

Bradford
Grammar
School

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Co-curricular
Activities
Programme

2023/24

Co-curricular Activities at BGS

The co-curricular programme at BGS is as vital a part of the School's identity as your academic studies. Have a look through this booklet to find out more.

We have a vibrant sports programme which extends beyond timetabled Games sessions. Squad training is put on for those who wish to represent the School in competitive fixtures against other schools and we also put on a variety of sports sessions to which all are invited, irrespective of ability. We believe that every BGS pupil can find something to get passionate about in our wide sporting programme whatever your current level of fitness. Our aim is to prepare young people for life after School by teaching them to enjoy being active as part of a healthy lifestyle.

Music is equally important at BGS. We have an astonishing range of musical ensembles starting with the Junior Orchestra and Junior Choir (all welcome). From there, you might get involved in smaller groups like the Dixieland Crackerjacks or the Close Harmony Group, or you might find your way into the Concert Band, Junior Rock Band or Samba Band. Pretty much every musical genre is covered and again, we aim to put something on to inspire young musicians of all ages, interests and abilities.

Continuing with the theme that every BGS pupil should find something to inspire them in our co-curricular programme, we put on opportunities to volunteer, to get involved in campaigning, to pursue interests in Politics and Philosophy, Coding, Robotics and Lego. We have clubs like the Historical Society and Science Club which allow you to follow an interest you first found in the classroom, you can get creative at our Art Clubs, the Handmade Club and painting tabletop miniatures. And the list goes on!

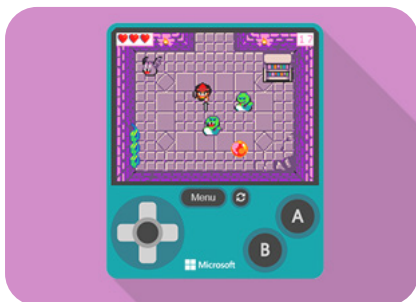
This booklet is intended to give you a flavour of what is on offer to you in the BGS co-curricular programme. It is a brief summary of the information contained in our electronic co-curricular handbook. BGS pupils, logging in from BGS Microsoft 365 accounts can find this at:
<https://bradfordgrammarschool.sharepoint.com/sites/Cocurricular>

Our co-curricular programme can also be found in the calendar on the School website. There are some exciting improvements coming this year which will make it easier to keep track of what is happening when and where. Pupils will be able to see the activities that they have signed up to, filtering them out from everything else that's going on and displaying them alongside their lessons and homework. Watch this space!

So... read on! I hope you find something that will interest you. The very best thing to do, is just get stuck in; turn up to your first rehearsal or sports training session, have a go at something new. It might be your first steps in something which will become a lifelong passion.

Paul Merckx, Assistant Head (Development)

Academic Enrichment Clubs



Digital Art Club

Learn about the digital art which makes gaming such an immersive experience. Use your skills to develop your own game(s).



Business Society

Business Society provides the opportunity to chat or watch presentations about current business issues, contribute articles to the social sciences magazine 'The Healy', complete business quizzes or take part in enterprise challenges.



Book Club

Expand your reading horizons with BGS Book Club. There are two Book Clubs: one for Years 7 - 9 and another for Years 10 - 11. Warning: our books groups will expand your mind!



Japanese Club

Designed to introduce students to the Japanese language, traditions and culture, students will learn: to talk about themselves and their interests in Japanese; how to use verbs in different tenses; develop some understanding about the Japanese alphabet like Hiragana and Katagana for some foreign words; to use some basic Kanjis for writing.



Science Club

Try out your scientific reasoning and laboratory practical skills as you and your team take on challenges to solve problems, design structures from new materials and meet new science in a practical setting. Investigations will cover the full range of science to be found in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Academic Enrichment Clubs



Philosophical Society (Junior and Senior)

The Junior and Senior Philosophical Societies encourage students to enter into philosophical discussion and debate. The Societies are led by staff and students who present on a variety of philosophical issues and topics such as: How do I know what is real? What is time? Am I truly free? The aims of the meetings are to intellectually stimulate and challenge students in a fun, relaxed and informal environment.



Historical Society

Broaden your historical knowledge and get some experience presenting in a friendly and supportive environment at Historical Society. From Medieval to modern, the crusades to the Cold War, there will be something here to tickle your historical taste buds.



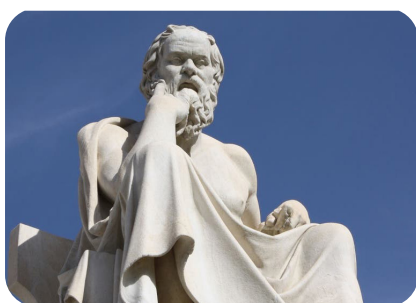
First Lego League Robotics Club

Build and program Lego Mindstorms robots to solve challenges as part of the national First Lego League competition. No previous experience of Lego Mindstorms robots, or programming needed.



Cyber Centurion Club

CyberCenturion is an online competition themed around cybersecurity. Players work in teams of 4/5 to secure a range of computer systems against security threats within a six hour time limit. Beyond the competition, the skills and experience provided by CyberCenturion will set you up for a career in cybersecurity or other related technical careers.



Classics Society

If it's connected to the world of the Greeks and Romans (and that includes most things), it's fair game for the Classics Society, from talks to board games, and from quizzes to craft activities. Perhaps you enjoy reading the Greek myths, or discovered something in your Latin lesson about the Romans that you want to explore further - come along to Classics Society to develop your interest.

Academic Enrichment Clubs



Biological Sciences Society

Explore topics outside of the usual syllabus areas, through discussion and presentation. Experienced members of staff and external speakers, including Old Bradfordians, will facilitate wide ranging sessions which will be both topical and interesting.

Music Ensembles



Woodwind Ensembles

We have five exciting Woodwind Ensembles running for players of all abilities and experience: Senior flute group, Junior flute group, Senior saxophone group, Junior saxophone group and Clarinet group. All ensembles perform in the small Chamber Concerts throughout the year.



String Ensembles

We have two String ensembles running for players of all string instruments (violin, viola, cello, double bass): Senior string group is an ensemble for all string players. String 'quartet' is for the more advanced string players in the school. The 'quartet' is often expanded to a quintet or larger to accommodate our most advanced performers.



Senior Orchestra

A large ensemble for those more advanced woodwind, brass, string and percussion players (approximately grade 5 and above). The group performs in the large school concerts and plays a variety of music, ranging from film soundtracks to Classical repertoire. This is a great opportunity to experience playing your instrument in a real live orchestra!

Music Ensembles



Samba Band

A group for all percussionists whether you are having lessons or are interested in performing in a percussion ensemble. The group performs in all the large school concerts throughout the year.



Junior Orchestra

A large ensemble for all instrumentalists (approximately grades 1-4). The group performs in the large school concerts and plays a variety of music, ranging from film soundtracks to Classical repertoire. This is a really great opportunity to play your instrument within a real orchestral setting!



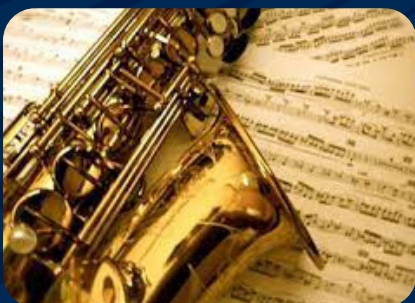
Guitar Groups

We have two ensembles for players of acoustic plectrum / classical guitar: the senior guitar group is for more advanced players of approximately grade 5+ and the intermediate guitar group is for approximately grades 1-4. Both ensembles perform in the small Chamber Concerts throughout the year.



Dixieland Crackerjacks

The Dixieland Band, performs in the large school concerts throughout the year. The ensemble normally comprises of rhythm section, banjo, clarinet and brass. This is an ensemble for advanced performers.



Big Band

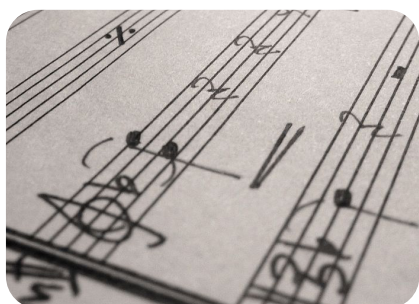
A jazz ensemble comprising brass, saxophones, rhythm section and pianist. The group performs at all the large concerts throughout the year.

Music Ensembles



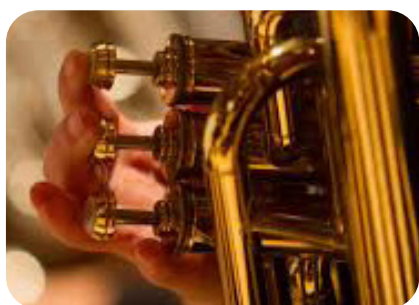
Brass Ensembles

There are two small ensembles for players of all brass instruments: the senior brass group is for more advanced players of approximately grade 5+ and the junior brass group is for approximately grades 1-4. Both ensembles perform in the small Chamber Concerts throughout the year and the senior group also plays at the Carol Service in the Cathedral.



Chamber Orchestra

An ensemble for the more advanced string players in the school who wish to challenge themselves performing some of the finest music written for chamber groups.



Concert Band

A large ensemble for those more advanced woodwind, brass, and percussion players (approximately grade 5 and above). The group performs in the large school concerts, the Rugby Parents' Association Christmas Ball and outside school, at the Grassington Festival, and plays a variety of popular music.



Choirs

There are four amazing choirs at BGS. Close Harmony Group is a small acapella SATB ensemble, performing pop, jazz and spiritual songs. Senior Chamber Choir is a smaller, auditioned SATB choir for pupils already in Senior Choir. Junior Choir is a large ensemble for all pupils who love singing in Years 7 and 8. Senior Choir is an unauditioned SATB choir - open to everyone. You must be a member of this ensemble if you are in Senior Chamber Choir or Close Harmony Group.



Wickermen

An ensemble specialising in the performance of modern folk music, think Mumford and Sons and Bellowhead. The ensemble comprises of standard 'band' instruments with the addition of other instruments as needed; strings, woodwind, accordion and even a bodhran! Attendance is by invitation. The group performs at all the large school concerts during the year.

Drama and Debating



The Addams Family

Following auditions at the beginning of the school year, preparations begin for our annual drama production - this year it is The Addam Family. If you are interested in performing, singing, working backstage, set design, sound and lighting or costume and make up, get in touch with the Drama Department.



Mock Trial Club

In Mock Trial Club, you will act as a legal advocate to prepare legal cases. The cases are fictitious - a celebrity graffiti artist charged with criminal damage, a bad dancer in a nightclub accused of causing actual bodily harm - but the laws, and the legal principles involved, are real. The activity involves skills of analysis and presentation, and will be useful to you whether you aspire to a career in Law or not.



Debating Club (Senior)

The Senior Debating Society meet weekly to argue a pre-agreed motion. Debaters will have some protected time to put across their arguments before the verbal headbutts begin! Questions are welcomed from the floor once all participants have spoken and whether or not the motion is carried will depend on a vote at the end.



Debating Club (Junior)

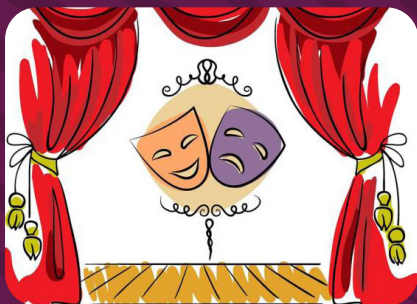
A weekly debate for lower school years; a more informal setting to try your hand at debating in a range of styles on a range of topics!



Drama Society - Year 10 & 11

Drama society is an opportunity to explore plays and prepare for upcoming performances.

Drama and Debating



Friday Drama Club (Years 7 & 8) & Drama Society (Years 9 -13)

Weekly clubs for warm-ups, games, mini-performances and lots of fun. In the summer term we put together a showcase so that friends and family can see the skills and confidence developed throughout the year.

Sports Clubs



Yoga Club

Feeling stressed? Sick of sitting at a desk all day? Want to loosen up, feel more energised...or relaxed? Then yoga is for you! You will learn how to stretch your body to address particular issues you may be having, or to simply get moving. You'll also learn to control and lengthen the breath, which can help you to feel calmer and more relaxed (and can also help with singing and various sports).



Boys Squash Club

This is a wonderful opportunity for boys to get involved in a sport not on the curriculum. You will meet different people in your year group in a friendly, casual yet sometimes competitive environment. It doesn't matter if you're a total newbie to squash or a more seasoned racquet sports player, everyone is welcome.



Girls Squash Club

Do you fancy trying a new sport? Do you want to have a go at something new? This is a wonderful opportunity for girls to get involved in a sport not on the curriculum. You will meet different people in a friendly, casual yet sometimes competitive environment. It's casual, it's fun, it's energetic and it invites everyone regardless of ability or experience.

Sports Clubs



Table Tennis Club

This is a lunchtime club for pupils who enjoy table tennis. Pupils could get the opportunity to represent school in fixtures against local schools and also in the ESTTA Team Competition. If you enjoy playing table tennis, bring your friends along and challenge them to a game.



Orienteering Club

Orienteering is called 'cunning running' and entails navigating as fast as possible to a selection of checkpoints through a variety of terrain - parkland, woods, streets, and so on. Races can be short or long, and done in daytime or even at night-time. Students will develop their confidence and spatial awareness as well as their fitness - but most importantly, it's fun!



Cross Country

BGS cross country club is one of the most successful in the School, regularly competing at a high level in school and national competitions. BGS currently holds the English Schools Fell Running Championship. Whether you are already a runner or not, this club caters for all abilities and will help you realise your potential.



Athletic Development Programme (ADP)

If you are an active and aspiring young athlete, and want to take your performance and game to the next level, this will provide the opportunity to learn how to train. Sessions will focus on strength, power and plyometrics in the gym and are all about learning, developing and having fun! Whatever your sport, the BGS ADP will improve your performance and reduce the chance of injury.



Swimming

BGS swimming models itself on a national level swimming club. Operating daily before and after school, it has separate sections for elite swimmers (county standard and above) and for those wishing to improve from a lower level. Please see the separate publication, 'Competitive Swimming Programmes' for more information.

Sports Clubs



Cricket

We have an extensive co-curricular cricket programme for all students. The use of bowling machines and video analysis are regularly used in sessions. Get moving in the fresh air, build friendships and resilience, and have fun!



Tennis

Tennis is a great sport to improve your hand-eye co-ordination and movement skills. It's a great sport to play competitively or socially. Meet new people, become better at problem solving and become an independent thinker.



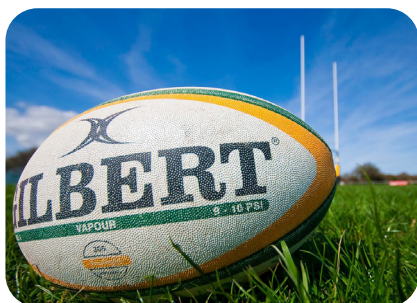
Athletics

This club is relatively new to BGS. It caters for all track and field athletes regardless of ability and offers separate sessions for sprinters, distance runners and for throwing and jumping disciplines.



Hockey

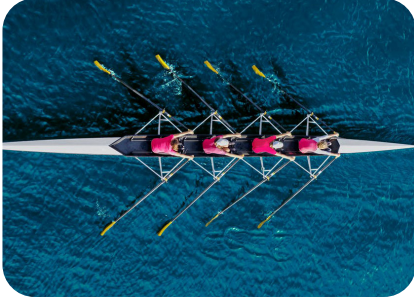
Fun and fast, hockey is a great way to make friends and memories! In Year 7, 8 and 9, we offer one lunch time club a week. Year 10, 11 and Seniors will have a lunch time club each week which is very much focused on skills and one after school session which is very game based. We also offer an indoor hockey programme which runs during the first school term.



Rugby

We are incredibly lucky to have a wealth of experience and breadth of knowledge throughout the entire rugby coaching team, who have experienced playing and coaching at all levels of the game. With sessions for all year groups, there are many benefits to playing rugby: you will build strength as well as friendships, improve flexibility, increase your confidence and build discipline - to name just a few!

Sports Clubs



Rowing

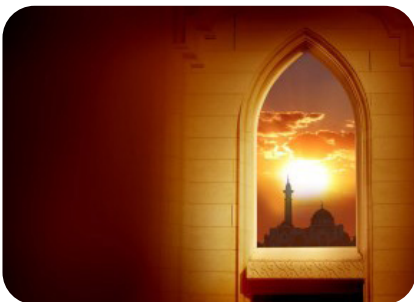
Rowing training on the river takes place on a Saturday morning, all year round. In the case of poor weather or adverse river conditions, training takes place in our fabulously equipped Rowing Gym at school. In addition to Saturdays at the river, indoor training at school takes place at various times. Attendance at these sessions is optional, but beneficial! The sessions are open to all age groups.



Netball

Netball is a rapidly growing sport nationally and BGS has a talented squad which develops girls from beginners to county standard. BGS netball gives opportunities to tour, to compete against other schools and to make new friends in our netball family.

Citizenship & Global Issues



Islamic Society

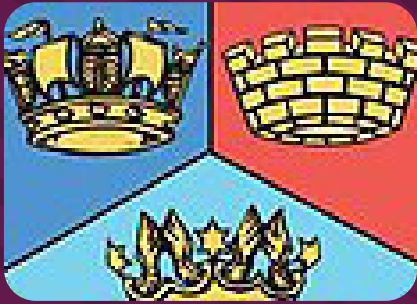
The BGS Islamic Society is a place for Muslims to offer their congregational Friday prayers (Jumm'ah). It is led by senior pupils and we are often joined by members of staff who pray with us. Prayer is a time for contemplation and solemnity; students must maintain BGS values whilst they are in congregational prayers.



Christian Society

Worship discussion and prayer with students from Life Church College.

Citizenship & Global Issues



Combined Cadet Force

The Combined Cadet Force (CCF) is a voluntary youth organisation that is operated as an co-curricular activity. It is sponsored by the Ministry of Defence and runs a syllabus that is based around promoting leadership, personal skills and abilities as well as teamwork and good citizenship. The CCF is not just about military-style training. It's life skills and confidence and self-discipline.



Politics Society

Are you interested in Politics and current affairs? Do you follow the news and political debate in the UK, the USA and beyond? If so, Politics Society is for you! Discuss, explore and be informed by fellow students about the topical issues of our time.



Duke of Edinburgh

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme is the world's leading youth achievement programme for 14-24 year olds. Participation in the Award gives young people experience of working in a team, builds confidence, resilience and fosters independence. These are essential skills that help young people as they progress through life, improving their chances of moving forward in education or furthering a career.



Volunteering at Chellow Heights

This is a wonderful opportunity for pupils to make a contribution to society, and to gain an insight into the life experience of children with very different expectations to their own. BGS pupils learn about a different world to their own, and Chellow Heights pupils benefit from having some extra assistance in classrooms, allowing Chellow Heights staff to do more with the children in their care while we are there.



Student Voice (Lower School)

The Lower School Student Voice provides students with an opportunity to discuss a variety of topics relating to life at Bradford Grammar School, hold question and answer sessions with various members of staff from around the school, as well as talk about any issues which the student body find to have arisen.

Citizenship & Global Issues



LGBT+ Club

Being a teenager can be hard. Being an LGBT+ teenager can be even harder. Sometimes a few friendly faces can make all the difference, and it can be particularly comforting to know that there are people like you around the school. Whether you're out and proud, questioning, or simply wish to show your support as an LGBT+ ally, you are welcome here.



Interact Club

Interact Club gives you a chance to get involved with students from your year group and from others to raise money for and awareness of good causes. The team work is fun! We are always looking for new fundraising ideas, and discuss these at our meetings. This year we are supporting three wonderful charities - Manorlands Hospice, Teenage Cancer Trust and ActionAid.



Big Green Society

If you care about the environment we live in, and want to leave the world a better place, this might be the club for you. We empower students to participate and take up meaningful environmental activities and projects and are always delighted to have new members.

Creative Arts



Game Design Club

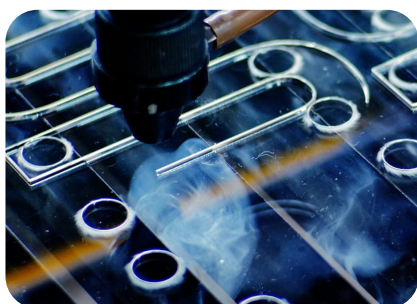
The game design industry is rapidly growing and yet still incredibly competitive. Game development studios look for candidates with strong portfolios, proving they have a real passion for the creation of games (not just playing them!). Use these sessions to kick-start your career! Sessions will introduce attendees to the Game Design industry, describing and providing an opportunity to try out the various disciplines involved.

Creative Arts



Photographic Society

Do you like to take photographs? Do you enjoy the creative and artistic process of composing photographs? Then come along to Photographic Society and find out more about the opportunities which are offered at this Society. We also prepare for and enter the Sony World Photography Youth Competitions among others throughout the year.



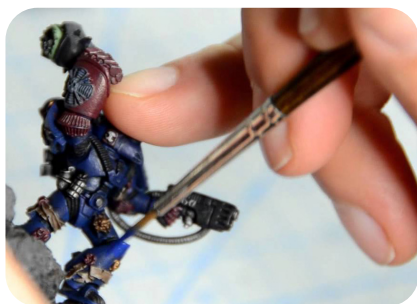
Design & Technology Club

This club allows you to pursue your interest in Design & Technology and hone your practical skills. Fun and exciting, come along and explore the subject in imaginative and inventive ways.



Handmade Club

It is well known that spending time doing creative tasks benefits the mind and your wellbeing. Come along and spend half an hour making something beautiful either by hand or on the sewing machine, out of fabric, felt or wool... We have a vast array of materials at your disposal!



Miniatures Club

This is a wonderful opportunity for pupils to experience a different form of artistic expression not usually found within the classroom. Pupils will have the opportunity to build and paint 28mm scale miniatures figures which they can then take home and use in a range of tabletop games.



The Creative Writing, Film and Media Society

Want to know why Hitchcock's Psycho still strikes as much fear into us as it did fifty years ago? Or maybe you'd like to learn why Toy Story has the perfect 25-year-long plot arc. Interesting questions like these and more relating to creative writing, film and media, will be answered in various ways throughout the year. If you're interested in how all these things tie into everyday life without realising, come along!

Creative Arts



BGS Bugle

The BGS Bugle is the school newspaper written by pupils for pupils. If you are opinionated, have an interest in current issues and enjoy writing, this could be the activity for you. We are always looking for talented writers, who enjoy working as a team, have a keen eye for detail and who have lots of brilliant ideas, to contribute to the publication.



Art Societies

The Art department is open to all students who would like to use the facilities to develop set homeworks and also to generally explore techniques and materials of their interest. GCSE students are encouraged to use the department to support their coursework and seek support from the subject teachers strengthening their individual portfolios.

Games



Board Games Club

Run by the Pastoral Prefects, Years 7-9 students can come along at lunchtime (except Wednesdays) to play board and card games. If you want to bring your own game along so that you can find someone to play with, you are welcome but the prefects already have a number of options on offer (including playing cards, Guess Who?, Cluedo, chess, jenga, Uno, Connect4, Dobble and more).



Chess Club

Chess club is a friendly and quiet place to learn a new game and make new friends. The club is a place for beginners to learn how to play and for everyone to improve how they play. Play with a friend or join the chess ladder to become school champion.

Games



Puzzle Club

This club is open to anyone who likes to solve problems and figure things out. Puzzles are a great way to improve your problem solving and logical thinking skills. In this club we will challenge ourselves, share favourite puzzles, swap tips and discover new puzzles.

Bradford Grammar School

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