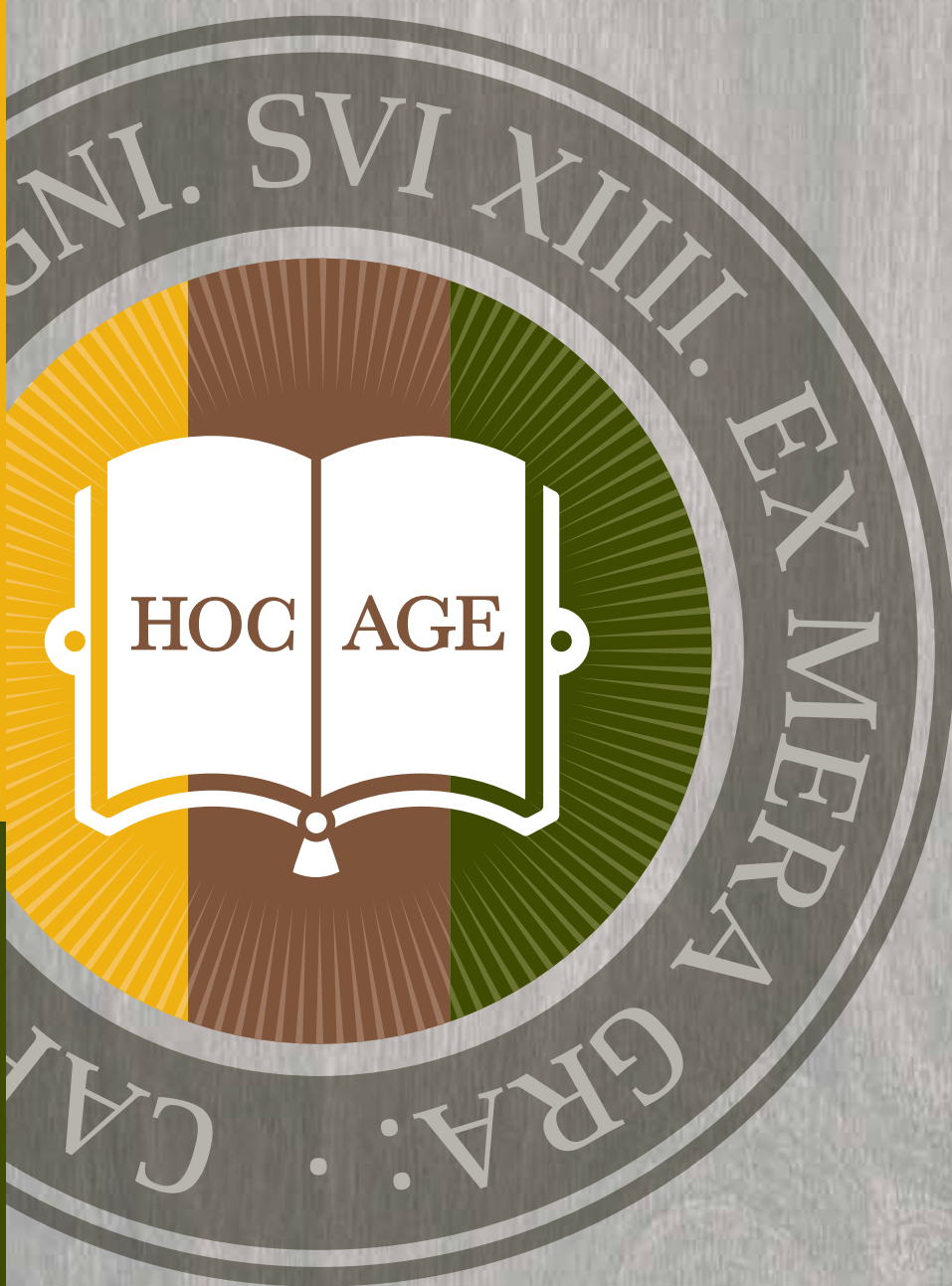


IMPACT REPORT

1662 Campaign Impact Report



2024/2025 Edition



CONTENTS

WELCOME

- 04 Headmaster's Report
- 06 Bursar's Intro

NEWS

- 08 Paris
- 09 Giving Day
- 10 Gala Dinner
- 12 Futures Fund
- 13 Lilly and Daniel's GCSE Success
- 14 Sanya's Cambridge Delight

FEATURES

- 16 Addressing National Inequality
- 18 Meet David Allanson
- 20 Meet Roger Evans
- 24 Giving Back

THANK YOU ...

- 26 Our Donors
- 30 Development Thanks

Welcome to the latest Impact
Report for the 1662 Fund for
means-tested Assisted Places.

Headmaster's REPORT

This publication arrives as the school year is in full swing. The prevailing mood at BGS is one of aspiration, confidence and honest endeavour. Our pupils have every reason to be optimistic about their prospects.

GCSE and A Level results last summer were, once again, among the strongest in the North - robust, consistent and exemplary. Initial analyses confirm that pupils at BGS outperform expectations, with clear evidence of 'added value' relative to their baseline at entry.

Nonetheless, we do not rest on our laurels. The professional culture at BGS is defined by granular performance analysis, reflective practice and incremental improvement, all informed by evidence. This rigour, now embedded in our academic ethos, extends equally to our pastoral and safeguarding work. These areas have long been praised by inspectors, yet we continue to refine and strengthen our provision to ensure even better outcomes for pupil wellbeing.

Value is added in myriad ways beyond examination results. By way of further illustration, BGS was named Yorkshire's School of the Year at the LTA Tennis Awards and received a Highly Commended Excellence Award at national level. An Under 15 doubles pair, one a recipient of an Assisted Place Award (APA), claimed the Ashbury Bailey Shield at the Independent Schools Tennis Championships at Eton, marking our first national silverware in this event since the days of black-and-white television. Cricket, too, is resurgent. Two Old Bradfordians, including a former APA recipient, recently walked out together for the Yorkshire first team. Meanwhile, a current APA pupil secured a place at Lancashire (!) and earned

a call-up to the England U19 squad.

While tennis and cricket fixtures were in full swing, our LEGO robotics team, The Incredilegos, competed at the FIRST® LEGO® League Challenge Finals in Florida, having previously been crowned UK Champions. APA pupils were among their number too. Some returned just in time for Army and RAF cadet camps. Under the leadership of a new Commanding Office, an Old Bradfordian and former First XV player, our contingent has never been more popular or more successful.

I trust my message is clear.

CONTINUED ►



Assisted Places enable bright, ambitious children to attend our great school. The benefits are profound for them, their families and the wider BGS community. Everyone gains: our city, our region, and our nation, especially at a time when social mobility demands urgent attention. Those who support fundraising for means-tested APAs at BGS are actively transforming the prospects of deserving young people and the peer groups to which they belong, across multiple scales of impact.

Yet we face headwinds. The imposition of VAT on school fees, the removal of business rates relief and changes to the national minimum wage and National Insurance, when 70 per cent of our costs are staffing, pose significant challenges. These pressures are already forcing some families to withdraw their children, and I harbour grave concerns for the education and wellbeing of those affected. Others, who might once have considered BGS, now find it beyond reach. These changes will bite incrementally. Still, we strive to remain commercially resilient while delivering an exceptional education, offer outstanding value and enact a wide and meaningful public benefit.

I continue to lead at a dynamic moment in BGS history - a time of necessary evolution, sometimes against the grain. We have weathered the storm of a global pandemic and continue to navigate teacher recruitment shortages and ideological and economic turbulence. Waves of challenge have overwhelmed many peer schools, both nationally and locally.

Yet BGS steers a straight and true course, and we remain a bastion of educational excellence in the North and beyond. Crucially, our ongoing commitment to inclusivity, a grounded ethos and a diverse social mix is sustained through the generosity of those who support the 1662 Fund and its subset, the Futures Fund, which endows these awards for posterity. To those who have given to BGS this past year, I offer my deepest gratitude. In 2024/25 we raised £1.3m towards the 1662 Fund. Your support is enabling BGS to retain its essential character and positive impact. Doubt not the difference you are making.

Simon Hinchliffe, Headmaster

The 1662 Fund and its subset, The Futures Fund, continue to play a vital role in delivering our strategic priorities: widening access, supporting pupil achievement and ensuring long-term financial sustainability.

In the past financial year, fundraising efforts generated a phenomenal £1.3m, of which £200k was directed specifically to the Futures Fund. As of 31 August 2025, we are delighted to report that the Futures Fund stands at £1m in value. All charitable contributions are invested in a professionally managed stock

market portfolio which delivered a total return (income and capital) of 9.5 per cent over the period. This performance strengthens the long-term endowment of Assisted Places Awards (APAs), ensuring that access to a BGS education remains viable for future generations.

Bursar's Reflections

60 pupils benefited from an APA at BGS in 2024/25 equating to a total spend of £680k. These awards enable access to a BGS education for talented individuals who would otherwise be unable to attend our school. The impact is clear: APA recipients consistently excel across academic, co-curricular and leadership domains. Their presence enriches the wider school community, contributing to a socially diverse and intellectually vibrant environment.

CONTINUED ►



As highlighted in last year's Impact Report, the independent school sector continues to face significant challenges. VAT on fees, the removal of business rates relief and rising employment costs are already affecting affordability for families and financial planning for schools.

In response, as expected, some schools have begun to reduce their investment in access programmes, scaling back Assisted Places to manage costs. At BGS, we remain resolute. Our commitment to Assisted Places is not discretionary; it is embedded in our ethos and strategic direction. It is a core part of our identity, and we continue to protect and expand it, even in the face of external pressures. Our financial strategy is focused on resilience and inclusion. We are adapting and not retreating.

Bradford, as the UK City of Culture 2025, is a city of energy and ambition – but also one where educational inequality remains a reality. The APAs at BGS are not just financial assistance; they are bridges. They connect talent to opportunity and potential to achievement. In doing so, they elevate not only individual pupils, but the peer groups, families and communities around them.

We are deeply grateful to all donors who have contributed to the 1662 Fund. Your support enables us to maintain our values, deliver public benefit and plan confidently for the future. Continued investment in access and opportunity will ensure BGS remains a leading institution in both educational quality and social impact.



Hockney in Paris



Old Bradfordians (OBs) and 1662 campaign trustees and benefactors joined together with the Chairman of Governors and Headmaster in Paris at Easter to celebrate the work of celebrated OB, David Hockney (1952).

Hockney was due to open his most extensive exhibition to date at the Louis Vuitton Foundation. It was set to be the largest and most

comprehensive collection of his work arranged along a timeline from early days in Bradford, to California, France and back to Yorkshire again - an incredible showcase of work spanning 70 years.

The opportunity to attend the exhibition's vernissage and socialise in the Parisian springtime provided a perfect opportunity to thank our supporters and celebrate one of our nation's, and Bradford Grammar School's, most accomplished and iconic artists.



Giving Day

BGS got firmly behind our second Giving Day. Beginning on the morning of Thursday 25 March and spread over 36 hours, Old Bradfordians and our wider family of supporters around the globe, and in BD9 (!), took part. Together, we raised an incredible £133,000 for means tested Assisted Places, exceeding our target of £100k.

In a demonstration of community and public spirit, and reflecting a culture of philanthropy, our pupils enthusiastically involved themselves in fundraising activities ranging from inter-form races on inflatable obstacle courses to arguing motions at the Senior Debating Society on the merits of supporting charitable activities. It was a whole school effort that brought us all together for a worthy cause. Quotes received during Giving Day included the following:

'Thank you BGS, for the great start in life that you gave to me, and subsequently to my three children. A top education in such a supportive environment, of which academic study is only a small part. At BGS, you learn so much more than what you're taught. You learn how to learn, happily and confidently.'

James Cookes

'Just to say thank you for the life chances you gave to me and continue to give to others. Long may that continue.'

Mark Hinchliffe

'I owe nearly everything I've achieved to my assisted place at BGS. I loved nearly every day of my time there, and am forever grateful for the opportunities, experiences, and lifelong friendships that the school gave me. Here's to the next 500 years! Thank you, BGS.'

Stephen Muir

'The Bhan-Mistry family is delighted to support the BGS Giving day appeal! BGS is a remarkable school with a track record of bringing out the very best in its students. To be able to extend this provision to students through the Assisted Places programme is a truly noble cause.'

Bhan-Mistry family

'The education provided by BGS should be available to all those who have the motivation and ability to benefit from it. Many years ago, I was one of those and am happy to help others to do the same.'

Mick Stringer

“
THANK YOU BGS,
FOR THE GREAT
START IN LIFE THAT
YOU GAVE TO ME...
”





Gala Dinner

Black tie and smart attire were donned on the hottest day of the year for our inaugural BGS Gala Dinner on Saturday 21 June. Aperitifs and canapes were served by BGS pupils in the Sixth Form Centre before guests took up their places at tables in the thronged Price Hall.

The Headmaster welcomed everyone and led a warm vote of thanks to the Old Bradfordians Association (OBA) for their founding donation of £100k to the 1662 Futures Fund to endow Assisted Places for future generations of pupils. This was a poignant moment in which the current formation of the OBA came to an end. From this moment going forwards, the school will organise and provide an inclusive range of events and communications ('parties and publications' in the parlance of the current Headmaster) to bring our Old Bradfordians (OB) community closer together. In so doing, the very special relationship that BGS enjoys with its supportive alumni across the globe, nurtured by the OBA over many years, will be protected for posterity.

BGS staff and pupils prepared and served the meal and entertained diners with some carefully chosen and beautifully performed music. OB and Governor, Sir David Wootton, brought formal proceedings to a close fellow OBs, Jake and Nick Keating – former Norfolk Scholars (Assisted Place recipients) themselves – played their second set of the night in the cool open air and relaxed setting of the quad.

BGS had not hosted an occasion on this scale for several years and we have since been contacted by a large number of OBs and their families and friends asking when we might organise another. This is something we will be actively considering in due course as part of our commitment to providing a range of events for the wider school community. While primarily a social occasion, the Gala Dinner raised significant funds for Assisted Places and provided a wonderful occasion for reconnection and celebrating the best of BGS.

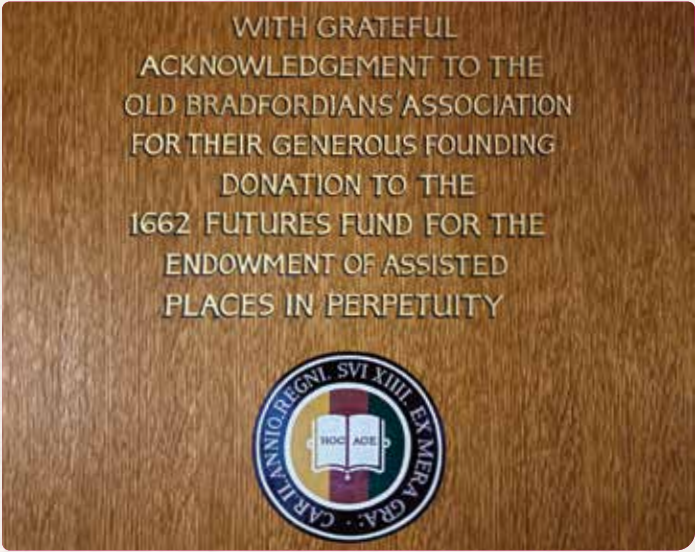




“

...THE VERY SPECIAL
RELATIONSHIP THAT BGS ENJOYS
WITH ITS SUPPORTIVE ALUMNI.

”



The Inauguration of the Futures Fund

1662 Campaign for Assisted Places at BGS

The June 2025 Gala Dinner marked a moment of profound significance in the life of Bradford Grammar School, serving as the ceremonial occasion for the official inauguration of the Futures Fund - a cornerstone of the 1662 Campaign, established to uphold and extend the tradition of means-tested Assisted Places.

The Futures Fund is a dedicated endowment, conceived to ensure that the opportunity of a BGS education remains accessible to talented pupils regardless of financial circumstance, not merely for today, but in perpetuity. Its founding was made possible through the generosity of the Old Bradfordians Association (OBA), whose initial gift laid the foundation for what is now a growing legacy. The generosity of its members has since been matched by the benevolent contributions of:

- The Ken and Lynne Morrison Charitable Trust
- The Allanson Family
- Neville Core
- John Glew
- John Hicks
- Mark Learmonth

In recognition of this collective philanthropy, a new honours board has been commissioned to stand as a lasting testament to those who have chosen to invest in the future of BGS and its pupils.

Benefactors are now afforded the privilege of directing their support in one of two meaningful ways. Some may elect to provide for the immediate educational needs of an individual pupil, gifts which are applied directly to fees and expended over the course of a pupil's tenure at the school. These are, in contemporary parlance, sometimes referred to as 'pay-as-you-go' contributions.

Others may prefer to endow the Futures Fund itself, thereby ensuring the income generated from their gift continues to support Assisted Places in perpetuity. Such gifts, particularly those made in the form of legacies, are instrumental in securing the long-term vitality of the programme.

To offer a practical illustration: at the time of writing, the annual gross fee for a place in the Senior School at BGS stands at £17,973. When projected across seven years of study, from Year 7 through to Year 13, and accounting for reasonable inflationary increases, the total cost of a full education is estimated at £135,000. Thus, a donation of £400,000 to the Futures Fund endowment would, in effect, underwrite the education of one deserving pupil for generations to come. We are pleased to report the Futures Fund was valued at £1m as at 31 August 2025.

AP Students delighted with GCSE grades

Two Bradford Grammar students on Assisted Places celebrated securing a string of grade 9s in their GCSEs.

Lilly Venton, of Halifax, was among those who were overjoyed after arriving at school to find she'd secured eight 9s and two 8s.

Lilly said: 'I was shocked when I opened the envelope at how well I'd done. I've really loved it here. It was definitely a change from my old school when I arrived in Year 7, but I settled in quickly because everyone was so nice. 'I've really enjoyed playing hockey and I've found that sport has been a great way to make friends. The teachers have also been incredibly helpful.'

Daniel Folorunsho, of Bradford, was delighted after arriving at school to find he'd achieved six grade 9s, two grade 8s and three 7s.

Said Daniel, who joined BGS on an Assisted Place in Year 7: 'I'm really happy with my results. It's been great being at BGS. I've enjoyed all the sport – rugby, table tennis, athletics – and different activities. The teachers have really helped me with my studies.'



“

...I'VE FOUND
THAT SPORT HAS
BEEN A GREAT
WAY TO MAKE
FRIENDS.

”





Sanya fulfils dream to study Medicine at Cambridge

Bradford Grammar School (BGS) teenager, Sanya Haleem, had her dream of studying Medicine at Cambridge University realised when she gained three A*s and an A in her A Levels.

Sanya, who joined Bradford Grammar School in Year 7 on an Assisted Place, discovered she'd gained an A* in Biology, A* in Chemistry, A* in Maths and an A in Further Maths.

The student, who was sponsored by Sovereign Healthcare during her Sixth Form years, had received the school's specialist competitive university support as she applied to Cambridge. It included mock medical interviews and help with her personal statement, to secure her place at Newnham College. She also received a great deal of support from Newnham alumni and BGS Bursar, Homera Najib.

Said Sanya: "I'm really happy with the results and delighted to have my place at Cambridge. I don't think I'd have secured the grades if it wasn't for BGS.

"What's really special about BGS is the teachers, in that they're enthusiastic about you coming to ask for help, and never more so than in the Sixth Form. My friendships really solidified during that time too."

"I used to be quite shy and I've gained so much confidence since I joined BGS. I've had so many opportunities to take part in new things. I don't think I would have had those opportunities anywhere else."

Sanya, who gained Grade 9s across the board in her GCSEs, has loved her time at BGS, enjoying cricket, rowing, assemblies and being a member of the Islamic Society.

Sanya is also a participant in The Rank Foundation's School Leadership Programme, established in 1978 to give financial assistance to a select group of students in Sixth Forms across chosen state and independent schools.

"I'm much more comfortable speaking in front of the class now," she said. "I wasn't used to that, but now it's easier."

Mrs Najib, who studied Natural Sciences at Cambridge, said: "I knew Sanya was applying and when she got her offer, I asked her if she wanted to chat about it. It's been lovely and I've been able to relive my Newnham days talking about the friendships that you build for life! We're very proud of Sanya and we know she has a fantastic future in store at Cambridge and beyond."



“

...I'VE GAINED SO MUCH
CONFIDENCE SINCE
I JOINED BGS.

”

Feature

A portrait of a middle-aged man with a shaved head and a light beard, wearing glasses and a grey suit with a blue striped tie. The background is dark and textured. White diagonal lines are overlaid on the right side of the image.

OUR ROLE IN ADDRESSING NATIONAL *inequality*

These are dynamic times when it comes to education, a period when the independent school sector is having to evolve and increasingly make a case for its virtues, and in some instances, survival.

To my mind, if given the oxygen to flourish, private and public partnerships and a wider base of collaboration between schools of all types, extending beyond any overly simplistic state versus private split, could have a transformational impact on the prospects of all children.

The Sutton Trust recently published a report based upon data for 10 million people over 25 years, demonstrating that the 20 best performing constituencies for social mobility in England, and 42 of the top 50, are located in London.

The trust created an 'opportunity index' combining six indicators of mobility including, for example, the proportion of pupils on free school meals who achieve passes in GCSE maths and English, complete a degree by age 22 and progress into the upper fifth of wage earners by age 28. The research contributes to a convincing body of evidence that articulates sharp differences in the life chances of young people depending on where they live.

We can view these findings through the lens of a 2023 publication of the Child of the North Group that revealed, on average, pupils in London received 9.7 per cent more funding than those in the North and that: '...schools in London received an average of £6,610 per pupil compared to £6,225 in the North East and £5,956, and £5,938 in the North West, and Yorkshire and The Humber, respectively.'

These insights chime hard with an annual Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) report of the same year, that concluded: '...areas with the highest levels of spending per pupil are located in inner London, particularly Westminster, Lambeth, Southwark, Haringey, Tower Hamlets, Islington, Camden and Hackney. In these areas, spending per pupil is close to 20 per cent or more above the national average' and that 'we also see relatively high levels of spending per pupil (10–20 per cent above the national average) in other relatively deprived areas of London, such as Lewisham and Hammersmith and Fulham.'

Subtleties exist beyond the headlines and these naturally give rise to a more nuanced understanding of potential associations between data sets. Structural inequality is, however, undeniable. So, what to do about it?

The Direct Grant days are gone, but many in our sector provide means-tested financial support to children from disadvantaged backgrounds to enable them to benefit from a life changing education. At BGS we call them Assisted Place

Awards, mimicking an earlier Government funded scheme that embraced means testing and meritocratic elements; others use the word bursaries, although the pedant in me will argue that BGS nomenclature is more accurate. Regardless, positive impact of such initiatives is self-evident.

All such programmes form part of a menu of public benefit and partnership activity that could, at scale, reverse the downward spiral of national headlines about stuck and backsliding social mobility in the regions. If only the prevailing ideological conditions allowed schools such as BGS to support even more young people in our communities. The potential is there – if only we were liberated to realise it.

BGS continues to do its bit, including sweating the details to remain affordable to the squeezed middle. We will never shirk our social responsibilities.

I am humbled by the generosity of the OB and BGS community, and our corporate and charitable partners, and offer my gratitude for their benefaction. And to be clear, at BGS we have an equal regard for all children, from all kinds of homes, and reject any rhetoric that seeks to divide one demographic from another. Maintaining a balanced and diverse community, reflecting various characteristics including geographical locality and socioeconomic features, is essential going forwards if BGS is going to remain inclusive and be recognisable in the longer term.

Articulating the case for BGS, and schools like ours, is going to be a work in progress – the case must be made repeatedly when counter narratives are the order of the day. Sir David Wootton, OB and member of our Board of Governors, said the following when I interviewed him for the most recent edition of the Old Bradfordian magazine:

'Independent schools are a bit out of fashion at the moment, and that means it is difficult for us to achieve the recognition and engagement that we merit. However, what we offer Bradford and the district is potentially transformative to it, whether we are in fashion or otherwise.'

And that's the rub. We will keep doing the things we know are right and we will keep making a difference.

“

**SUBTLETIES EXIST BEYOND
THE HEADLINES...**

”

Feature

I BELIEVE VERY MUCH IN *Assisted Places*

As one of BGS's long-term benefactors and an Ambassador for the school's 1662 Fund, former Scholarship boy, David Allanson, talks about the impact a BGS education had on him and why he gives back to the school.

David Allanson arrived at BGS in 1967 on a West Riding of Yorkshire County Scholarship, in the days when the Direct Grant scheme was still operating. He'd grown up in Calverley, near Leeds. His father had worked at the Co-op straight from school and his mother was a burler and mender at one of the area's many textile mills.

With a head for numbers and logic, David was one of several boys from his local primary school who, over the years, had been offered the chance to attend BGS. When he arrived, he says, it was like 'an entirely different world.'

"It's not easy coming here when you're 11 years old and you turn up and you see this commanding, beautiful building," he recalls. "The bulk of the kids I'd grown up with left school at 15, and I had to fit into this new environment. Some people got lost from the very start, but I was relatively confident and outgoing. I enjoyed sport and team games."

David was never worried about people being better academically than him and he enjoyed being in the company of talented young people.

"I was used to people pushing me on the sports field so that bit of BGS came very easily," he says. "I found the camaraderie was wonderful and I had some great friends. The majority of teachers would go the extra mile for everyone, and I get the sense that that's still how it is now."

"When I left school, I didn't take much away from it other than I'd had a good time. It was only later and with the benefit of experience that I realised what Bradford Grammar had done for me."

After BGS, David headed to The Queen's College, Oxford to study Classics. But, having always had a head for numbers, he went on to pursue a career with Citibank, initially as a corporate banker before moving to the foreign exchange dealing room.

"It was a bit like playing sport," he recalls. "At the end of every day you had either made money or lost it, and I enjoyed the rough and tumble of the dealing room environment."

David, who lives in London, enjoyed a long career in finance, including 12 years with Goldman Sachs, work with a hedge fund company and as a Chief Investment Strategist for an insurance firm.

CONTINUED ►



“

**THEY CAN HAVE A
TRANSFORMATIVE EFFECT
ON YOUNGSTERS.**

”

While he could have given to many charities, he chose BGS and his former university. His benefaction journey with Bradford Grammar began with a monthly standing order in 2003.

“There are things you can do to give back but it's sometimes difficult to know what they are and how to get started,” he says.

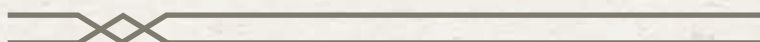
“The more I engaged with BGS the more I could see how driven they were to attract young, talented people to the school and give them access to the fantastic facilities. The city of Bradford has struggled financially and there are fewer people able to afford private education hence the need for more bursaries.

They can have a transformative effect on youngsters. I certainly wouldn't have gone to Oxford and captained the university football team if it wasn't for Bradford Grammar. I had the world at my feet.”

Eventually grandfather-of-three, David, began making more substantial donations, which were put in the school's endowment fund initially. But a conversation with former Headmaster, Stephen Davidson, resulted in his donations being paid into a Bursary Fund match funded by Barclays. David has since become an Ambassador for the school's 1662 Fund for Assisted Places.

“I believe very much in the Assisted Places programme and if I can help anybody come to a place like this I will,” he says. “There is a different level of aspiration here. The ethos is that anyone can make it.”

“It's good to give back if you enjoyed your time at BGS and you think it benefitted you. A donation, no matter how small, can go a long way in allowing someone else to come here. It's a sacrifice worth making because it can give someone a life that, otherwise, they may not have had.”



Feature



THE POWER OF *opportunity*

From a Bradford schoolboy to a Silicon Valley pioneer, Roger Evans (OB 1963) reflects on how his time at BGS shaped a life of opportunity, innovation and giving back.

When Roger Evans left Bradford Grammar School (BGS) as Head Boy in the early 1960s, he could hardly have imagined that one day his name would grace the building that shapes the school's next generation of leaders and visionaries.

Today, the Roger Evans Sixth Form Centre stands as a daily reminder of what can happen when opportunity, curiosity and ambition come together.

The 80-year-old California-based venture capitalist and former tech entrepreneur still credits Bradford Grammar as the springboard for future success.

"BGS played a bigger part in my success than Cambridge ever did," he says. "It was one of the few schools that could have propelled me to a place like King's College. I owe far more to BGS for getting me there than to my own ability."

Roger joined BGS at seven years old and rose to become Head Boy and Victor Ludorum in his final year — achievements, he admits with modest pride, reflected on the school's ability to 'bring out excellence in every way'.

The school, he recalls, was academically rigorous — 'a place focused on winning open scholarships to Oxford and Cambridge' — and its teaching was far ahead of its time. That early advantage gave him confidence and the breathing space to explore. His curiosity, he admits, often led him down unexpected paths, one of which was choosing to switch to economics because 'a couple of my friends were economists, and their work seemed a lot more interesting than mine.'

As graduation neared, a chance encounter then changed the course of his life. He attended a lecture about what computers were going to do for the world, and it turned out to be an IBM recruitment drive.

"I took the test, scored highly, and they offered me a job," he recalls. "It was a fortuitous decision — one of several in my life — but it opened the door to everything that followed."

CONTINUED ►

“

**BGS PLAYED
A BIGGER
PART IN MY
SUCCESS THAN
CAMBRIDGE
EVER DID**

”

Feature

IBM in the 1960s was the beating heart of a new technological age. But after three years, Roger's curiosity began to stir again. "I was asking myself, am I really going to be here for the rest of my life?" he says.

The answer was no. That restlessness led to the creation of CASE — Computer and Systems Engineering Ltd — a start-up distributing data-communications equipment from the United States. CASE grew rapidly, representing companies such as American Data Systems (ADS). When ADS ran into financial difficulties in the early 1970s, CASE — led by Roger — helped restructure the business, eventually supporting entrepreneur Bill Norred in founding a new company, Micom Systems, from its ashes.

Recognising the potential of the venture, Roger made another defining leap. He left Britain, moved to California, and joined Micom to run sales and marketing. At Micom, Roger's close contact with customers led to a breakthrough insight — smaller businesses using the new so-called minicomputers needed faster, simpler ways to connect their systems. The result was the Micro800 Data Concentrator, launched in 1978, an innovation that propelled Micom to international prominence and helped shape the early networking industry.

Within a few years the company had gone public, and by 1987 Roger was President of Micom, steering it through major acquisitions and global growth. "It was a thrilling time," he recalls. "Every decision felt like standing on the edge of something transformative."

When Micom was sold in 1988, Roger joined Greylock Partners, one of Silicon Valley's most respected venture capital firms. There he backed a new generation of technology companies, from early network pioneers to software firms that would later go public.

"I never had a fixed plan," he says. "Each step was about recognising an opportunity and having the courage to take it."

Roger is measured and grounded in how he talks about success. "People often say follow your passion," he reflected. "I don't believe in that advice. Passion isn't something fixed inside you — it's something that grows out of curiosity and recognising opportunity."

He likens it to his own career. "I didn't know the IBM lecture would change my life. I didn't plan to move to America. But I was willing to go where opportunity led, even when I didn't know exactly where it might end," he says.

CONTINUED ►



It's that same belief in opportunity that underpins Roger's philanthropy. When Bradford Grammar launched a capital campaign two decades ago, he was quick to respond.

"I was attracted by the opportunity to give back to BGS because the school had given me the best start," he explains.

He wasn't initially thinking of the Sixth Form Centre; what drew him in was Stephen Davidson, then Headmaster, whose vision for a modern, co-educational, outward-looking BGS inspired him.

"Stephen's excitement about what he was doing — opening the school to more girls, building links with the local community — it was a time of fresh energy, and I wanted to help him realise that," he says.

His major donation made the new Sixth Form Centre possible — a bright, modern hub where senior students now study, collaborate and prepare for life beyond school.

Headmaster Dr Simon Hinchliffe describes it as 'a daily embodiment of Roger's values.'

"The centre stands as a living testament, showing students that curiosity, courage and a readiness to seize opportunity can shape a remarkable life", he says. "Roger's generosity has done more than transform the campus. It has inspired others to give in similar ways. It shows how one individual's belief in the power of education can ripple across generations."

“
EACH STEP WAS ABOUT
RECOGNISING AN
OPPORTUNITY AND HAVING
THE COURAGE TO TAKE IT
”

Feature



A VALUABLE WAY TO
give back

While Old Bradfordians play a vital role in transforming the lives of young people by contributing towards BGS's campaign for Assisted Places, there is another way for OBs to support their former school.

Dozens of alumni visit BGS every year to give talks, offer interview practice for competitive courses, such as Medicine and Dentistry, and take part in the school's biennial Careers Evening.

This year's Careers Evening, for Years 11 to 13, had 33 speakers, many of them OBs, with subjects as diverse as Alternatives to Law, Game Design, Sports Journalism and Publishing.

Sarah Denby, Head of Higher Education and Careers, says: "There are a lot of people we've maintained relationships with who are willing to come in and give back. We can't cover every career, but we try and have a mixture, including alternatives to more traditional options. We want to give students the opportunity to explore different careers. If they still want to go down a traditional route, such as Medicine, then at least they're making an informed decision."

As well as the careers talks and interviews, some students take part in work experience alongside OBs.

"It means more to them when they're alongside an OB as they've come from the same starting point," says Sarah. "It can be a really valuable experience for them. They get a lot out of it."

Paul Mitcheson (1997) is a Professor of Electrical Energy Conversion at Imperial College London, specialising in power electronics. He gave a talk about Engineering and Entrepreneurism when he returned to BGS for the Careers Evening.

He says: "It was over 20 years since I last visited school, and I was excited to go back, meet current pupils and discuss careers in electronic engineering. I've spent my career to date in academia at Imperial and have done several start-ups – so I hope I conveyed the excitement of gaining detailed scientific knowledge to solve real world problems. After all, my own excitement for all things electrical and electronic was kindled at BGS."

James Denison (1997) also spoke at the Careers Evening about Alternatives to Law.

He says: "I'd visited BGS on a few occasions since leaving for university, but it was some years since the last time. I was very pleased to go back and provide, what I hoped, were useful insights about careers in the insurance industry and related comments concerning private legal practice. I wanted my fellow Bradfordians to have the benefit of my experience so they could make better decisions about their own futures, taking account of our rapidly changing circumstances. It was the least I could do, given the opportunities the school made available to me."

Ms Denby says she is looking forward to growing the OB network. With a tough job market, industry insights for young people are more vital than ever.

She adds: "It can be nerve wracking leaving university and not knowing what lies ahead. Having people you can talk to who have been where you are and who have knowledge and experience of different fields is really valuable. We're very grateful to all our OBs who offer their time and experience to help our students."

***To support the careers department at BGS please get in touch with Sarah Denby via sld@bradfordgrammar.com**

“

**IT MEANS MORE TO
THEM WHEN THEY'RE
ALONGSIDE AN OB....**

”

THANK YOU

TO OUR DONORS

1662 Major Benefactors

- David Allanson (1974)
and the Allanson Family
- Stephen (1981) and Paula Bagshaw
- James Barker (1976)
- John Bigham (1988)
- John Brewer (1976)
- Thomas Broadbent (1963)
- John Burnell (1952)
- Neville Core (1956)
- Chris (1986) and Julia Eskdale
- John Glew (1955)
- David Hicken (1971)
- John Hicks (1951)
- Mark Hinchliffe (1973)
- Robert Hirst (1965)
- Ian Hudson (1976)
- David (1956) and Eleanor Huggins
- Andrew Jones (1982)
- Mark Learmonth (1981)
- Andy (1973) and Sue Meehan
- Colin Mellors
- Lady Morrison
- William Morrison
- Chris Murphy (1986)
- Steve Nicholls (1969)
- Old Bradfordians Association (OBA)
- James Parker (1977)
- Geoff Proctor (1962)
- Mark Richer (1981)

Trusts and Foundations

Sovereign Health Care
The Keith Howard Foundation
The Ken and Lynne Morrison
Charitable Trust
The Shears Foundation

1950s

John Bird
Henry Black
John Bottomley
Ronald Dixon
Ted Edmondson
Martin Fieldhouse
Mike Hardy
Alan Jerome
Roger Kellett
Michael Ludgate
Graham Reid

1960s

David Akerman
Roy Aspinall
Duncan Baker
David Barraclough
Richard Bellman
Geoff Blackburn
Stephen Brunton
John Claughton
Jim Gilpin
Ian Glick
Peter Grebenik
Martin Greenwood
Peter Guy
Robert Hamilton
David Hainsworth
Roger Harrison
Geoff Hirst
Stuart Hoare
Patrick Holdsworth
William Holroyd
David Illingworth
George Illingworth
Robert Illingworth
James Jagger
Robert Mirfield
Michael Prior
Charles Robertshaw
Peter Rooley
John Scott
Ian Stoney
Mick Stringer
Derek Swift
John Tempest
Andrew Toothill
John Waterhouse
John Wilkinson
Timothy Wontner-Smith
Trevor Wright
Michael Yorke

1970s

Steve Abbott
Nigel Bairstow
John Bracewell
Nigel Cameron
Andy Child
Mark Evans
Nigel Evans
Tim Finney
Jerry Gregson
David Haley
Philip Hanson
Rob Hill
Andy Hoffbrand
Mike Holdsworth
John Holmes
Philip Howard
Kevan Keegan
Tony Kelley
David Kennedy
Rookie Kholwadia
Robert Leechman
Ian Lofthouse
Paul Marsden
Clive Minihan
John Moorhouse
Stephen Morris
Charlie Peel
Nick Peet
Nigel Peet
Richard Raine
Duncan Rawson
Simon Sammons
Ian Shackleton
Tim Soutar
Stephen Tomlinson
Christopher Vigrass
Christopher Wainwright
Rob Walker
Ian Wilkinson

THANK YOU

TO OUR DONORS

1980s

James Crookes
Ian Dawson
Adam Fenton
Mike Firth
Paul Greaney
Richard Green
Katy Halse
John Hamer
Peter Higgins
Hugh Hillyard-Parker
Richard Hobson
Richard Lewis
Catherine Moore
Dominic Pinnock
Steve Ravenscroft
John Robinson
Michael Scott
Richard Scott
Simon Shaw
John Starkey
Andrew Wood

1990s

Craig Bass
John Bolton
Adam Brosnan
Matthew Clayton-Stead
Michael d'Arcy
James Denison
Mike Gatenby
Aamer Khan
Ty Khan
Steve Muir
Ben Murphy
Asif Qasim
Simon and Sarah Stevens
Neil Thwaites
Alasdair Turnbull
Sarah Whyatt
Caroline Whyatt
Andrew Wowk

2000s

Imran Ali
Sunny Bajgoric
James Degnan
Katie Essex
Alex Merrett
Stuart Smith
Alistair Stead
Andrew Strong
David Wevill
Nicholas Yazdani
Robert Young

2010s

Matthew Cogan
Waseem Ilyas

2020s

Anna McCormack
Rachel McCormack

Friends of BGS

Sam Bailey
Marian Creek
Julia Dickinson
Justyn Jagger
Gillian Norman
Caroline Nuyts

Parents (past and present)

Diana Sneezum
Frances Tunbridge
Susmita Acharya
Imran Ali (2001)
Amanda Ashby
Stephen (1981) and Paula
Bagshaw
James Barker
Bhan Mistry Family
Penny Bowie
Claire Brough
Jane Chapman
Sarah Churcher
Matthew Clayton-Stead (1999)
James Crookes (1987)
Kate Cuthbertson
Victoria Cuthell
John Darnbrook
Fiona Dix
Katherine Fulcher
Douglas Gurr
Peter Guy (1966)
Christopher Hahn
Katy Halse (1986)
John Hamer (1987)
Helen Harrison
Sarah Hartley
Gulgoona Hassan
Karen Hewitt
Simon and Heidi Hinchliffe
Richard Hobson (1982)
Steve Holmes
Mick and Kate Hulme-
Vickerstaff

Farah Imran and Imran Mahr
Alan Jerome (1953)
Sarah Jones
Aamer Khan (1990)
Sarah Lockett
Mrinal Madina
Paul Marsden (1975)
Louise Miller
Sajid Mohmed
Ben Murphy (1994)
Homera Najib
Daniel and Katy Owens
John Pickersgill
Yasmin Pitter
Aalya Rehman
James Rhodes
Peter Rooley (1965)
Zeshan Sattar
Simon Shaw (1985)
Andrew Stones
Nayala Tabassum
Claire Turner
Tom Woodham

Staff (past and present)

Ali Brook
Jane Chapman
Angela Cordial
Anya Friis
Karen Hewitt
Simon and Heidi Hinchliffe
Sarah Lockett
Homera Najib
Katy Owens
Ian Stoney (1964)
David Stokes

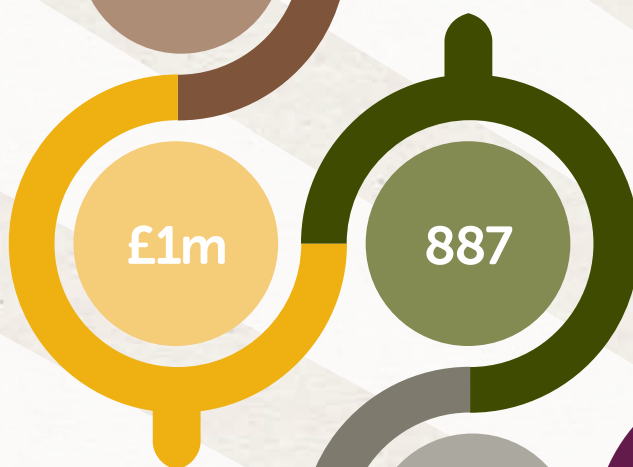
Donations from people who wished to remain anonymous total 39

£1.3m was
raised towards
the 1662 Fund
in 2024/25

Total raised
to date by
**1662
Campaign**



Donations
made in
total



Total
raised by
**Gala
Dinner**



**Futures
Fund**
separate
valuation



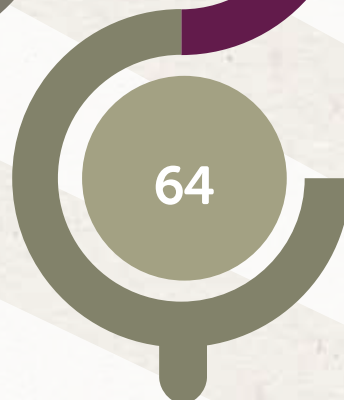
£133k

Raised
from our
Giving Day
from 179
individual
donations



64

New pupils
that joined
BGS through
Assisted Places
in the last
five years





DEVELOPMENT *thanks*

Thank you for taking the time
to read our annual Impact Report.

Through the generous donations of Old Bradfordians, current and former parents and staff, governors, corporate partners and a wider circle of friends of BGS, our Assisted Places programme continues to thrive and make a difference. In the long term, we are seeking to raise £20 million towards the Futures Fund which will guarantee our current Assisted Places programme in perpetuity and provide the foundation for growth – more Assisted Places and greater positive impact – at a time of growing need. We are in a strong position, even in these uncertain times for the independent school sector, and we remain ambitious. With your support we will radically improve the prospects of the young people of our city and district and protect the grounded, inclusive and aspirational character of Bradford Grammar School. Hoc Age!

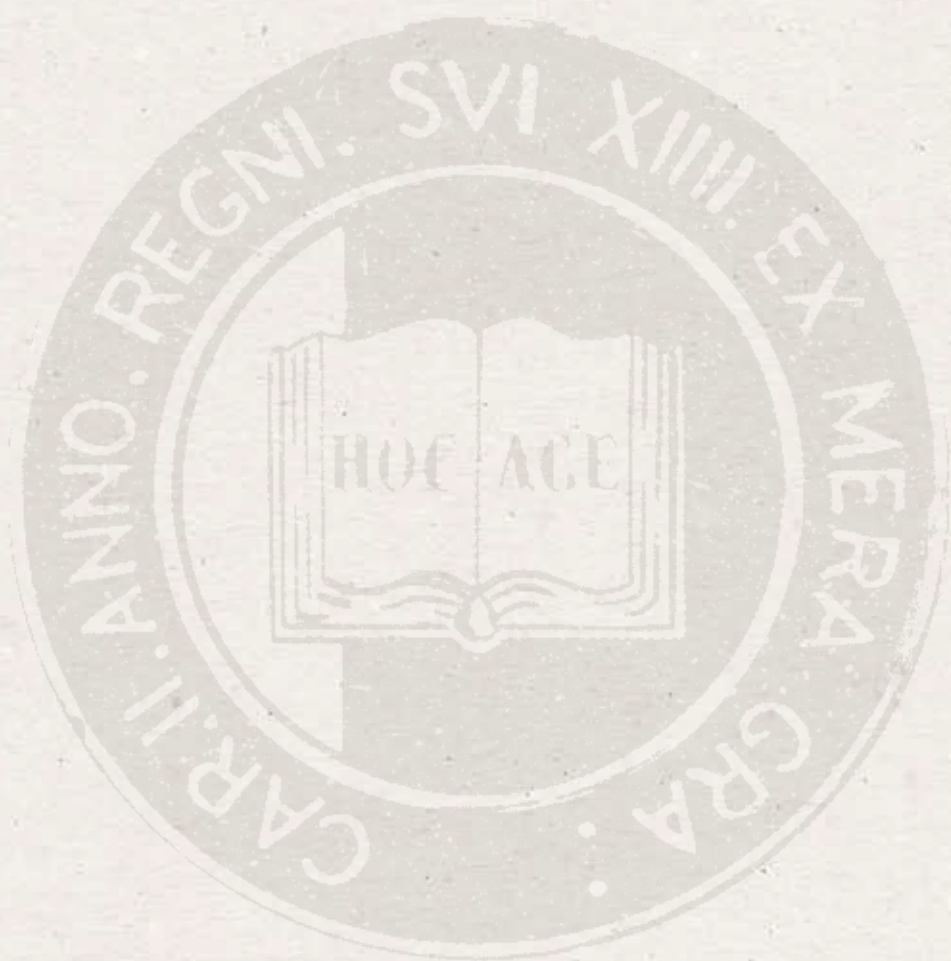


“

WITH YOUR SUPPORT WE WILL RADICALLY
IMPROVE THE PROSPECTS OF THE YOUNG
PEOPLE OF OUR CITY AND DISTRICT

”







To make a donation in support of Assisted Places
and keep up with OB news visit

www.bradfordgrammar.com/old-bradfordians



Bradford Grammar School
Keighley Road, Bradford, BD9 4JP

01274 553710 | oldbradfordians@bradfordgrammar.com

Design concept and artwork by VisualSense.com