truly remarkable.



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