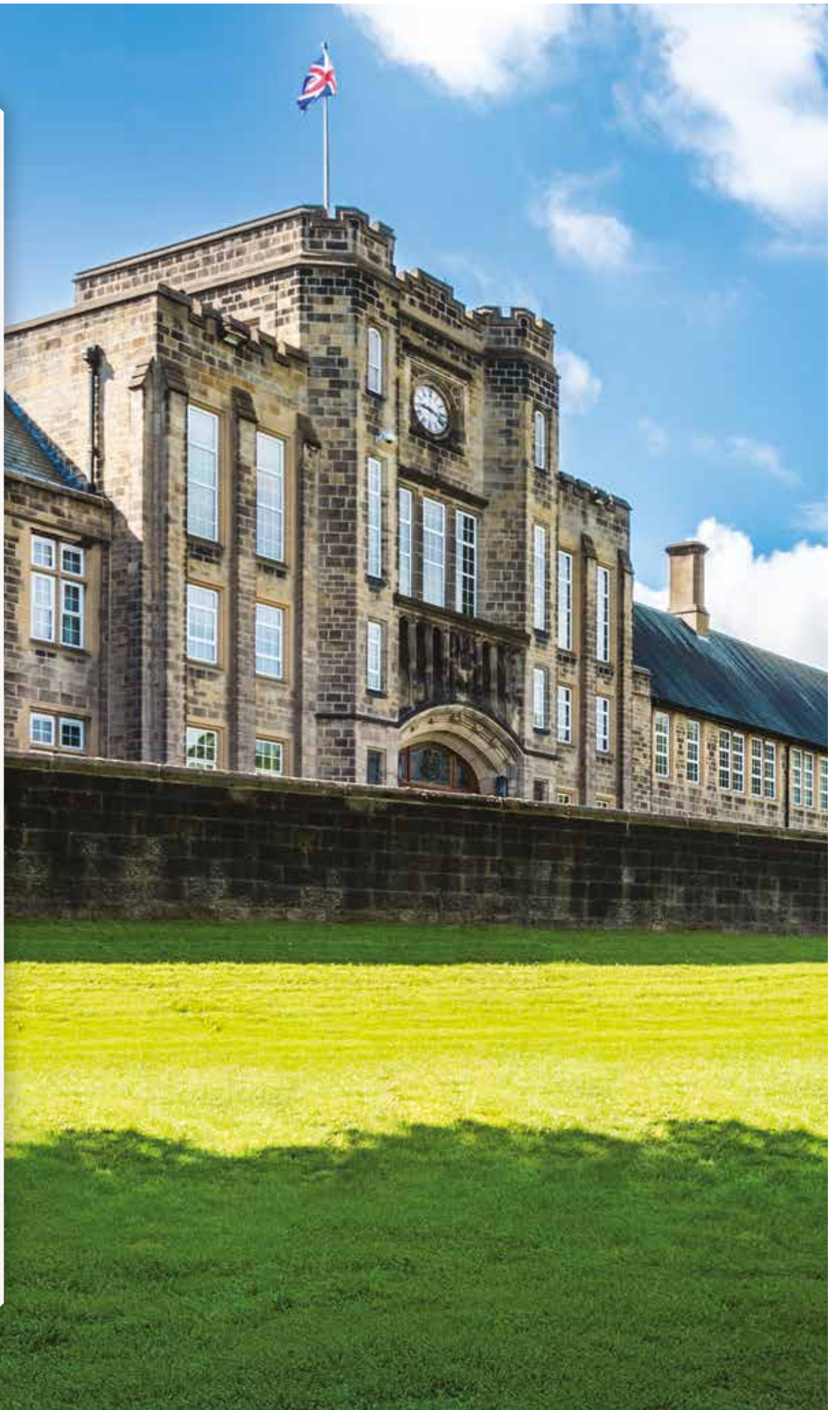




Bradford
Grammar
School

Issue 356 | Winter 2022

The Bradfordian





Dr Simon Hinchliffe
Headmaster
Extract from Speech Day 2022

For the full speech
please turn to page 07

High standards, honest graft and public spirit

... have been the beating heart of BGS
for generations, and to that ethos, which
reflects our home city of Bradford and
Yorkshire, we hold true.

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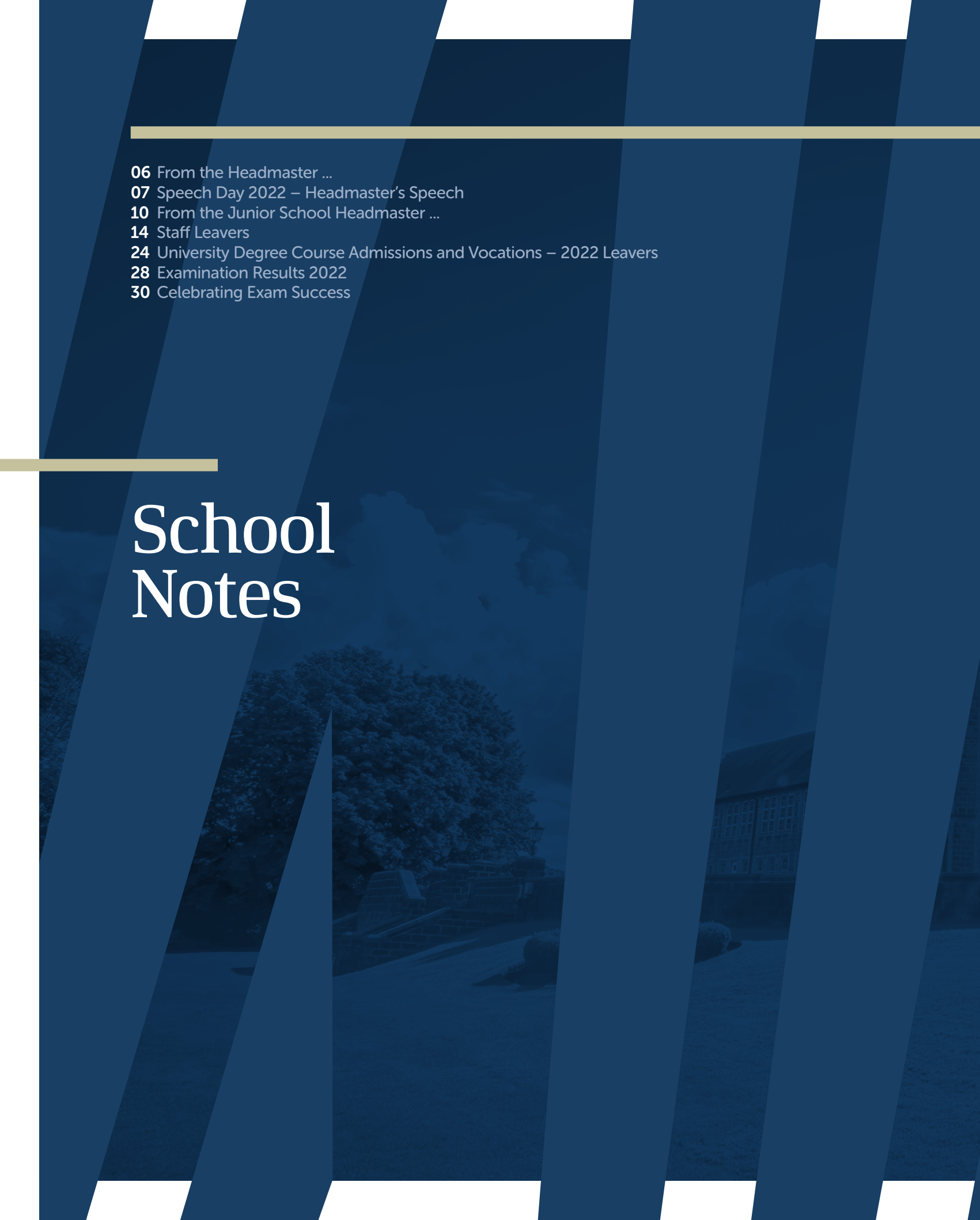
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School Notes





From the Headmaster ...

Welcome to the 2022 edition
of our whole school digest,
'The Bradfordian'.

The following pages represent a confident expression of the qualities that make BGS such a special place to learn and work. Line up successive Bradfordians on your living room floor, (the magazines, not school or civic notables!) and a bigger picture emerges. Ours is a School of national renown, one with a rich heritage and bright future as we reflect the changing times.

This was one of the themes that I took up at our most recent Senior School Speech Day. Chantry records place us in Bradford before 1548. Our Royal Charter was bestowed in 1662 and we are celebrating its 360th birthday this year. We moved from a cathedral site to Manor Row in 1820 and onwards to Manningham, opening as a school at our current location in 1949. We were the first school in England to adopt the Forster Reform Acts of 1869 and 1870 which brought secular, state control. In 1944 the Butler Education Act was embraced, ushering in the formative Direct Grant era when as many as 40 per cent of the boys attended thanks to public funding, fostering rapid social mobility. Independence came only recently in 1975 when BGS, like others facing sweeping educational reform, elected to protect their autonomy. The transition to full co-education began in 1984.

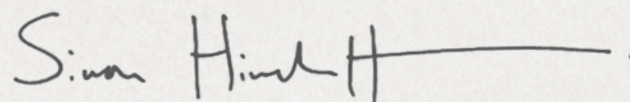
'Schools, like states, have to fluctuate between stability and change, as need arises,' wrote Tony Moxon in his book "Hoc Age, Bradford Grammar School 1818-1996", first published in 1999. He is right of course. Clearly, our School has evolved over the generations, but we have remained loyal to Bradford and our hinterland, and we continue to seek to be relevant and of value, to make a difference on our doorstep and nationally. Locality is bound up in our personality, it informs who we are and, as I said in my Speech Day address, 'our deep commitment to excellence and opportunity, giving rise to a rich variety of experiences and achievements, is a recipe for personal fulfilment and happiness. Moreover, we are kind and seek to share our time and talents generously as a good neighbour in our community' – all of which is wrapped up with a no-nonsense, get on and do it 'Hoc Age' attitude.

The articles that follow attest to our values and motto. Stories of hard work, success and love of school life speak loudly about our BGS family. But we don't get complacent. The accolades and positive judgments of recent times, not only from the Independent Schools Inspectorate, are not laurels upon which to rest. As I write, we are refurbishing our Sixth Form Centre and solar panels will soon appear around our site as BGS goes even greener. Additionally, if all runs to plan, we will soon be in a position to admit Reception and Year 1 children to our Junior School, Clock House, as part of improvements to the campus and curriculum for our youngest children.

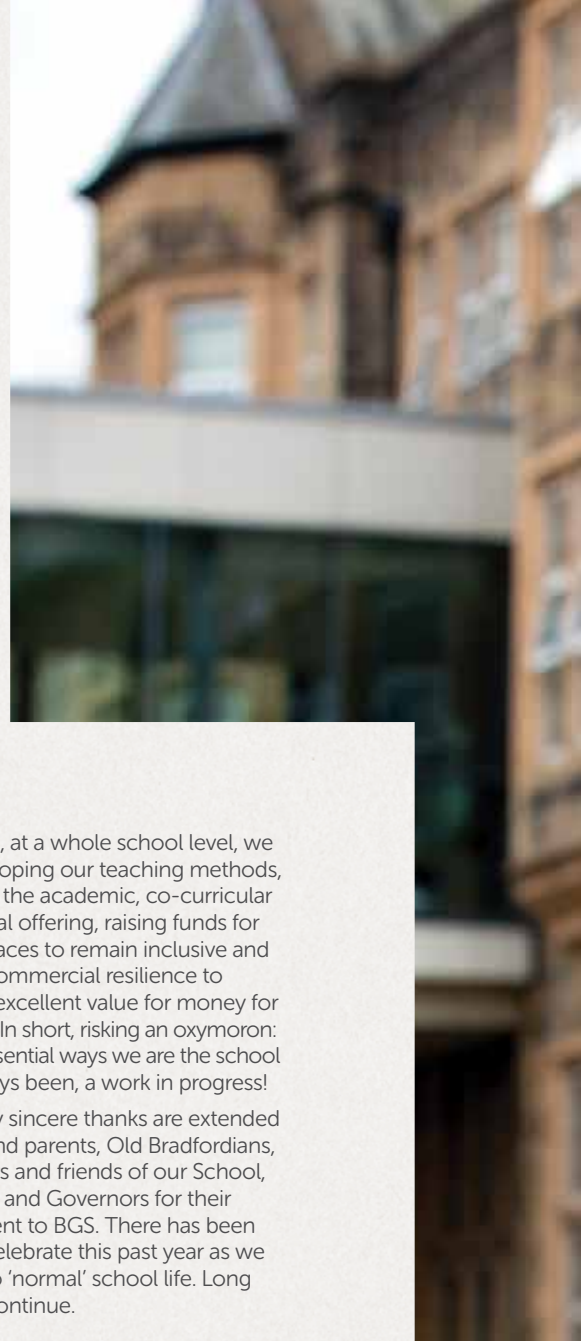
Meanwhile, at a whole school level, we keep developing our teaching methods, fine tuning the academic, co-curricular and pastoral offering, raising funds for Assisted Places to remain inclusive and ensuring commercial resilience to safeguard excellent value for money for all families. In short, risking an oxymoron: in many essential ways we are the school we've always been, a work in progress!

As ever, my sincere thanks are extended to pupils and parents, Old Bradfordians, benefactors and friends of our School, colleagues and Governors for their commitment to BGS. There has been much to celebrate this past year as we returned to 'normal' school life. Long may that continue.

Hoc Age.



Dr Simon Hinchliffe
BA, MEd, PhD, FRSA
Headmaster



Speech Day 2022

Headmaster's Speech

Students, parents, colleagues, Governors, Old Bradfordians and honoured guests, allow me to add my words of welcome to those of Lady Morrison. It is wonderful to have you back, in person, in the Price Hall for our 2022 Prize Giving and Speech Day ceremony.

We are all looking forward to celebrating the good work and accomplishments of our young people, listening to some wonderful music and hearing from our speaker Mr James Mason, and James we are sincerely grateful to you for joining us today.

This has been my eighth year at BGS. Compared to some, not sat a million miles away, I'm just starting out. A mere youngster, although I might not feel or look it. Time flies. And days like these remind me, encourage us all I hope, to make the most of the time that is given to us. Days like these inspire us to reach far, to be the best version of ourselves. Days like these provide a little nudge to live life well and to do some good in this world.

...

Speech Day 2022

Headmaster's Speech

High standards, honest graft and public spirit have been the beating heart of BGS for generations, and to that ethos, which reflects our home city of Bradford and Yorkshire, we hold true.

There is an additional characteristic of Bradford that was brought to my attention on arrival, all those eight years ago, and it's one I have come to recognise. I was told that Bradford and Bradfordians are an unfussy lot, that they shun any kind of show or showing off. Bradfordians don't just hide their light under the proverbial bushel, they hide the bushel too. That's what I was told. Please don't get me wrong, modesty is a laudable trait, one that never fails to be undervalued. But there are times when we must stand up straight and make our case. Times when we should articulate our ambitions, times when our achievements should be counted. No hubris, no showing off, just honesty regarding who we are and where we are going. This is one such moment for this School, and this city.

It has been, and continues to be, a great year at BGS – a wonderful refection on our amazing young people and the BGS family more generally. Public attention has been grabbed as national and then world schools' cross country running champions. We have been recognised by the Independent Schools Council and in the House of Lords as a willing supporter of public benefit partnerships and honoured by the 'Times Educational Supplement' for our wellbeing initiatives. The School's vital work to foster social mobility led to another national award. Additionally, our outstanding academic results were once again noted by 'The Sunday Times'.

'The Daily Telegraph' sung our praises, and not for the first time, as one of the fourteen best value independent schools in the UK, a nice badge to wear in this nook of no-nonsense Yorkshire. We are a School and regulated as a charity, but one with a business focus too. We have feet in both educational and commercial worlds; we care about our families, and their pockets, and strive to ensure excellent value. This is an important plank of our whole school strategy in the current times, and vital if this school is going to remain accessible to the widest possible cross section of hardworking families and thus retain its essential character.

And the accolades kept coming: in the language of the Independent Schools Inspectorate, BGS was deemed to be 'excellent' in all areas, the best possible judgments they deliver. So, emphatically, there are no bushels here today, we are a bushel free zone! To be honest, I'm not entirely sure what a bushel is, but I am confident of our bushel-less status on Speech Day 2022!

And I am proud of our young people, proud of our School, proud of our home city and region. BGS has been a pin in the local map for a long time. Our history dates back to before 1548, our Royal Charter was bestowed in 1662, and we are celebrating its 360th birthday this year. The one that hangs in the Douglas Hamilton Room has recently been confirmed as the real thing, an original. That piece of vellum once belonged to a pig that grazed the fields of 17th century England. So, we now know to look after it better. Not the pig. It's dead. But the Charter instead. No more will Year 7 boys wipe their noses on its edges! And grateful thanks to the OB Club (London) for funding the current conservation work.

We have moved with the times since days of yore, but we've stayed loyal to Bradford, resident and relevant at the heart of this city for generations. We seek to be useful, to make a difference locally and nationally. Innovation and good intentions have been at play for many years. We were the first school in England to adopt the provisions of the Forster Reform Acts of 1869 and 1870 which brought BGS under secular, state control. In 1944 the Butler Education Act was embraced, heralding the start of the formative Direct Grant era when as many as 40 per cent of the boys attended thanks to public funding, putting them on upward tracks. It was through arrangements such as these that schools like Bradford Grammar quickly became characterised as engine houses of social mobility, melting pots where young people from all kinds of backgrounds were treated equally and aspired to achieve great things together. Independence came only recently in the 1970s when the School, like others in the regions, resisted Westminster control in order to better serve their local communities.

A secular ethos, the Direct Grant and Assisted Places that followed, a home in Bradford and Yorkshire, local pride and national profile, these are the bigger structures that have forged and now inform the modern day BGS. And we stay true to our values through our ongoing pursuit of excellence and commitment to remain welcoming and inclusive as a community. The recently inaugurated 1662 Fund, that many of us have supported this past year, will enable our School to honour its values and traditions by supporting bright children from all kinds of backgrounds to experience a transformational education BGS style. We are grateful to all of you who have got behind this historic cause to double the proportion of Assisted Places available.

Our deep commitment to excellence and opportunity, giving rise to a rich variety of experiences and achievements, is a recipe for personal fulfilment and happiness. Moreover, we are kind and seek to share our time and talents generously as a good neighbour in our community – this is BGS.

Needless to say, it is a privilege to be able to share all of this with you today. As stated, I am proud of our young people, proud of our School and proud of Bradford and our region. It was great to read recently that Ilkley was named as 'The Sunday Times' "Best Place to Live 2022" and to see common sense win the day when Bradford was named as the UK City of Culture for 2025. This civic achievement is something to celebrate and relish. BGS has been behind the bid from the start, and we recognise the hard work that has gone into this success and the regenerative potential it holds. Present times hold some significant challenges for us all, but there is good reason to be optimistic and confident about our long-term future. And how could we be anything less given the calibre of the young people in this room today?

Now, as tradition dictates, we take a moment and say thank you, but also goodbye, to those colleagues who have left or are leaving BGS later this year.

Abigail Langton and Jess Alred did terrific work in the administration and marketing teams respectively. Stand still long enough and Jess would have snapped your picture and interviewed you for an edition of the school magazine, a weekly hazard for the less than photogenic Headmaster. Lindsey Davis led and reinvented our Development and External Relations activity to great effect.

We have also said farewell to Senior School teachers Julia Ronksley (Geography), Elizabeth Jenkins (Biology) and Naomi Dales (English) who provided excellent maternity cover in recent years and months. We also said thank you to Sally Barennes for the contribution she has made to the success of our BGS runners.

Sport Graduate Assistants Darragh Coyle, Hannah Newman and Jodi Williamson leave at the end of the current term. All have made a positive contribution to BGS and we are grateful for their commitment, hard work and good cheer. Later this year we will also say goodbye to long serving and highly regarded maths teacher Sam Harris, and Richard Jones who has made a terrific impression during his fixed term with us in the Economics Department. Another Richard, Richard Bocking of the Physics Department, retires this year. He is an experienced and respected teacher who deserves a long and happy retirement.

The same can be said of Kate Meakin and David Proctor, two outgoing heads of department who have contributed fully to that rich tradition of northern chemists and classicists sent south to civilise the nation's top universities. Other heads of academic departments leaving this year are Hermione Bains (History) and Toby Birkinshaw (Computer Science) – Samantha Haslam (Modern Languages) left earlier in the year to take up a Deputy Headship. All of these colleagues are first class teachers and have been effective leaders of their respective curriculum areas. We are grateful to them, and all the colleagues I have mentioned today, for their dedication and service to BGS. They have been, and for a little while longer some continue to be, great colleagues who care deeply about our School and its people.

Traditionally we tend not to mention folk who are leaving the Junior School at this gathering; not because we don't like them (!), but rather because Clock House Speech Day is the time and place for such things. Today I am making an exception. Graham Smith retires this summer having taught for over 24 years at BGS. Many students and some parents in the audience will know Graham and he deserves a special mention today.

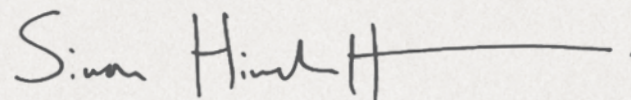
Please join with me to show our appreciation of all BGS staff, and our leavers too, in the traditional way, with a round of applause.

All of which leaves me in a reflective mood.

Do you ever wonder about the point of it all?(!). Please don't worry. I'm not feeling downbeat or particularly fragile. Not today. But sometimes you do wonder. What's the point? And sometimes you receive an answer.

Not that long ago, we welcomed the family and friends of former teacher, Courtenay Lloyd to BGS to commemorate and celebrate the life of their loved one. Courtenay died at the grand old age of 103 years. World War II hero and spy, husband to an exiled Russian Princess, beloved father and grandfather, and an inspirational teacher of languages, Courtenay had lived an 'interesting' life – a life of substance and meaning. Family, friends and Old Bradfordians, mainly Courtenay's former students, remembered the man at our gathering. We walked out of the BGS front doors a little later than anticipated after much food, wine, more wine, conversation and an impromptu evening tour of the School during which our Bursar triggered the burglar alarms. Walking out of the doors, I paused on our steps overlooking the Governors' Lawn with the sun just dipping below the trees. The moment was shared with a former member of staff, a cross country runner and linguist, a BGS and Bradford 'great' in the truest sense. 'This is a good place' were his economical and carefully chosen words. He's not wrong. This 'is' indeed a good place, and 'you' are good people.

Thank you for listening to me; and I hope you enjoy the remainder of our Speech Day.



Dr Simon Hinchliffe
BA, MEd, PhD, FRSA
Headmaster

From the Junior School Headmaster ...

**Junior School
Speech Day 2022**
Junior School
Headmaster's Speech

Good afternoon pupils, teaching staff, parents, guests, and Governors. I am delighted to be able to welcome you all to the Price Hall for our Junior School Prize Giving afternoon.

Whilst technology did enable us to connect with parents via live stream last year from this hall, it is great to have everyone back together in person again. The Price Hall was like a TV studio last year. I began Prize Giving by saying to the children we are going live in ... 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 seconds!

A special welcome today to Tom Bairstow, a 'not so old' Bradfordian who is forging an exciting and successful career in the media industry. We appreciate you taking the time to be here with us today, Tom, and are very much looking forward to hearing about NorthHouse and your journey to where you are today.

So do enjoy our Junior School Prize Giving. Today represents an opportunity to celebrate achievements over the course of the whole year and it is also a chance to wish our Year 6 leavers well as they round off their Junior School journey.

Every headteacher must always say how proud they are at this time of year, but I am extremely proud of our Junior School, children and staff. We have had an amazing and full year and everyone has contributed in their own individual ways.

This week in our school assembly I asked the children to cast their minds back to the start of the school year, to remember what it was like to be starting afresh, meeting new teachers, welcoming new pupils and to reflect on their own school year. We considered how we had fared against our BGS school values. Asking ourselves, have we tried our best, have we been kind, have we made the most of the many opportunities on offer to us?

There has been much to celebrate this year. The academic leadership changes implemented in September have enabled our newly appointed subject leads to review and refresh their respective curriculum areas, driving change where needed. We have also welcomed the addition of a Teaching Assistant to provide support and encouragement for our youngest learners. Much needed as we emerge from pandemic learning.

We have developed links with the school library team this year, our English subject lead and class teachers have worked with our new library manager to provide enhanced reading opportunities for the children. We have enjoyed welcoming parents to the Clarkson Library for book and a brew reading sessions.



School Notes

From the Junior School Headmaster ...



We are very fortunate to have unique sporting resources available to all at BGS from our six year olds to our 18 year old World Cross Country Champions. Our experienced sports staff deliver high quality sessions, clubs and fixtures and we have enjoyed celebrating the children's achievements throughout the year. I have worked at a number of high quality sporting schools and the sport for all provision and range here at BGS is simply outstanding. A special mention must go to the girls who attended the inaugural HMC girls' cricket competition representing the school brilliantly, you have set us on our way and have made your own piece of history.

One of the hardest aspects of the pandemic was the impact on music and in particular singing. Dr Hinchliffe introduced me to the new Dean of Bradford yesterday and, when I mentioned Prize Giving today, the Dean asked me if I was going to sing as he knew a school where the Head always sang at Prize Giving – don't worry it is not in my plans this year, watch Dr Hinchliffe though as he may stand up and burst into song at any moment!

Group singing is such an important part of the Junior school life and unfortunately the Clock House Hall was silent for some time in line with DfE guidance. Hard to believe now. We welcomed the return of the Young Voices event where our children enjoyed singing with other schools at Sheffield Arena. Our Christmas and Spring concerts were fantastic occasions and opportunities for the children to express themselves musically.

Another vital aspect of the Junior School experience is the residential visit. We were delighted that we were able to run successful residential for every year group. In fact, it would have been the very first residential for our Year 2, 3 and 4 children with only Year 5 and 6 having been before! Wonderful opportunities for the children to work as a team, challenge themselves and gain independence.

We are extremely fortunate to have a superb PTA our Friends of Clock House. The team have relaunched their activities with the school this year with a number of very successful events for the children. Secret Santa, DISCO and Movie night.

...



Junior School Speech Day 2022

Junior School Headmaster's Speech

It has been quite a year and these are just a few of the highlights, but sometimes the smallest gestures have particular resonance.

Earlier this term I was in my office when I noticed a Year 4 pupil outside, walking carefully towards the plants in front of Clock House. It was about 11am and the school was quiet, children were working in their classes, Mrs Reilly was making her first cup of coffee. The pupil was trying hard not to spill a mini-watering can as he walked. He approached the three hanging baskets and delicately inspected each one before carefully watering them. Once he was happy with his work he walked quietly back to his class.

So whilst we have been at full throttle this year making the most of the opportunities around us, these small moments demonstrate that the children in Clock House care, they care about each other and the world around them.

At the end of this term, we say farewell to Mr Smith who is retiring from teaching after 24 years at BGS. Mr Smith is a caring and supportive classroom teacher who has always been eager to contribute in all aspects of school life. In his time at BGS, Mr Smith introduced the Junior school residentials, taught swimming and encouraged many pupils to embrace the outdoors, establishing our school garden complete with green house. Mr Smith would be the first to admit that IT was not his forte, but I was impressed by the way he worked with colleagues to enable him to teach remotely during the pandemic! We will miss you Mr Smith but you can hang up your whiteboard pens with immense pride. We wish you all the very best in your retirement.

We will be celebrating our Year 6 pupils a little later but I reflected on the transition from Junior to Senior School as I attended the Senior School Speech Day last week. I was heartened to see many ex-Clock House pupils succeeding in all walks of Senior School life. The current Senior School Head Boy began his Clock House Journey in Year 2 back in 2010. We value the strong connection and links we have with the Senior School, pupils, staff and facilities.

As you will now be aware, we have some exciting news for the future. As part of the BGS strategic plan, and with the support of Governors, we have plans to develop and grow the Junior School. In terms of school structure we will be adding a Year 1 and a Reception class from September 2024, building a new facility next to Clock House. We are also planning to develop and expand the grounds to further enhance our outdoor learning provision and also importantly to develop our creative and imaginative play spaces. These changes will have academic and wellbeing benefits for all BGS pupils, including many of our young children sitting here.

As you would expect, careful consideration has and will be given to the development/construction process to ensure our high quality provision continues in all regards, as we would wish, for the current school population.

This is an exciting time for the BGS Junior School, we are taking calls already from interested families, and we look forward to sharing more details of our plans in the new academic year.

With an eye on the future we are delighted that Bradford has been awarded City of Culture status in 2025. BGS had close links to the bid and we look forward to continued involvement in the celebration of our city. Exciting times ahead.

But back to the present, 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 proud of and myself and the Clock House team are proud of the effort and qualities that you have displayed this year.

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



Mr Richard Ribeiro
Junior School Headmaster

We have had an amazing and full year and everyone has contributed in their own individual ways.

I am
extremely
proud of our
Junior School
children and
staff.

Mr Richard Ribeiro
Junior School
Headmaster

Staff Leavers

Lindsey Davis

By Dr Simon Hinchliffe, Headmaster

Lindsey Davies served BGS for four years as our Director of Development and External Relations.

In that time, she supported Governors and the Senior Leadership Team to inaugurate the 1662 Fund for Assisted Places to ensure that our school remains accessible to the widest possible cross section of bright children. This is a vital and historic aspect of BGS identity and public benefit work. The 1662 Fund has received the enthusiastic support of Old Bradfordians, BGS families, staff and Governors, and a wider circle of benefactors, and Lindsey played a significant role giving shape to our collective good intentions and activity.

Lindsey also helped the whole school community to cohere and reconnect with more Old, and some not-so-Old, Bradfordians than ever before. Regular publications and communications, events (virtual in COVID times) and a great deal of personal contact and conversation brought the whole school community together. She was also a willing and enthusiastic supporter of the Old Bradfordians Association, Old Bradfordians Club (London) and the North American Friends of Bradford Grammar School ensuring that school-led programmes respected and embraced all members of the wider BGS family.

Lindsey leaves BGS to return to fundraising opportunities in a higher education setting. We are grateful to Lindsey for all she has contributed in service to BGS and wish her every success and happiness in the future.



Darragh Coyle

By Dan Scarbrough, Specialist Sports Coach, Rugby

Mr Coyle leaves us after two years having been a superb addition to the sports department.

He was an eloquent and focused member of staff who helped shape and develop rugby players and teams across all year groups. In particular, he built strong professional relationships with the Under 13 rugby squads during a challenging few years, which saw boys grow through his developmental approach to coaching.

The pupils will certainly miss his compassion, commitment and most of all his funny accent!

We wish Mr Coyle well on return to his homeland of Dublin, to pursue ambitions to be a professional rugby coach.

Graham Smith

By the Junior Leadership Team

Mr Smith began his teaching career at St Oswald's in Guiseley in 1985. He then taught at an army school in Lippstadt, Germany, before moving on to Fulneck School in Pudsey, where he taught for ten years. Arriving at BGS in 1998, he is the longest serving member of the Clock House team with 24 years of service at the school.

Throughout his time at BGS, it is estimated that he taught and nurtured well over 750 little lives, instilling in them his enthusiasm for outdoor education and especially a love of nature in the Clock House garden, with his ever-popular lunch time gardening club. His other great passion was the development of the Clock House swimming club and his desire for inclusion for all, focusing on giving every pupil an opportunity to represent Clock House rather than the importance of the overall result of the various swimming galas his teams entered.

In addition to the above, Mr Smith helped to organise a number of Clock House ski trips. He also introduced the year group residential trip and the annual trip to Ingleborough Hall has become a permanent fixture in the school calendar. His skills as BBQ chef and country dancer on this trip were legendary.

Along helping to organise and participating in world challenge expeditions, rugby tours and Spanish trips with the Senior School, Mr Smith's contributions to the extra-curricular activities gave many, many children opportunities that they would not have had otherwise. The Brownlee boys were

taught and supported by him when they first arrived at Clock House and his interest and encouragement of them, particularly with regards to swimming, undoubtedly had an impact on their success.

Mr Smith will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by staff, parents and pupils. He is ending a teaching career that has spanned thirty-seven years. The consensus from staff who worked closely with him is that he was a brilliant and inspirational teacher who touched many lives. He gave Clock House a fantastic service which deserves to be recognised by the whole school community.

We wish Mr Smith and his family all the very best with their Yorkshire Dales project and hope that he will come and see us from time to time. He will always be a very welcome visitor. Good luck, Mr Smith.



Victoria Flanagan

By Homera Najib, Bursar

Victoria joined BGS on a temporary basis in April 2019 but soon became a permanent fixture in the busy Bursar's department in June 2019.

I am grateful to Victoria for the support she showed me when I stepped into the role of the Bursar in July 2020. This was a challenging period at BGS as we embraced the challenges of the pandemic. The cycle of reporting and governance was uninterrupted during this period and Victoria was instrumental in ensuring everybody was able to access and participate in online meetings. I thank Victoria for her contribution to the School and wish her all the best for the future.



Samantha Harris

By Phil Watson, Head of Maths

Sam grew up in Scotland and came to Yorkshire to read medicine at Leeds University. Her pursuit of a medical career did not last long, however, and she soon realised that her passion was mathematics.

She was readily accepted and subsequently excelled on the Maths course at Leeds, obtaining a first-class degree when such achievements were rare. This was swiftly followed by a PhD on the 'Dynamics of semi-flexible fibres in viscous flow', completed in 2007. Sam then decided to pursue a career in teaching and after a short stint at King James's School, in Knaresborough, she began her long service at BGS in September 2008.

Sam's competence and pedagogical skills were immediately apparent, and I distinctly remember the then Headmaster, Stephen Davidson, describing Sam as 'an amazing talent and a superb asset to the School'. Sam certainly lived up to this initial description and countless pupils, from the least to the most able, benefitted from her unwavering dedication and mathematical knowledge. Sam always went that extra mile to help pupils, be they struggling with fractions or needing assistance in preparing for university entrance exams, such as STEP or TMUA. Always happy to promote the enjoyment of mathematics, she also ran trips to lectures in Leeds and Manchester and organised many of the Maths Challenge UKMT competitions, including hosting the regional round of the Junior Team Challenge in the Price Hall. Sam was always a delight to work with, happily sharing resources and tests, assisting with entrance examinations and interviews, or mentoring a PGCE student.

Away from the department, Sam's main interest was the Cross Country Club. She ran this club for many years, including hosting the first round of the English Schools' Cross Country Cup as well as countless meets and practices. Indeed, Sam remained a committed runner and could be seen most mornings cheerfully pounding the pavements on Keighley Road, inspiring colleagues passing by in their warm cars to be more active. Sam also enjoyed her role as a form tutor, supporting residential trips and Ilkley walks with Year 7 and, for many years, helping students with their university applications.

As the natural successor to the retiring Dave Fishwick, it was unsurprising to see Sam promoted to Head of Department in 2016. She made a great start in this role, developing and modernising the schemes and strategies and driving the department to greater cohesion and purpose. Unfortunately, a health issue prevented Sam from continuing as HoD. A very difficult decision and I feel I must pay particular tribute to her continued professionalism and unwavering support of myself in the last four years. It was an absolute pleasure to work with such a gifted mathematician and an outstanding teacher. We will certainly miss Sam. As she leaves BGS, we wish her every success in future endeavours, and thank her for all that she has given to the School over the last 14 years of dedicated service.

Richard Bocking

By Victoria Powne, Head of Physics

Richard joined BGS in April 2016 and, during his six years here, he made significant contributions to all areas of school life.

Richard is a highly experienced Physics teacher who worked in the classroom for more than 30 years. Prior to teaching, he worked in the engineering industry where he developed extensive experience of the practical applications of the subject, he went on to teach, along with some interesting stories from a time when health and safety wasn't quite as rigorous as it is today.

Richard always took great pride in his work as a teacher and had a significant impact on the pupils he taught over the years, reflected in the numerous gifts he received at the end of each academic year. As a valued member of the BGS Physics department, he was always on hand to contribute ideas, resources and debate the intricacies of past exam paper questions using his extensive experience of examining A Level papers. Richard led the Photography Club during his time at BGS, where he taught pupils how to develop "old-school" photographic film in a dark room, which is a fascinating procedure that pupils wouldn't get to experience elsewhere.

We wish Richard every happiness in his well-earned retirement. He will be missed by the whole BGS community.



Hermione Baines



By Kate Wilde, Teacher of History
and Head of Year 9

Hermione joined BGS in April 2004, initially to teach some Economics on a (temporary) part-time basis before, eventually, moving into the History Department.

A graduate of Oxford University in PPE and with experience teaching in London, Nairobi, Beaconsfield and Leeds, she soon made her mark. As a sign of how things used to be, it is unlikely that she was ever interviewed for the position at BGS and it was a number of years before anybody actually observed her teach! (that was how it was then). However, her adaptability and her professionalism soon marked Hermione out as one of the most capable and competent members of the teaching staff.

Hermione may have started teaching part-time, but she has taught at BGS for 18 years; she was Assistant Head of Sixth Form for several years and held the post of Head of History for her last six years at the School. It goes without saying that she is a first-rate classroom teacher; even those pupils who have not been lucky enough to have been taught by her will remember the impressive and thought-provoking assemblies that she organised

over the years: Great War Memorial assemblies; assemblies on female suffrage and perhaps most notably, her assembly on Holocaust Memorial Day in January 2021.

Hermione's passion for history has made her a great proponent of learning outside the classroom too and over the years she gave up weeks and weeks of her own time to accompany and lead trips to Krakow, Berlin, London, the Battlefields of the Great War as well as trips closer to home. Hundreds of pupils benefited from her generosity with her time. At a time when residential trips were more and more difficult to get off the ground, Hermione's dedication was all the more remarkable.

Hermione is a clever, articulate, unashamedly academic teacher but one without being elitist. Always self-deprecating, incredibly hard working and gloriously rebellious, Hermione was a great colleague and friend. She left BGS to begin her 'gap year' adamant that we all understand that she is definitely not retiring. Of course, she intends to travel; Cadiz in September as we all return to school, sending selfies during inset day as she 'walks in the footsteps of Essex'; and RHS Chelsea in the spring. But she is a passionate and enthusiastic historian with the ability to communicate effectively with young people and so, who knows, Hermione may yet return to a classroom – those pupils would be very lucky indeed.



Sharon O'Connor

By Lindsey Shackleton, Library Manager

Sharon joined BGS as a Library Assistant in late 2017 and brought with her a wealth of experience, from working in and managing a variety of library and archive settings.

Immediately involving herself in life at BGS, Sharon enjoyed creating displays to raise awareness of different authors and promote reading, and could always be relied upon to volunteer and get stuck in with anything from D of E, covering Clock House playground duty, to litter picking in Frizinghall. In addition, she ran Library clubs for both Clock House and senior school pupils, and her IT skills will certainly be missed as she was our resident Library Sharepoint guru!



Asma Kauser

By Lindsey Shackleton, Library Manager

Asma joined BGS as a part-time Assistant Librarian in late 2015 just as we were starting an exciting time of change and development in the Clarkson Library.

Asma assisted with the 'big decant' of thousands of books into the new Library temporary accommodation above the sports hall, and then the move back again the following year once the Clarkson Library had been fully renovated.

As part of her role, she delivered library skills classes to Clock House during their library lessons and she loved tailoring various topics such as categorisation, organisation and research to our younger pupils. Before and during the pandemic, she also produced some interesting and varied genre/topic booklists for all pupil year groups and continued this when we reopened fully last year.

While at BGS, Asma had two children, who take up lots of her time. Asma plans on having a break from employment until both her children are of school age, but we're sure she won't stay away from the world of libraries, information and knowledge for long!

people they thought the School would be better off without for the next ten years!) encouraged take-up lower down the School.

As department head, Kate equipped her team with thoughtfully crafted schemes of work and perfectly pitched assessment materials, and had the courage to use a range of language courses rather than stick with one. Kindness, warmth and guidance offered with the lightest of touches defined her management style. Department meetings always involved fresh coffee and laughter. Her healthy disregard for current educational fads and unnecessary box-ticking exercises were a breath of fresh air.

Kate's mischievous sense of humour will be missed, from her 'not for marks just for glory' optional exam questions to her educational visit risk assessments ('If Vesuvius erupts we will follow local advice and procedures, and the example of Pliny the Elder in appropriate respects' – which actually meant fleeing a collapsing building clutching pillows over our heads!).

Experience of the classical world away from the classroom was key to the department's educational offering under Kate's leadership. She ran seven junior trips to Pompeii, three memorable senior trips to Greece (2015 and 2019) and Sicily (2017) and countless trips around the country to catch exhibitions and plays. These experiences brought the classical world to life in an unforgettable way for hundreds of students over the past nine years and are remembered with great fondness by those lucky enough to be part of them.

Kate is held in affectionate esteem by those she has taught and those she has worked with. She will be greatly missed but leaves us to enjoy a new chapter with her husband Robin in Guernsey where we wish them every happiness.

Dr Kate Meakin

By Jane Chapman, Assistant Head (Pastoral)

Kate Meakin joined BGS in 2013 as Head of the Classics Department. Under her leadership over the following nine years, Classics thrived at BGS.



In an age when classical subjects are under threat in so many schools, Kate ensured the delivery of Latin, Greek and Classical Civilisation to growing numbers of students, communicating both the intrinsic value of such important ancient languages and cultures, and the pleasure and satisfaction their study has to offer. Her academic depth and scholarship inspired older students to take Classics to A Level and beyond, while her engaging sense of fun and creative classroom activities for younger groups, from theatrical mask competitions to practical ostracism lessons (where pupils inscribed broken bits of pot with the names of



Toby Birkinshaw

By Martin Cottrell, Teacher of Computer Science

Toby was appointed teacher of Computer Science in August 2015 and leaves the teaching profession as an outstanding Head of Department and highly respected by pupils and staff.

Toby quickly settled into his role teaching the new curriculum of Computer Science that replaced ICT. It was important to him that this new subject was also about making technology - programming, rather than just using technology as in the past. He was a natural in the classroom and his extensive subject knowledge and mastery of innovative teaching techniques meant all pupils benefited from a first-class computing education.

Toby developed and delivered the Cyber-Security EPQ for Sixth Form students. His 'Birky-Bonus' programming challenges offered in and out of lessons were famous and enjoyed with relish!

A firm believer in encouraging interested people into the teaching profession, Toby was also a Computer Science subject mentor for ITT students during his career at BGS. He was a much admired and respected Year 7 form tutor and made memorable contributions at PGL, Ilkley walk and the school disco!

Away from the classroom, Toby contributed in many ways, including running the Young Carer Mentoring Scheme. The list of extra-curricular clubs included Minecraft, Chess, Lego League, with his classroom displaying the numerous award cups from each year, Cyber-Centurion reaching the national finals in London and Cyber-First girls reaching the national finals celebration at McLaren HQ.

Toby leaves for pastures new, Seneca Learning, as a full-stack developer. He will have a more home-centric role to help support his fiancée with a view to starting a family in the next few years. He will be missed by many people across the BGS community, but we wish him a very fond farewell, and the best of luck for the exciting new challenges that lie ahead.

Hannah Newman

By Alice Smith, Specialist Sports Coach, Netball

Hannah joined us as Netball Sports Graduate in September 2020 and has impressed ever since.

Hannah's camaraderie with athletes and colleagues, the knowledge that she shared and the care that she showed towards pupils was rewarding to witness and it is clear our pupils benefitted from Hannah's input. We would like to take this opportunity to wish Hannah the very best of luck as she embarks on her adventure to Zambia to coach netball to those less fortunate. We know that you will be amazing.





Debbie Yates

By Linda Carroll, Service Supervisor

Debbie began her career working at BGS on October 27, 1997, as a part-time catering assistant when Susan Hinchcliffe was in charge of catering. She had a soft spot for Debbie and she encouraged her to go to Bradford College, which Debbie did, passing all her exams to be a cook.

In September 2005, Debbie was promoted to Head Cook. Susan retired and the catering department got a new catering manager, Geoff Holmes. Debbie worked well alongside Geoff and they formed a good team. Geoff asked Debbie to do a computer course at Shipley College on day release and she passed it and used her newly acquired skills to do online ordering.

Debbie became Acting Catering Manager in 2009. When Geoff retired and we were joined by Executive Chef Dean Winters, Debbie took the position of Kitchen Manager.

Debbie has taken early retirement and we all wish her well. She will be sadly missed by staff and her colleagues at BGS.

Samantha Haslam

By Liz Kingsley, Head of Modern Languages

Sam joined BGS as Head of Modern Languages in January 2017 from Birkdale School, Sheffield. A Bradford lass, who was a graduate of Durham University, she was pleased to be back on home turf and put the long commute behind her.

Sam's efficiency in the classroom and excellent organisational skills were evident straight away. She kept a close eye on all departmental matters, from managing resources and writing documents to timetabling oral exams and crunching data. Sam always showed a keen eye for detail and an excellent memory of facts. She was responsible for hosting whole-school Language events to mark European Day of Languages and outreach events for local primary pupils, both of which were very successful. As Head of German, Sam led trips abroad and her pupils respected her high standards and her punctilious approach to marking work.

She also taught beginners' Italian as an Enrichment course to Sixth Form students and ran our BGS Fantasy League Football Club.

Through the difficult years of COVID, Sam was meticulous in her approach to awarding Teacher Assessed grades.

Sam left BGS in January 2022 to take up a promotion as a Deputy Head at Portsmouth Grammar School and we wish her all the best in her new post.



Richard Jones

By Richard Schofield,
Head of Social Sciences

Richard made a massive contribution to the life of the school during his time with us.

He was a lively, intelligent economist who easily developed a rapport with the pupils and became popular with the staff. He conducted himself as a thorough professional and quickly developed a reputation as a caring and clever teacher. We will be grateful for the way he stepped in to support the Social Sciences Faculty and the way his Australian good humour brightened up our days. The outstanding A Level results this year were made possible by his valuable contribution.





Jess Alred

By Karen Hewitt, Head of Admissions and Marketing

Jess joined the School as our Events Co-ordinator in May 2018 and made an immediate impact from day one.

After a successful two-year period overseeing events, Jess was promoted to the post of Comms & Marketing Executive. A demanding and busy role, Jess's outgoing personality and friendly attitude helped her establish valuable links with staff and stakeholders alike. Her eye for detail and meticulous way of working saw the Communications side of the department flourish. Jess left us in January 2022 to take up a position in the travel industry and we wish her every success in her new role.

Dave Proctor

By Grainne Heywood, Teacher of Chemistry and Assistant Leader Duke of Edinburgh's Award and Dan Scarbrough, Specialist Sports Coach, Rugby

Dr Proctor announced his retirement after 10 years as Head of Chemistry at BGS. Dave was a talented and enthusiastic chemist with an encyclopaedic subject knowledge.

His teaching was grounded in a love of practical chemistry and former pupils will fondly remember many of his more spectacular practical lessons, often involving rockets, flames and explosions of one kind or another!

He was in his 'element' on trips to Leeds or Bradford University where he would regale pupils with tales of his antics as a research chemist. Dave successfully led the department through a period of immense change, including the development and introduction of the new A Level curriculum, the introduction of IT facilities across the school and, of course, the switch to online learning during the pandemic. His leadership style was inclusive, good humoured and engaging, and he will be greatly missed.

Outside of the chemistry department, Dave made an excellent contribution to the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. He was always the first to volunteer to help at bronze, silver and gold levels and could be relied upon to find lost pupils whatever the circumstances. Rumour has it that he once shimmied up a tree to rescue a pupil's boot!

Dr Proctor, or 'Doc Proc' as he was affectionately known, was an integral part of Bradford Grammar School rugby, running the 2nd XV during his tenure.

In between chemistry experiments Doc saw many boys pass through his hands in whatever guise the 2nd XV took on at the Senior end. Some of his most memorable times included the 'Social 2nds' in the 2013/14 season which began with a preseason tour to Newcastle, rooming with five other staff in bunk beds (which the other staff will never forget) and ending with an incredible senior rugby tour to South Africa in 2014.

Everyone at BGS Rugby wishes him well and he will be missed. Many thanks, Doc!



Thank you...

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

Abigail Langton

Administrator

Julia Ronksley

Geography Teacher

Elizabeth Jenkins

Biology Teacher

Naomi Dales

English Teacher

Jodi Williamson

Sports Graduate Assistant, Hockey

Mark Thomas

Caretaker

Nikki Faulding

Cleaner

Farzana Kauser

Cleaner

Muhammad Rafiq

Cleaner

Martin Pottage

Groundsman

Andrew McNamara

CCF School Staff Instructor

Mohammad Khan

Assistant Coach, Hockey

Sally Barennes

Assistant Coach, Cross Country





University Degree Course Admissions and Vocations – 2022 Leavers

A

Alexander Ackroyd
Malik Ahmad
Benjamin Arnold
Thomas Ashby
Harry Ashton
Haaris Aslam
Frederick Azfar

UCL – University College London, Economics
Durham University, Law
University of Warwick, History
Newcastle University, Classical Studies and English
University of Bristol, Economics
University of Manchester, Architecture
Newcastle University, Medicine and Surgery

B

Saif Bahadur
Diya Basra
Isabel Beaty
Alice Belfield
Isaac Bell
Amelia Betts
William Birch
Lewis Bloodworth
Thomas Bryan
Harry Burns
Wlyat Butt

Newcastle University, Dentistry
University of Manchester, Aerospace Engineering with Management
The University of Edinburgh, Sociology and Social Anthropology
Manchester Metropolitan University, Psychology with Counselling and Psychotherapy
Leeds Arts University, Art Foundation
University of Warwick, Modern Languages and Economics
University of Leeds, Medicine
University of York, Chemistry (with a year abroad)
Loughborough University, Automotive Engineering (with placement year)
Durham University, Modern European Languages and History (with a year abroad)
King's College London – University of London, European Studies: French Pathway (with a year abroad)

C

Naomi Calvert
Mbako Chalashika
Amy Claxton
Benjamin Clifford
Olivia Cummins

Cardiff University, Chemistry
Newcastle University, Business Management
Hull York Medical School, Medicine
University of Cambridge, Economics
University of Liverpool, Psychology

We extend our congratulations to all of our
students on their achievements this year!

D

Alexander Davies
Esther Dawson
Grace Dawson

University of Cambridge, Computer Science
University of Liverpool, Dental Surgery
The University of Edinburgh, German and Politics

Emma Dewhirst
Rajan Dhesi
Amy Dixon
Adair Doulah

University of Manchester, Politics and Modern History
University of Manchester, Neuroscience with a Modern Language
Durham University, Natural Sciences
University of Southampton, Medicine

E

Courtney Ellis-Stoneman

University of Cambridge, English

F

Joseph Fitzpatrick
Alexander Flaherty

Newcastle University, Economics and Finance
Durham University, History

G

Tabitha Glennon
Benjamin Grimmitt

University of Manchester, English Literature
Lancaster University, Economics (with study abroad)

H

Umair Hafejee
Gemma Hall
Philippa Halse
Benjamin Harrison
Lily Hart
Emily Hartley
Lily Helm
Hasan Hussain

University of Sheffield, Chemical Engineering (with a Foundation year)
University of Southampton, Mechanical Engineering
University of Sunderland, Medicine
Newcastle University, Economics and Business Management
University of Nottingham, History of Art
University of Exeter, Classics
University of Birmingham, Modern Languages with Business Management
University of Leeds, Gateway Year to Medicine

I

Omar Irani
Madeleine Isbecque

University of Leicester, Medicine
Cardiff University, Neuroscience

K

Sumayyah Khan
Tejal Kukreja

University of Sheffield, Dental Surgery
University of Nottingham, Architecture

L

Rohan Lalli

London School of Economics and Political Science – University of London,
Geography

M

Jasmine Madeley
Zara Mahmood
Nehal Malik
Rebecca McCash
Katherine McKay

University of Warwick, History and Politics
University of Bradford, Nursing (Adult)
Newcastle University, Pharmacy
University of Oxford, Biology
Northumbria University – Newcastle, Architecture and Built Environment
(foundation year)

Kate McNab
Rahul Midgley
Gaurav Midha
Ans Muhammad

Durham University, Politics
University of Bristol, Economics and Management
University of Leeds, Dental Surgery / Oral Science
University of Sheffield, Dental Surgery

N

Ranvir Narang

Louise Nelson

Madeline Nix

University of Warwick, Physics with Astrophysics

University of Bath, International Management and Modern Languages (French)

University of St Andrews, French

O

Jacob O'Connor

Anuli Okeahialam

Thomas Oldham

Santos Orenge de Gaffory

Northumbria University – Newcastle, Mechanical and Civil Engineering
(Foundation Year)

UCL – University College London, Philosophy, Politics and Economics

University of Manchester, Politics and Modern History

University of Leeds, Business Management

P

Deep Patel

Sukruth Pradeep

Northumbria University – Newcastle, Architecture and Built Environment
(Foundation Year)

King's College London – University of London, Medicine

R

Sameh Rashid

Jumaynah Ravat

Iram Razak

Eloise Rees

University of Leeds, Computer Science with High-Performance Graphics and
Games Engineering

Liverpool John Moores University, Pharmacy

Lancaster University, Marketing

University of Manchester, Biology

S

Zachariah Sadiq

Hassan Sajad

Nithila Sampath

Emryss Sheikh

Aryan Singh

Joseph Stenhouse

Amelia Stephenson

Alfred Stonelake

Zahid Suleman

Newcastle University, English Literature and History

University of Bradford, Computer Science for Cyber Security
(with a placement year)

University of Liverpool, Architecture

King's College London – University of London, Comparative Literature

Durham University, General Engineering

Nottingham Trent University, Cyber Security

University of Liverpool, Medicine

University of Leeds, Chemistry

Newcastle University, Law

T

Reuben Thandi
Pippa Threlfall
Samantha Tullie

Durham University, Chemistry (Industrial)
University of Oxford, Biology
University of Birmingham, Computer Science (with an Industrial year)

V

Jai Verma

University of Leicester, Medical Physiology

W

Benjamin Wake-Watson
Ryan Welsh
William Westlake
Maya White
George Williams
Lucy Wright

Lancaster University, Architecture
Newcastle University, Ancient History
Newcastle University, Politics and History
Newcastle University, Sociology
Northumbria University – Newcastle, Theatre and Performance
Newcastle University, Ancient History and Archaeology

Z

Zoha Zaman
Ozair Zamir

Hull York Medical School, Medicine
University of East Anglia UEA, Biochemistry (with a year abroad)

We have taken every effort to ensure this information is accurate. Should you come across any inaccuracies, please get in touch with us at development@bradfordgrammar.com and we will endeavour to rectify this on the online version.

Examination Results 2022

General Certificate of Education (A Level) 2022

A

Alexander Ackroyd	Economics ^A , Mathematics ^{A*} , Further Mathematics ^{A*} Physics ^A
Malik Ahmad	Economics ^{A*} , History ^A , Mathematics, Politics ^A
Aliya Ali	Biology, Chemistry, English Literature
Amina Ali	Biology ^{A*} , Chemistry ^A , Mathematics ^A
Benjamin Arnold	Economics ^A , English Literature ^{A*} , History ^{A*} , Religious Studies
Thomas Ashby	Classical Civilisation, Drama & Theatre ^A , English Literature
Harry Ashton	Economics ^{A*} , History ^{A*} , Mathematics ^{A*}
Haaris Aslam	Computer Science ^A , Design Technology ^A , Mathematics ^A , Physics ^{A*}
Frederick Azfar	Biology ^{A*} , Chemistry ^{A*} , Mathematics ^{A*} , Music Technology [*]

B

Saif Bahadur	Biology ^{A*} , Business Studies ^{A*} , Chemistry ^A
Diya Basra	Chemistry, Mathematics ^{A*} , Further Mathematics ^A , Physics ^A
Isabel Beaty	Drama & Theatre ^{A*} , English Language ^A , Psychology ^A
Alice Belfield	Drama & Theatre ^{A*} , French, Psychology ^A
Isaac Bell	Art ^{A*} , German ^{A*} , Psychology ^A
Amelia Betts	Biology ^{A*} , Chemistry ^A , Spanish ^A
Lewis Bloodworth	Biology ^A , Chemistry ^{A*} , Spanish ^{A*}
Edward Bolland	Economics ^A , Mathematics ^{A*} , Further Mathematics ^{A*} , Physics ^{A*}
Thomas Bryan	Chemistry ^A , Design Technology ^A , Mathematics ^A , Physics ^A
Harry Burns	History ^{A*} , Politics ^{A*} , Russian ^A
Wlyat Butt	English Literature, French ^A , Psychology ^A

C

Grace Cogan	Biology ^{A*} , Chemistry ^A , History ^A
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D

Alexander Davies	Computer Science ^{A*} , Mathematics ^{A*} , Further Mathematics ^A , Physics ^{A*}
Esther Dawson	Biology ^{A*} , Chemistry ^{A*} , Geography ^{A*}
Grace Dawson	English Language ^{A*} , German ^{A*} , History ^A
Emma Dewhirst	Chemistry ^{A*} , History ^A , Politics ^{A*}
Amy Dixon	Computer Science ^{A*} , Mathematics ^{A*} , Further Mathematics ^{A*} , Physics ^{A*}
Adair Doulah	Biology ^{A*} , Chemistry ^{A*} , Mathematics ^{A*}

E

Courtney Ellis-Stoneman	English Literature ^{A*} , History ^{A*} , Politics ^A
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F

Muhammad Faridi	Biology ^A , Chemistry ^A , Mathematics
Joseph Fitzpatrick	Economics ^A , Mathematics ^A , Politics
Alexander Flaherty	Chemistry ^{A*} , History ^{A*} , Latin ^{A*} , Mathematics ^{A*}

G

Benjamin Grimmitt	Economics ^A , Mathematics ^A , Physical Education
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H

Umair Hafejee	Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics
Gemma Hall	Mathematics ^{A*} , Further Mathematics ^{A*} , Music ^A , Physics ^{A*}
Philippa Halse	Biology ^A , Chemistry ^A , Mathematics ^A
Benjamin Harrison	Business Studies ^A , Economics ^A , History
Lily Hart	Art ^{A*} , Classical Civilisation, English Literature
Emily Hartley	German ^A , Greek ^A , Latin ^A , Mathematics ^A
Lily Helm	French ^A , German ^A , Mathematics

I

Maham Imran	Biology, Chemistry, Psychology ^A
Omar Irani	Biology ^{A*} , Chemistry ^{A*} , Mathematics ^{A*}

J

Ptolemy Johnson	Business Studies ^A , Geography ^A , Physics
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K

Sufyan Khan	Biology ^{A*} , Chemistry ^A , Mathematics ^A
Sumayyah Khan	Biology ^{A*} , Chemistry ^{A*} , Mathematics ^{A*}
Tejal Kukreja	Art ^{A*} , Chemistry, Mathematics

L

Rohan Lalli Biology^{A*}, Geography^{A*}, Spanish^{A*}

M

Jasmine Madeley English Literature^{A*}, History^{A*}, Politics^{A*}

Sumayyah Mahroof Biology, Chemistry, Economics

Armaan Malik Biology, Business Studies^A, Religious Studies

Rebecca McCash Biology^{A*}, Chemistry^{A*}, Economics^{A*}, Geography^{A*}

Katherine McKay Biology, Chemistry, Geography

Kate McNab Art^{A*}, Politics^{A*}, Psychology^{A*}

Nick Mehrgan Biology^{A*}, Chemistry^A, Mathematics^{A*}

Rahul Midgley Economics^{A*}, German^A, Mathematics^{A*}, Physics^{A*}

Gaurav Midha Biology^A, Chemistry^A, Mathematics^{A*}

Harun Muhammad Biology, Chemistry, Psychology

N

Ranvir Narang Computer Science^{A*}, Mathematics^{A*}, Further Mathematics^{A*}, Physics^{A*}

Moazzam Nauman Chemistry^A, Economics, Mathematics^A, Physics

Lorna Nelson Chemistry^{A*}, Computer Science^{A*}, Mathematics^{A*}

Louise Nelson Biology^A, Economics^A, French^A

Madeline Nix Chemistry^A, French^A, Spanish^A

O

Jacob O'Connor Design Technology, Mathematics, Physics

Anuli Okeahialam French^A, Mathematics^{A*}, Politics^{A*}

Thomas Oldham History^A, Latin^A, Politics

P

Deep Patel Art, Physics, Psychology

Sukruth

Pradeep Kundur Biology^{A*}, Chemistry^{A*}, Computer Science^{A*}, Mathematics^{A*}

R

Nishint Rajpal Biology^A, Chemistry^A, Mathematics^{A*}

Sameh Rashid Computer Science^{A*}, Mathematics^A, Further Mathematics^A, Physics^A

Jumaynah Ravat Biology^A, Chemistry^A, Mathematics^A

Iram Razak Economics, Politics, Psychology

Basmah Razi Biology^A, Chemistry^A, Spanish^{A*}

S

Zachariah Sadiq Hassan Sajad English Literature^{A*}, Geography^{A*}, History^{A*}, Business Studies, Computer Science, Mathematics

Nithila Sampath Art^{A*}, Economics^A, Mathematics^A

Emryss Sheikh English Literature, French, History^A

Aryan Singh Computer Science^{A*}, Mathematics^{A*}, Physics^{A*}

Joseph Stenhouse Economics, Mathematics, Physics

Zahid Suleman Computer Science^A, History^{A*}, Politics^A

T

Reuben Thandi Biology^A, Chemistry^A, Mathematics^A

Pippa Threlfall Biology^{A*}, Chemistry^{A*}, Geography^{A*}

Esther Tucker Art^A, Classical Civilisation^A, Music Technology

V

Jai Verma Biology^A, Chemistry, Physics

W

Benjamin

Wake-Watson Art^{A*}, Business Studies^{A*}, History

Charlotte Watford Geography^{A*}, Physical Education^{A*}, Psychology^{A*}

Mark Weatherhead Biology, Physics, Psychology

Ryan Welsh Classical Civilisation, English Literature, History

William Westlake Economics, History^{A*}, Physics

Maya White Classical Civilisation^A, English Language^A, Psychology^{A*}

George Williams Design Technology, Drama & Theatre^A, Psychology

Tabitha Wood Biology^A, Chemistry, History^A

Lucy Wright Classical Civilisation, English Literature, History

Z

Zoha Zaman Biology^A, Chemistry, Economics^{A*}

Ozair Zamir Biology, Chemistry, Physics

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Celebrating Exam Success

GCSE and A Level Examinations 2022

Hardworking BGS students' record results!

Hardworking Bradford Grammar students recorded outstanding results for A Levels and GCSEs in August.

For A Levels, 40 per cent of students were awarded A* grades, while 74 per cent achieved A*/A grades, securing them places at the country's top universities, including Oxford and Cambridge.

For GCSEs, 57 per cent of Bradford Grammar School (BGS) pupils achieved the coveted 9-8 grades with 80 per cent being awarded 9-7 grades (equivalent to A* to A).

Taken together, GCSEs and A Level results at BGS broke recent school records and bucked national trends by exceeding the teacher assessed grades of the pandemic years.

Dr Simon Hinchliffe, Headmaster, said: 'Our 2022 A Level and GCSE results exceeded previous exam outcomes and centre and teacher assessed grades of recent years. A Levels displayed the greatest uplift. In so doing, BGS has bucked national trends and defied expectations. This is the fruit of hard work, including during pandemic lockdowns, and part of a longer-term trend of improving academic standards.'



School Notes

Celebrating Exam Success

BGS Head Boy Freddie A
and Head Girl Amy D

Super six among all-star students at BGS

Six outstanding students who secured four A* each in their A Levels were among those celebrating successful results at BGS.

BGS **Head Boy Freddie A**, of Shipley, achieved his A*s in Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Music Technology and will head off to Newcastle University to study Medicine. Meanwhile, **Head Girl Amy D**, of Menston, secured hers in Computer Science, Maths, Further Maths and Physics and will study Physics and Computer Science at Durham University after a gap year.

Said Freddie, 18: 'I wasn't expecting to get four A*s so it's a bit of a shock. I'm really pleased.'

Amy, also 18, added: 'I was shocked – I didn't think I was going to get four A*s. You never know how well you've done, it's been amazing.'

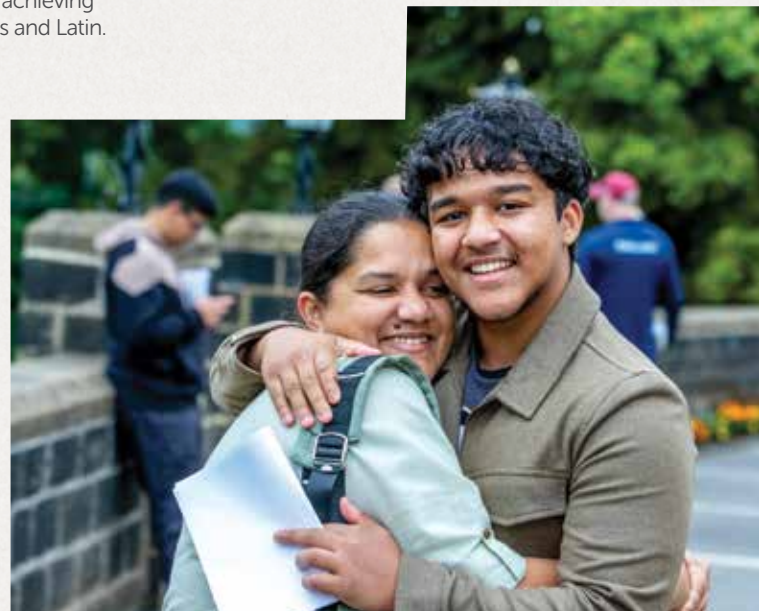
Alex F, 18, of Menston, who has represented England in cross country running, will study History at Durham University after achieving his A*s in Chemistry, History, Maths and Latin.

Rebecca M, 18, of Ilkley, who only joined BGS in Year 12, was delighted to be heading to Oxford University to study Biology after A*s in Biology, Chemistry, Economics and Geography.

'It's been a weird couple of years with all the disruption, but the teachers have been so supportive,' said Rebecca. 'I didn't know what results to expect today so it's a great feeling to get four A*s. Getting into Oxford was the dream and I'm excited for the next stage of my life.'

Ranvir N, of Horsforth, Leeds, who gained A*s in Computer Science, Maths, Further Maths and Physics will study Physics with Astrophysics at Warwick University.

Finally, **Sukruth PK** of Wrose, Shipley, was awarded his A*s for Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science and Mathematics and will go to King's College London to study Medicine.





Rebecca F and Amelie L

England athletes' runaway GCSE success

Two elite cross-country runners who have represented their country across the world secured another victory – achieving all grade 9s (A*s) in their GCSE results.

Rebecca F and Amelie L have represented England and won medals, including golds, throughout 2022. Their races have included the U18 Mountain Running Cup in Italy, where Rebecca won a silver medal and Amelie came 7th, which clinched the gold medal for England, and a gold medal representing BGS in the ISF World Schools Cross Country Championships, in Slovakia.

Rebecca also won gold for England in the inter boys and inter girls 4x1500m relay in the Home Countries' International race in Wales in March. Meanwhile Amelie ran for Great Britain – and became the first BGS female runner to don a GB vest – in the European Off-Road Running Championship in La Palma last month, where she came 10th, and won the ESAA Fell Race Championships in 2021.

In August, the 16-year-olds were celebrating a different kind of success – academic excellence after they each swept the board with all grade 9s.

Amelie, of Ilkley, who secured 10 GCSEs said: 'I've had to be strict balancing running and revising but it's paid off and I'm really happy. It's a similar feeling to competing and winning medals and I was nervous picking up the results, but I'm used to being nervous before a race.' Amelie will now study Biology, Chemistry, Geography and Psychology.

Rebecca, of Menston, Bradford, was delighted with her 11 GCSEs. She said: 'I've put in a lot of nights balancing the running and schoolwork. It's just as special as winning a medal in a way – it means a lot.' Rebecca will go on to take A Levels in Maths, Chemistry, Biology and History at BGS.

Rebecca is following in the footsteps of brother Alex, 18, who has also run for England and secured a fantastic four A*s in his A Levels.



Courtney ES

Delighted Courtney heads to Cambridge

A teenager who secured an assisted place at BGS realised her dream of attending Cambridge University following her outstanding A Level results.

Courtney ES, 18, could recite the poem The Owl and the Pussy Cat at age three and could read before she started school. Recognising her talent, her mum, Tracey, of Greengates, enquired at BGS about her daughter attending the school on an assisted place and the family were delighted after Courtney's hard work paid off.

The teenager was thrilled to receive two A*s in English Literature and History, and an A grade in Politics to pursue her dream of attending Cambridge to study English Literature.

Said Courtney: "Coming to BGS has been one of the best things that's ever happened to me, and I've made so many friends.

'I definitely think I've been pushed academically – and also in terms of extra curriculars, doing things like debating and public speaking. It's afforded me so many opportunities. I'm so happy I got the grades I needed to take up my place at Cambridge.'

Mum, Tracey Stoneman, a childcare officer, said: 'I realised when Courtney was only young that she was about four or five years further ahead than any of her classmates. Everyone at BGS were lovely and I never felt throughout the whole experience that we were any less as a family than anyone else. There's no snobbery. They get behind young people and they nurture and care for them. It's been an amazing experience for Courtney and for me as a mum.'

Dr Simon Hinchliffe, Headmaster at BGS, said 'We're delighted; all of Courtney's hard work has paid off and she'll be heading to Cambridge.


'She's shown just how transformative a BGS education can be, which is why we want to help as many young people from various backgrounds as possible through our growing assisted places programme.'



Courtney has shown just how transformative a BGS education can be, which is why we want to help as many young people from various backgrounds as possible through our growing assisted places programme.

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Junior School





Arts and Performance



Clock House takes part in the world's largest children's concert!

– SUMMER TERM 2022

By Charlotte and Florence, Year 5

Years 4, 5 and 6 went on a trip to Sheffield Arena, to perform in the world's largest children's concert – Young Voices.

A Year 4 pupil, Avaani, commented that it was an experience she had been waiting for, for a long time. Annabel, in Year 6, explained that it was her favourite trip, ever!

All the children enjoyed the experience. They had a lot of fun and were very thankful for the effort put into the organisation by the teachers and for creating such a lovely atmosphere.

Mrs Alderson, who led the outing, was excited too, as pupils had missed out on this amazing event, for the last two years: 'This was an extra special trip for me, as it reminded me of how important it is for people to join together to sing and dance – this is what makes people happy,' she said.

It was nearly midnight when some of the children and adults returned home, but it was all worth it – they had been a part of an incredible experience.



£2 million expansion plans for Bradford Grammar Junior School

– SUMMER TERM 2022



This is an exciting time in the history of Bradford Grammar Junior School as we seek to enhance the academic and co-curricular journey of every pupil ...

The BGS family is growing with new plans to accept children from the age of four.

Bradford Grammar Junior School, affectionately known as Clock House, is looking to build new accommodation next to the existing building to allow for pupils to start in Reception and Year 1 as of September 2024.

As part of the plans, which have been submitted to Bradford City Council, there will be a significant investment in its grounds to create further natural spaces for all Clock House children to enjoy as part of the school's flourishing outdoor curriculum. It will include a mud kitchen, a construction area, a woodland exploration area, discovery trails and an outdoor performance space.

Richard Ribeiro, headmaster at the school, said: 'The eco-friendly designs are spacious, light and well-resourced and will allow our young learners to experience an outstanding BGS education in a secure and nurturing environment.

'Meanwhile the grounds development will be a creative space for all our children to develop and use their imaginations and be connected with nature.

'This is an exciting time in the history of Bradford Grammar Junior School as we seek to enhance the academic and co-curricular journey of every pupil and we look forward to welcoming new learners and new staff to the BGS family in 2024.'

Subject to planning permission, building work will take place in 2023 in time for its new starters in September 2024.

To register initial interest in a child starting at the Junior School in Reception or Year 1, please contact the admissions team at admissions.jnr@bradfordgrammar.com or call 01274 553713/553702.

Communities, Societies and Activities

Blue Peter Winners

– AUTUMN TERM 2021

By Florence A, Year 5

Iris F, who is an artistic pupil in Year 5, was recently awarded a highly acclaimed Blue Peter badge for entering an anime art competition (a Japanese style of art).

It was an unexpected but welcome surprise when she received the badge as she had forgotten about it entirely! Iris is unsure whether she will feature on the TV show (so keep your eyes peeled) but there is a possibility. Iris admitted that she is the first person to get a Blue Peter badge in her family and everybody is extremely excited.

Current Year 6 pupils were awarded green Blue Peter badges in September 2021 for their work in Year 5 in association with plastic pollution. Annabel W, who was delighted to receive her badge, had this to say: 'I wanted to do it because I knew that if I succeeded, I would get the badge, so I set the goal.'

For the love of reading

– AUTUMN TERM 2021

By Emma G and Eva S, Year 5

The school library at BGS is an integral part of the School and somewhere we are enormously proud of. Pupils and staff embrace the facilities on offer. The newly appointed Head Librarian, Lindsey Shackleton, shared some of her aspirations for the future of reading in the school.

'It is really important to have free access to books and open young people's minds, allowing them opportunities to read rich examples of varied authors and genres in a welcoming space' said Lindsey.

When asked what she enjoys most about her role, Lindsey said she thrives on helping people develop their reading and encouraging reluctant readers to choose their own path in what they are interested in.

When questioned, Year 4 pupils had this to say: 'Having access to the library is important so that we have space to read and a quiet place to wind down and think.

The library is a safe and calm place which is open to everyone.'





Meet our House Captains

– AUTUMN TERM 2021

By Ammar K, Year 6

We are lucky enough to be represented by several House Captains and Vice-House Captains at Clock House.

When asked by pupils why they decided to apply for the positions, the interviewing staff were met with a range of answers including:

'I like teaching people, and I want people to look up to me.'

'I like organising!'

'I am a good role model.'

'It is a great opportunity.'

'I will try to listen and include everyone.'

'I want to get the younger children more house points.'

Here are our House Captains' individual mantras about their hopes and aspirations for their influential positions:

'I will get people involved so that hopefully people won't have to do things that they don't want.' **Ellie**

'I will make it more fun and interesting and hopefully the other houses will be inspired by my house.' **Laaibah**

'I hope to make house meetings more enjoyable and fun.' **Annabel**

'I like teaching people; I want people to look up to me and I want to educate people.' **Isaam**

We wish them continued luck in their roles.

We would like to introduce our House Captains and Vice-House Captains to you ...

Bradford

Captain: Isaam O

Vice-Captain: Suleman R

Freemen

Captain: Annabel W

Vice-Captain: Nieve T

Royal

Captain: Ellie S

Vice-Captain: Saim K

Founders

Captain: Laaibah M

Vice-Captain: Hanaya M





Actor George sees television show air

– AUTUMN TERM 2021

A talented Year 6 pupil is celebrating seeing the children's show he has a part in finally hit television screens.

George is playing one of the lead characters in the show, 'Biff and Chip', adapted from the popular children's books.

George, who plays the part of Chip, filmed 25 episodes of the show which he managed to do around COVID restrictions.

He said: 'I'm really excited now it's out. It was a bit weird seeing myself on television, but it was good to see that all the hard work paid off.'

'Chip is quite a shy character, but he has a massive imagination and he's really creative. It was really fun playing him.'

George plays the drums at school and also enjoys singing. He has been acting since he was five and is a member of Stagebox, a training platform for young performers. He has previously played the role of Charlie in a production of 'Oliver' at Wakefield Theatre Royal and is looking to grow his film and television roles. He was due to star in a major film and an Amazon Prime show, but restrictions meant he couldn't film.

Instead, George made a short film with the Young Film Academy (YFA) over the summer and was nominated as best performer while the short gained a best film nomination in the Young Film Academy Awards. The film was shown at the British Film Institute in August.

'I'd love to be an actor when I leave school and it would be great to do different types of roles. I don't want to be typecast,' he laughed.



It was a bit weird seeing myself on television, but it was good to see that all the hard work paid off. I'd love to be an actor when I leave school and it would be great to do different types of roles.



Past generations at BGS

– SPRING TERM 2022

By Morgan W-W and Annabel W

Bradford Grammar School is a prestigious place of education that generations of pupils have attended over the years. It has changed since its opening in 1548, but through further discoveries we have found

that several of our pupils have parents, uncles, aunts, and grandparents that have attended BGS over the years.

Mr Amini, who is currently running for a school governorship, attended this school several years ago. His daughter, Aimen, is currently in Year Five at Clock House having followed in his footsteps. Mr Amini enjoyed lessons in the classroom and took his study seriously.

Alizah's dad, Mr Sohail Ali, attended BGS in 1997 through to 2005. He is now a solicitor and his good friend from his school days, Dr J Brearley, is now a successful oceanographer. He enjoyed chemistry and played team sports such as rugby, cricket and basketball.

The Year 6 to Year 7 transition

– SUMMER TERM 2022

By Ellie S and Annabel W, Year 6

Most of the Year 6 pupils are excited to move into Year 7, however, a few are nervous too ...

Before the Easter holidays, Year 6 were treated to a visit from three Sixth Formers, to allow the Clock House pupils a chance to ask them different questions or raise concerns that they had. The Sixth Formers had lots to say, however the main thing that they stressed was: 'This is probably the most scary and important move through school you will have, if you attack it head on you will be fine.'

Overall, Year 6 really benefited from the Sixth Formers' visit and are now almost ready for their transition.

Year 6 had many thoughts, some were excited, others felt very privileged, and some were just happy to be moving into a new environment and use the different facilities. Many are looking forward to the Year 7 residential at a PGL centre in September.

In conclusion, Year 6 are very excited about their transition into Year 7.

We chat to new Clock House pupil, Teddy ...

– SPRING TERM 2022

By Rayyan A

Throughout the years of Bradford Grammar School, many new students have joined the school at different points throughout the academic year. Pupils and staff pride themselves in the friendly welcome we often show, but what is it really like to join a new school, mid-year? We spoke to Teddy, new to Clock House in January, who shared his experiences so far.

Teddy has settled in well, however it has been difficult for him to find his way around the school since it is much larger than his previous school.

Teddy confirmed he has no relatives in this school, but he has already made friends. At his old school, his form was very noisy, and due to this he had to miss out on lots of break times and PE lessons to catch up on work missed due to the disruption.

Teddy is a natural musician and he really enjoys the subject, especially playing the ukulele.

'I have tried lots of new things since joining Clock House including hockey, rugby and humanities, however my favourite sports are cricket and football.'

We look forward to an update in the summer term!



'No one should have to fit into a mould in order to thrive.'

– SPRING TERM 2022

By Richard Ribeiro,
Junior School Headmaster



A few years ago, I went on an Aspiring Heads course. There were around 100 of us and we had two days of training followed by a smart dinner. I really loved meeting other deputy heads and finding out about other schools and the way they were run. On the final day, we were asked to do a personality test where the room was divided up into four quarters. I can't remember exactly what each section was for, but by the end of the test, more than 70 per cent of the room was standing in one particular quarter – and I wasn't with them!

I ended up in a quarter where there was only six or seven of us and it threw me. I looked around the room at the other aspiring heads and I started questioning myself. Did this result mean I wasn't cut out to be a head after all? I thought.

Then I spotted someone in my quarter who I recognised. Earlier in the course, an experienced head, of about 15 years, had given what I felt to be a fascinating presentation on his specific aim to make sure that no child in his school was forgotten. He wanted to ensure every child's talent and ability was recognised and he never wanted to hear the words:

I'm fine. He'd come up with a very successful system to ensure he never heard those words.

So, there I was, standing in the minority, questioning whether I had the right personality to be a headteacher and I spied him, the one who had spoken so eloquently and passionately about the special qualities he fostered in his children. He was in my quarter. I thought to myself, I might be in the smallest group, but the one who I admire the most at this whole event as a leader is standing in my corner. He was an outstanding head, and he was a different type of leader who was making a real difference to the lives of his students. If he could do it, then maybe I could too.

Today, as headmaster of the Junior School, it's important that our children become fearless in their approach to learning, and that they have the freedom and courage to stand strong if they don't follow the main crowd. We want to see them comfortable to speak out and contribute without fear of repercussions, whether that's constructing a sentence in a different way or solving a maths problem using a new strategy.

Everyone is different and has their own unique qualities. I love nothing more than walking around school and finding out about the children's passions and hobbies outside of the Clock House gates and what makes them tick. One of our pupils is a go karting champion, another loves Japanese manga comics. To me, this tells the child that I'm interested in their life and that's really important.

Being different is welcomed and celebrated at the Junior School. No one should have to fit into a mould or be the same as everyone else to thrive – not a member of staff, not our wonderful pupils, and certainly not a headteacher.





Science is all around us at Clock House ...

– SUMMER TERM 2022

By Morgan W-W, Year 5

At Clock House, science happens in all areas of the school: outside, in the classrooms, in the Senior School labs – even in the Brownlee Pavilion.

One of the amazing experiments Year 5 produced this year was making paper helicopters of two different sizes and dropping them from a height, to test air resistance and gravity.

Results demonstrated that gravity pulled the helicopter down towards the centre of the earth, but the air resistance slowed it down creating a safe landing.

The larger the surface area the longer the helicopter took to reach its destination, due to the force of air resistance.

Pupils discussed how the direction of the wind might have affected results and possibly, creating the experiment inside, might further improve the quality of the findings.

One of the other gripping science activities was the Poster Competition on growth, to celebrate Science Week.

The winners won a science set and were entered into the national competition – we are still awaiting the results ...



At Clock House, science happens in all areas of the school: outside, in the classrooms, in the Senior School labs – even in the Brownlee Pavilion.

Trips and Events



Harvest Appeal 2021

– AUTUMN TERM 2021

By Laaibah M, Year 6

Harvest Appeal is an annual Clock House event where pupils bake tasty goods and prepare games to raise money for deprived children. This year the event took place on 19 and 20 October and, as is annual tradition, the rain poured down, right on cue.

During and after the Harvest Appeal, pupils take time to consider which charities they should raise money for. For many years it was thought that it was mandatory to pick just one charity, when in fact, pupils can pick more and share their goodwill more widely.

From tasty bhajis to mouth-watering brownies, there really was something for every taste bud. The games were even more impressive with choices such as ghost catcher and a lucky dip.

The Senior School pupils were as keen as ever to consume as much food as possible. It was therefore no surprise there were only a few crumbs left behind. Until next year!





Building with Ben

– AUTUMN TERM 2021

By Ellie S, Year 6

On 27 September, Year 6 STEM Ambassadors were lucky enough to attend a special workshop run by Ben Edmonds, an engineer from the globally recognised company, Dyson. In teams, the challenge was to create the cheapest, strongest bridge using materials provided, such as corrugated cardboard, one roll of tape, lollipop sticks, hot glue, and paper to design their bridge on.

140 pupils from different schools, including Richmond House and Moorfield, took part. There were a few prizes for the cheapest and for the strongest bridges, including a robotic arm and spider. One of the bridges was so strong that one of the children could stand on it!

Max D who was involved in the workshop thoroughly enjoyed himself. 'Building the bridges was super exciting. I loved competing against other schools,' he said.



High Court judge quizzed by pupils at his former school

– AUTUMN TERM 2021

'How do you choose a juror?' and 'how are judges appointed?' were just two of the questions a High Court judge faced when he was quizzed by pupils at his former school.

Sir Stephen Morris OB (1976) spent the day at BGS, where Junior School pupils in Years 5 and 6 were fascinated to hear about his career and how the law works, including why judges wear wigs and the role that jurors play.

Sir Stephen sits in the Queen's Bench Division hearing serious criminal cases on circuit, and civil and public law cases in the Royal Courts of Justice in London.

The Old Bradfordian read law at Cambridge and was appointed a Justice of the High Court in 2016.

Junior School Headmaster, Richard Ribeiro, said: 'Sir Stephen was incredibly engaging and was a huge hit with our Year 5 and 6 pupils who had their lists of questions ready for him. They thoroughly enjoyed his talk and we're really grateful that he spent so much time with us, inspiring the next generation of legal minds.'

Sir Stephen later gave a talk to older pupils at the Senior School about careers in the law followed by a live 'In Conversation' event, one of our regular filmed interviews with Old Bradfordians.

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I loved competing
against other
schools ...

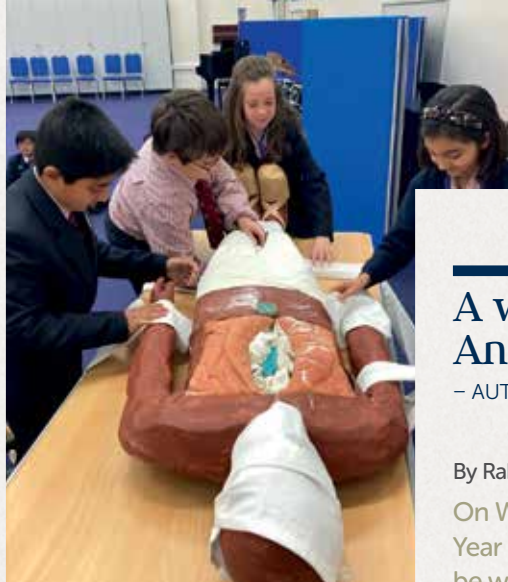
A journey back in time

– AUTUMN TERM 2021

By Shahzane B and Sebastian C, Year 6

On Thursday 7 October, Year 6 travelled to Eden Camp which is situated in Malton, North Yorkshire. Pupils were treated to a wealth of sensory experiences which took them back in time to the historical period of World War II. Some huts release unique smells which helps recreate history in a very real way. The main feature of Eden Camp are its huts, of which there are 24. The site occupies a former Second World War prisoner-of-war camp.

We interviewed Year 6 pupil, Sami S about his experience: 'The huts were fun and there was lots of information about WWII, the Year 6 current topic. My favourite part was the blackout hut as it was pitch black and it was a bit scary which made it exciting. I loved the great escape hut as the wax figures were moving and talking and it was interesting to learn about how they escaped.'



A walk into Ancient Civilisation

– AUTUMN TERM 2021

By Raheema A-T, Year 5

On Wednesday 6 October 2021, Year 5 were fortunate enough to be walked back in time and learn about the subject of Egyptology.

Mr Matthew Bellwood, an exciting historical expert, visited Clock House, dressed up as an Ancient Egyptian and taught the pupils about this magnificent topic. The children and the teachers enjoyed it equally, and everyone came back having learned something new.

All the children had an opportunity to stand in front of the class, while Mr Bellwood asked them to act out an Egyptian role, for example, reading some writing on papyrus or taking out fake organs from a pretend Egyptian human named 'Anny'. The pupils were read Ancient Egyptian stories and they even had to pretend that they were at Anny's funeral, singing along to an Egyptian funeral song! Hannah B, Year 5, thoroughly enjoyed mummifying Anny.

'It was cool and complicated. It was harder than it looked!' she admitted.

A superb visit, worthy of repeating.





A return to residential fun for our Junior School pupils!

– SPRING TERM 2022

We have seen a delighted return to residential this term, starting with the Year 4 visit to Robin Wood and Year 5 trip to Bewerley Park.

For some pupils, this was a first stay away from home, but they all leapt in with two feet and did the teachers proud. These trips develop all sorts of skills such as collaboration, communication and problem solving. They continue to benefit the pupils when they return.

The children tackled a piranha pool, went weaseling, and even completed a giant leap of faith from telegraph pole to trapeze at a dizzying twelve metres.

In the words of one Year 4 child: 'Now I've been to Robin Wood, I know that one day I'll be able to travel around the globe.'



Year 5 Residential to Beverley Park, North Yorkshire

– SUMMER TERM 2022

By Raheem A-Ta, Year 5

Year 5 did a lot of exciting activities including canoeing, river walking, high and low ropes, rock climbing, caving and treasure hunts in the dark.

Alice G, Year 5, said: 'When I arrived, I felt 'nervcited'! Nervous and excited at the same time! When I left, I felt a bit upset because Beverley Park is such an amazing place, but I also felt happy, because I missed my family. It was really fun!'

Miss Yates enjoyed the river walk: 'It was educational too. Pupils walked upstream, along a meandering river and worked out the fastest flowing side causing erosion and the slower side showing evidence of deposited sediment. Year 5 discovered tributaries on the route and walked through a dried-out gorge towards a waterfall.'

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I had a great time.
I really hope to do
some more high ropes
again in next year's
residential!

Raheema A-T, Year 5 tells us about her experience: 'I really loved the trip to Beverley Park; I think that I enjoyed the leap of faith the most because I like climbing. I had a great time. I really hope to do some more high ropes again in next year's residential!'



Fun in the Lake District!

– SUMMER TERM 2022

By Laaibah M, Year 6

In May, Year 6 went to Hawkshead Youth Hostel, in the Lake District. Everybody was really looking forward to the residential.

On Wednesday morning, everyone was all set to go with their suitcases, leavers' hoodies and packed lunches. They arrived at noon and ate their packed lunches and then set off on a hike. They went round in a massive circle. As they were walking, they saw lots of amazing flora and fauna. Some of the floras they saw were wild garlic, buttercups, edible clovers and wild fuchsias.

On Thursday, they did raft building in the morning and climbing and abseiling in the evening. They had lots of 'dorm time' and enjoyed the tuck shop, especially!

On Friday they did team building exercises and then set off for their journey back to school.

This was a wonderful final residential for the Year 6 Clock House pupils. Hopefully, many more adventures will follow when they move to Senior School.

Sporting Achievements

Sports Successes

– AUTUMN TERM 2021

By Charlotte H, Year 5

This term we have seen a multitude of sporting fixtures occur across a range of age groups.

We have spoken to many pupils about their highlights when participating in competitions.

Jaina K, Year 5, ran in the Northcliffe Cross Country event and said, whilst she felt tired and nervous, she will push herself further next time. At times she felt like an Olympic runner.

Aamina H, Year 6, won one, lost one and drew two matches in the recent hockey tournament against schools including Gateways and Richmond House. Aamina expressed the following: 'I had lots of fun and it was certainly an experience.'

Anees K, Year 5, is an avid rugby player and managed to tackle five people in the rugby match against Hymers. Whilst it was painful it was certainly worth it.

Florence A, Year 5, loves netball and had this to say: 'I enjoyed the match and was pleased with the score, 14-2 against Wakefield Girls. It was exciting and nerve-wracking whilst playing against another team.'





Clock House netballers score high in HMC fixture

– SPRING TERM 2022

By Florence A

On March 2, a team of Year 6 girls (and four Year 5s) went to Hull to play in the Headmasters' Conference (HMC) netball.

BGS brought two teams: an A team and a B team. Jaina from 5MH, who loves netball said: 'I really enjoyed it, it was an experience that will stay with me forever!'

Mrs Jones and Miss Smith were on the fixture too and they were very supportive on the way.

Despite the miserable weather all day, the A team got into the cup semi-final by winning all seven games in a row. Unfortunately, their first loss was against GSAL (5-8) – they were then placed joint third in the North of England, Independent Schools' League.

The B team got into the final in the Bowl Competition against Chorister, Durham School. At full time, the score was 2-2. The winning team was decided by a 'golden goal'.

Annabel, who was goal defence and goalkeeper (she is very tall), had a great day out. Charlotte from 5M said: 'I felt very excited, and it was a memory that I will never forget.'

Mrs Jones said: 'The girls were tremendous and gave a great account of themselves and BGS sport! Overall, the girls are in the top four teams in HMC North, and this is a huge achievement.'

Well done to the girls and thank you to the staff for the opportunity to play.

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Senior School and Sixth Form

Arts and Performance





Arts and Performance

Music roundup Autumn 2021

– AUTUMN TERM 2021

By Elizabeth White, Director of Music

In September we welcomed back Old Bradfordian, Ruby Hendry (2017), to the Music Department as our Music Graduate. Ruby has just completed a four-year vocal studies and opera degree at the Royal Northern College of Music. She has already made a massive impact in the Department, helping as vocal coach for 'My Fair Lady', and assisting with all our school choirs as well as helping with the smooth running of the department.

Our first performance of the year was at Founders' Day, held at Bradford Cathedral towards the end of September. Our wonderful Senior Choir was up to full strength and performed Howells' 'Like as the Hart' and Stanford's 'Jubilate in B flat'. To deliver such a stunning performance of music of this difficulty so soon after resuming normal rehearsals was

testament to the talent and hard work of our pupils. Congratulations to all involved.

On Friday 19 November, we were visited by James Jenkins, former King's College Cambridge lay clerk and a member of the Kings' Men, who spent lunchtime coaching our Close Harmony Group. His input and insights were really valuable as we worked on a spiritual for our Carol Service and music by Eric Whitacre for the Christmas Concert.

We are thrilled to be able to hold concerts 'as normal' – whether these be small lunchtime recitals or larger concerts in the Price Hall. We have welcomed parents back to school for our weekly recitals on Friday lunchtimes, to the wonderful woodwind concert in November and, (as I write this article) we are looking forward to our Autumn Chamber Concert. Thank you for the support and encouragement you give to our students.

We are also looking forward to our biggest concert of the year, our Christmas Concert, held on 7 December in the Price Hall as well as our atmospheric Nine Lessons and Carols Service in the Cathedral in the last week of term. Our choirs, bands and orchestras are working immensely hard for this occasion. During this concert, the whole of Year 7 will be taking part in a performance of 'Oye', a Latin American song. The Music Department is filled with the sound of Year 7 singing every day!



BGS Tenth Biennial Student Art Exhibition

– AUTUMN TERM 2021

By Sarah Horsfield, Head of Art

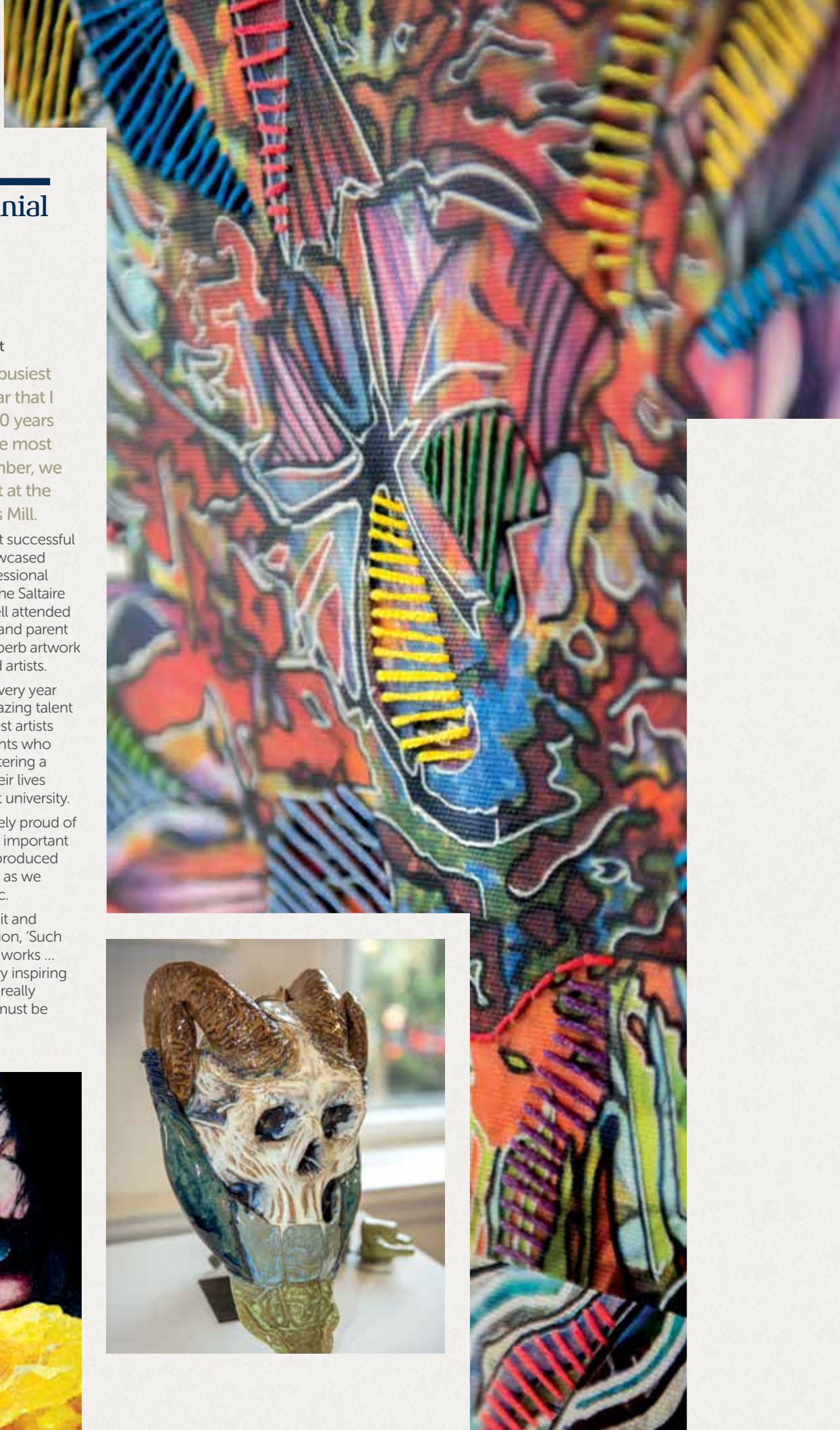
This has been one of the busiest starts to the academic year that I can remember in all my 20 years of teaching and one of the most rewarding. During September, we exhibited 137 pieces of art at the Titus board rooms in Salts Mill.

This has been one of the most successful exhibitions that has been showcased for so many reasons: the professional environment coincided with the Saltaire Arts Festival, we had a very well attended preview with superb catering and parent support, and of course the superb artwork produced by our very talented artists.

Artwork was displayed from every year group, demonstrating the amazing talent amongst some of our youngest artists right through to Year 13 students who have now left BGS and are entering a new independent phase of their lives studying various art courses at university.

The department was immensely proud of all the students involved – it is important to note that all the work was produced during two very difficult years, as we found ourselves in a pandemic.

Not to put too fine a point on it and quoting a visitor to the exhibition, 'Such an impressive range of artistic works ... Well done to all involved ... Very inspiring for younger students ... Some really talented young artists ... BGS must be proud.' We most certainly are!





Say 'hello' to 'The Big Blue'

– AUTUMN TERM 2021

By Sarah Horsfield, Head of Art

During the summer holidays the Art Department took delivery and installation of 'The Big Blue' – a fantastic new piece of kit to support the evolving ceramic work we can create within the Art Department.

The new kiln replaces a very tired and old kiln which has been in service for over 30 years, so this is very much a welcome purchase. This very large and certainly more economical kiln has been purchased with the support from the BGS Parents' Association.

Back in February 2021, we approached the PA to ask for assistance to purchase this very large kiln, with a clear wish to encourage and engage a wide range of students. The Parents' Association listened and investigated how this would support as many pupils as possible, including pupils in Clock House and each year group of the Senior School. The Art Department was thrilled to receive the financial support from the PA and now seven months on we have a new, modern and advanced kiln. It is a very rare opportunity for school children to experience the process of ceramics – we know how very lucky we are to continue delivering this technique with such fantastic materials and equipment.



Senior School and Sixth Form Arts and Performance



In the week before Christmas, our school choirs and senior brass ensemble took part in our Nine Lessons and Carols service at Bradford Cathedral. This service is a yearly highlight for many people, and this year was no exception. The choirs sang a variety of traditional and modern music, highlights being Sally Beamish's 'In the Stillness', James MacMillan's 'O Radiant Dawn' and a stunning combined-choir performance of Mack Wilberg's 'How Far is it to Bethlehem?' It really is a testament to our singers and choirs that we can perform music of such beauty to such a high standard.

A real high-point of the Spring Term was the joint Drama and Music production of 'My Fair Lady'. Performing to a packed Hockney Theatre for four performances in February, this show was the culmination of months of hard work, rehearsals after school, weekends and hours of practice at home. The 17-piece orchestra sounded stunning and accompanied the musical so well. The chorus mastered the challenging chorus parts and the main roles delivered their songs with panache and aplomb. It was a truly wonderful production and one which will live in the memories of the performers forever!

And so, we turn our thoughts to our remaining concerts this term. At the time of writing, preparations are underway for our Spring Chamber Concert and our Leavers' Concert very early in the summer term, on April 27th. We look forward to being able to say goodbye and good luck to our hard-working Year 13 musicians properly this year!



News from the Music Department Spring 2022

– SPRING TERM 2022

Although Christmas seems a distant memory now, the school was filled with the sound of music-making once again as we welcomed a 700-person-strong live audience for our Christmas Concert. Our large music groups were back with a bang and it was a wonderful evening of music, laughter and Christmas joy.

The whole of Year 7 participated in a group song, 'Oye' with live Latin American percussion. Other highlights included our four school choirs singing a variety of Christmas music, and our wonderful bands and orchestras. Congratulations to everyone involved and to our parents and supporters for being a wonderful audience.



Joseph takes part in poignant children's opera

– SPRING TERM 2022

BGS student Joseph M enjoyed taking part in a thought-provoking production with the Opera North Youth Company.

Joseph M, 12, of Otley, appeared as the police officer in the production of the poignant children's opera, 'Brundibar', at the Howard Assembly Room, in Leeds and the Sage in Newcastle, the latter as part of the Brundibar Arts Festival.

The opera was written in 1938 by the Jewish composer Hans Krása and tells the story of two children whose plan to help their sick mother pits them against an evil organ grinder.

Top brass!

– SPRING TERM 2022

Congratulations to Mr Roberts, music and brass teacher, who will be conducting his brass band, Rothwell Temperance, at the Royal Albert Hall in the Brass Band National Championships of Great Britain later this year.

After finishing in the top two qualifying places, Rothwell will be representing Yorkshire and will be competing against the best brass bands from each region of the country. This prestigious contest is the culmination of weeks of fierce competition between brass bands from England, Scotland and Wales.

Mr Roberts has won the National Brass Band Championships twice as a cornet player with the Black Dyke Mills Band.

The Finals will be held in the Royal Albert Hall in London on Saturday October 15 and we wish Mr Roberts good luck!



'My Fair Lady' delights audiences across four sell-out shows!

– SPRING TERM 2022

By Izzy B

This year's musical production of 'My Fair Lady' was a huge success with sold out audiences over four incredible performances in early February.

With over 50 students from year 7 to sixth form involved as performers, musicians and backstage crew, the range of talent here at BGS was expertly on show.

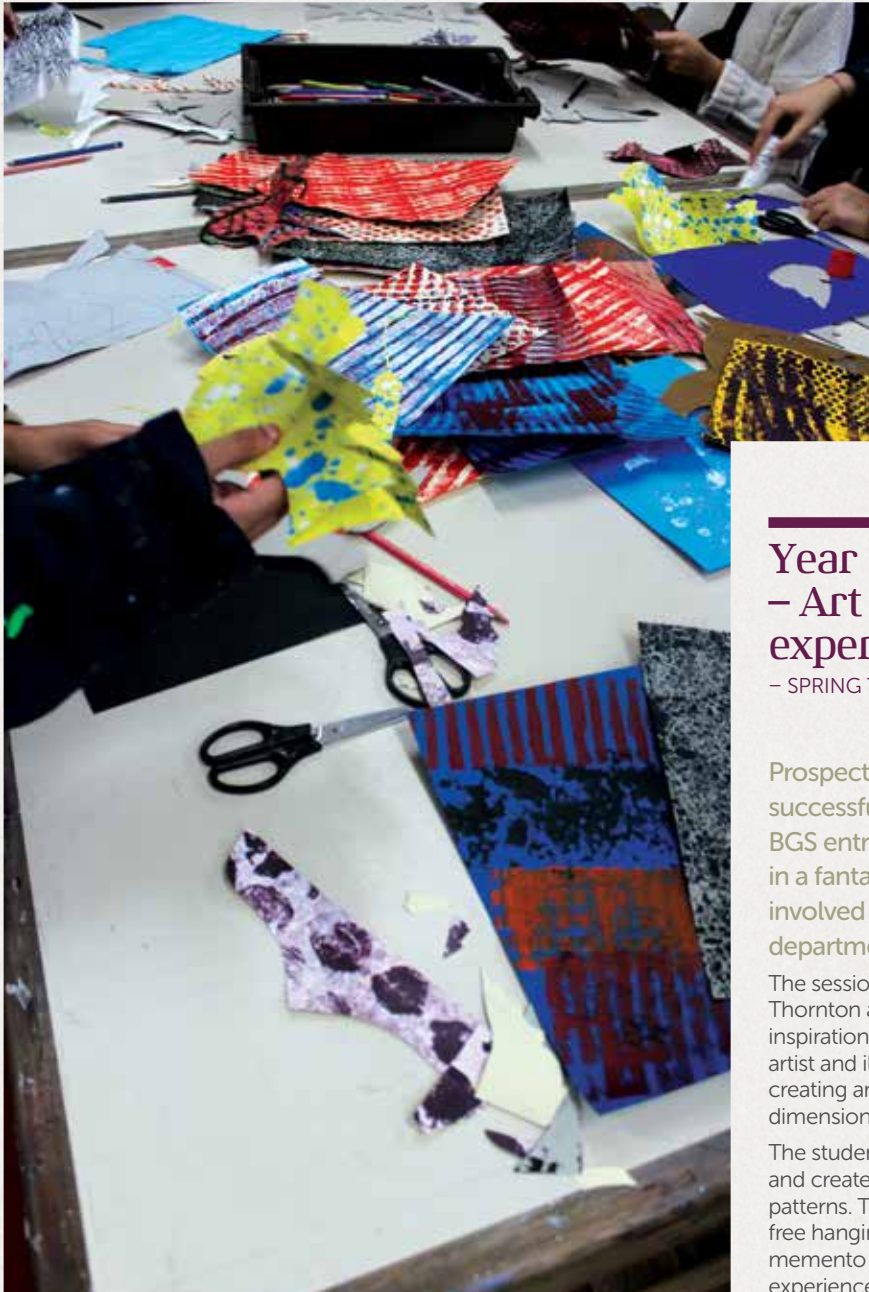


Based on the 1913 play, 'Pygmalion', 'My Fair Lady' tells the story of Eliza Doolittle, a Cockney flower girl who takes speech lessons from Professor Henry Higgins, a phonetician, so that she may pass as a lady in high society. It first opened on Broadway in 1956, starring Rex Harrison and Julie Andrews and soon set a record for the longest run of any musical on Broadway up to that time. With the well-known songs 'Wouldn't It Be Lovely' and 'The Rain In Spain', it transported you back in time to the Edwardian Era with fantastic costumes for Ascot and the Embassy Ball.

Playing Eliza Doolittle, Jasmine M perfectly portrayed the head strong, confident flower girl whilst also delivering many soft and tender moments through her beautiful soprano voice. Tom A truly excelled playing the rather uppity Professor Higgins who the audience grow to like, as his caring and nurturing side towards Eliza, is slowly revealed. Both Tom and Jasmine were captivating in many of their solos, my favourites being the spectacular 'I'm an Ordinary Man' and expertly performed 'Just You Wait'. Connor E also brought a comedic charm to the smooth-talking cockney dustman, Alfred Doolittle, showcasing his singing abilities in the humorous song, 'Get me to the church on time'. And George W endeared himself to the audience as a bumbling and hilarious Colonel Pickering.

As well as the performers, the orchestra, conducted by Miss White, shone through the overture and interludes that encapsulated the old-fashioned feel of this classic musical. The production team, expertly led by Mr Dutton, beautifully captured the romance of the era, with an elegant set and subtle lighting.

Huge congratulations to Mrs Sharp who directed the production and everyone who put so much time and effort into creating such a successful show!



Year 6 Taster Day – Art department experience

– SPRING TERM 2022

Prospective students who successfully completed the BGS entrance exam took part in a fantastic taster day which involved a session in the Art department in February.

The sessions were run by Mr Thornton and Miss Hunter and took inspiration from the work of British artist and illustrator Mark Hearld by creating an exciting three-dimensional printed bird sculpture.

The students used print and collage and created repeated surface patterns. They took home a lovely free hanging piece of artwork as a memento of the fabulous afternoon experienced in the Art department.





'It's been a wonderful year in the Music department ...'

– SUMMER TERM 2022

By Elizabeth White, Director of Music

We are coming to the end of a very busy and very 'normal' term in Music as I write. We have all appreciated being able to hold our concerts and rehearsals without disruption this year and we have achieved so much and had great fun doing so.

Our Leavers' Concert, in the Price Hall was the first to be held 'live' in two years and it was a wonderful occasion. We got to say goodbye to our Year 13s properly, as well as hear ensemble performances from our many choirs, bands and orchestras. Highlights of the concert were the many solos from our leaving Year 13s. Music ranged from 'Phantom of the Opera' to a Chopin 'Prelude', Jazz and Pop numbers. The Year 13s have given so much to the Music Department at BGS and the concert was a fitting way to say thank you and goodbye to them.

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to our summer concert in the Hockney Theatre and a final session of Trinity Music exams.

It's been a wonderful year in the Music Department, with pupils showing true Hoc Age spirit and enjoying making music in person again! We are busy planning for next year ... watch this space!

England success for dancer Charlotte

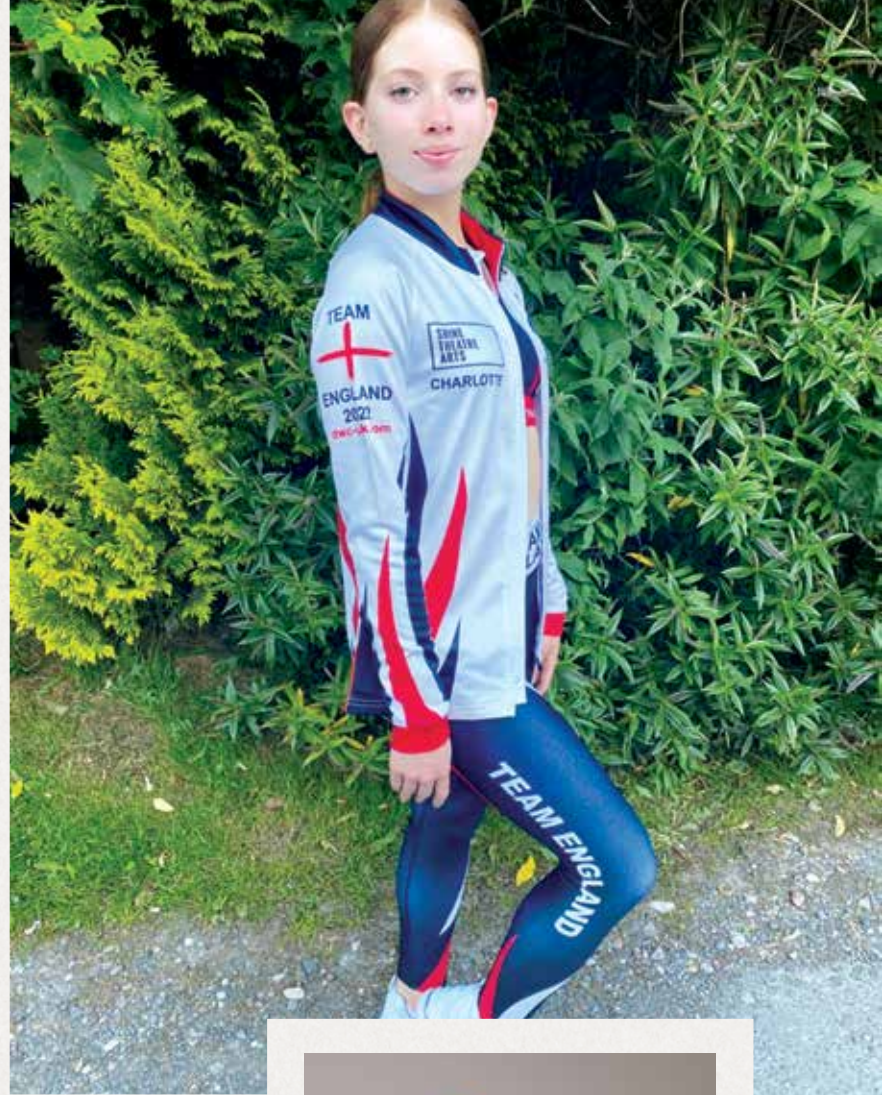
– SUMMER TERM 2022

Talented dancer Charlotte Davies and her teammates enjoyed great success after representing England in The Dance World Cup, in Spain.

The Year 10 student travelled to San Sebastian with friends from Shine Theatre Arts, in Halifax, to compete against 10,000 dancers from 62 countries in the finals of the two-week competition.

England came first in the prestigious competition while Charlotte and her dance school gained a bronze medal for Large Group Classical Ballet; fourth place world for Song and Dance Small Group, fourth place for Large Group Ballet Non Classical and eighth for Song and Dance Large Group.

'The experience was amazing with so many strong and wonderful dancers from around the world,' said Charlotte. 'The atmosphere was incredible, and I can't wait to do it again.'



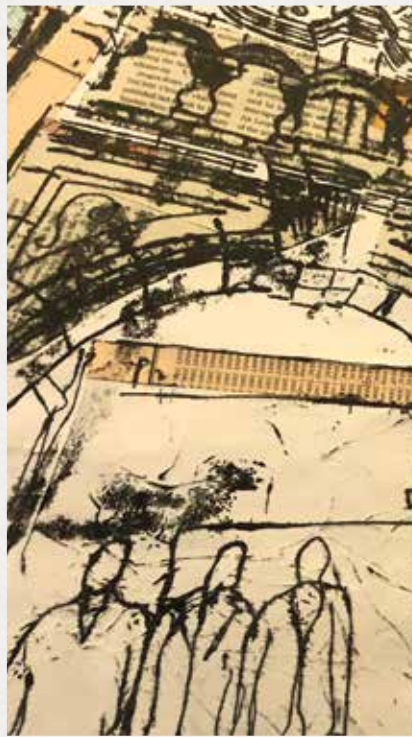
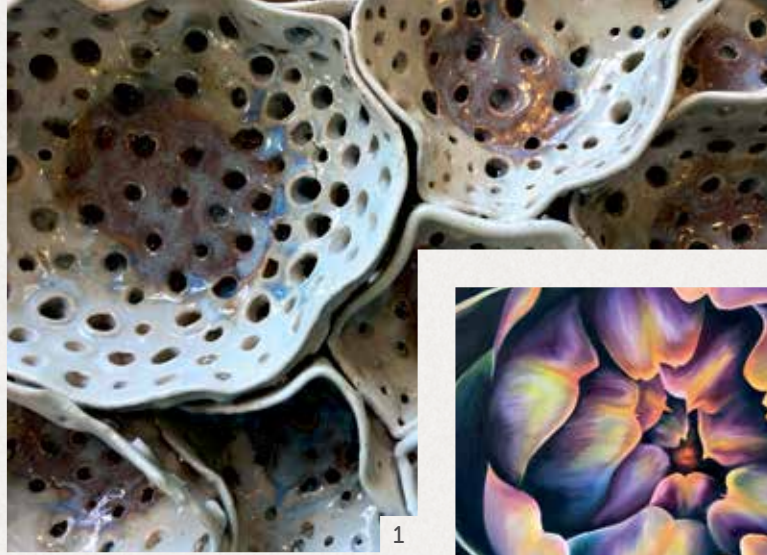
Charlotte, who also acts, sings and plays piano and violin, began dancing at the age of three when she took baby ballet classes. She trains for seven hours a week.

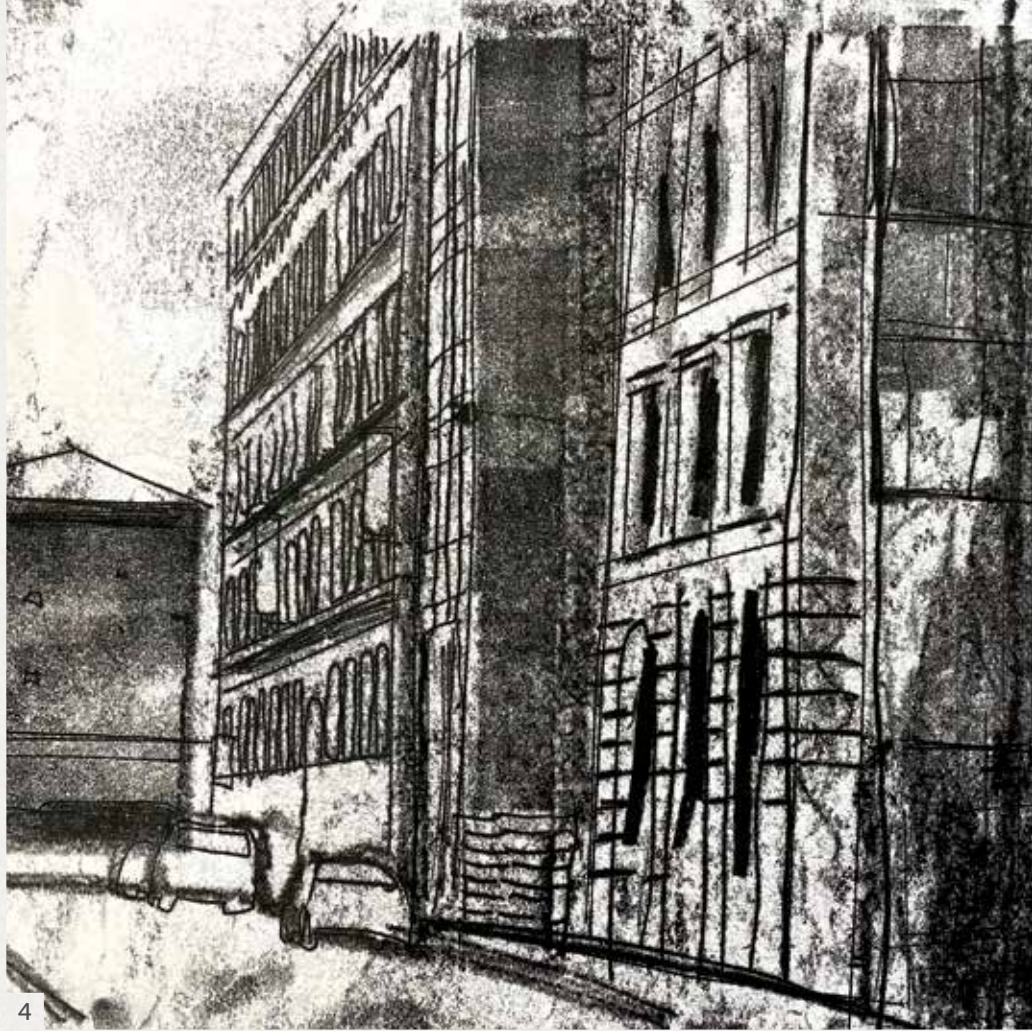
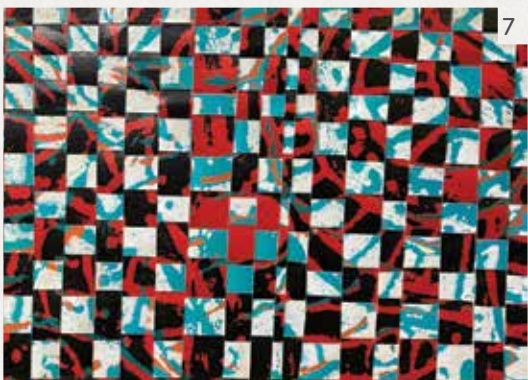
Mum, Michelle, added: 'For a small dance school in Halifax which has never competed at this world level it was an amazing achievement. We are so proud of Charlotte and the team for rising to the challenge'

Talent snapshot 1

– AUTUMN TERM 2021

1. Anna R-P, Year 12
2. Emily G, Year 12
3. Olivia B, Year 12
4. Maeve B, Year 13
5. Amber H, Year 12
6. Millie S, Year 13
7. Ellie K, Year 12





Talent snapshot 2

– SPRING TERM 2022

1. Amelia B, Year 7
2. Laura T, Year 8
3. Clara M, Year 10
4. Maryam Q, Year 10
5. Bea H, Year 10
6. Mahid M, Year 7
7. Ella S, Year 8





1



2



3



4



5



6

Talent snapshot 3

– SUMMER TERM 2022

1. Sophie L S, Year 9
2. Phoebe M, Year 10
3. Isabelle S, Millie C, Erin B, Year 8
4. Alice M, Year 7
5. Freddie H, Year 7
6. Nurayni G, Year 7
7. Kathryn D, Year 8

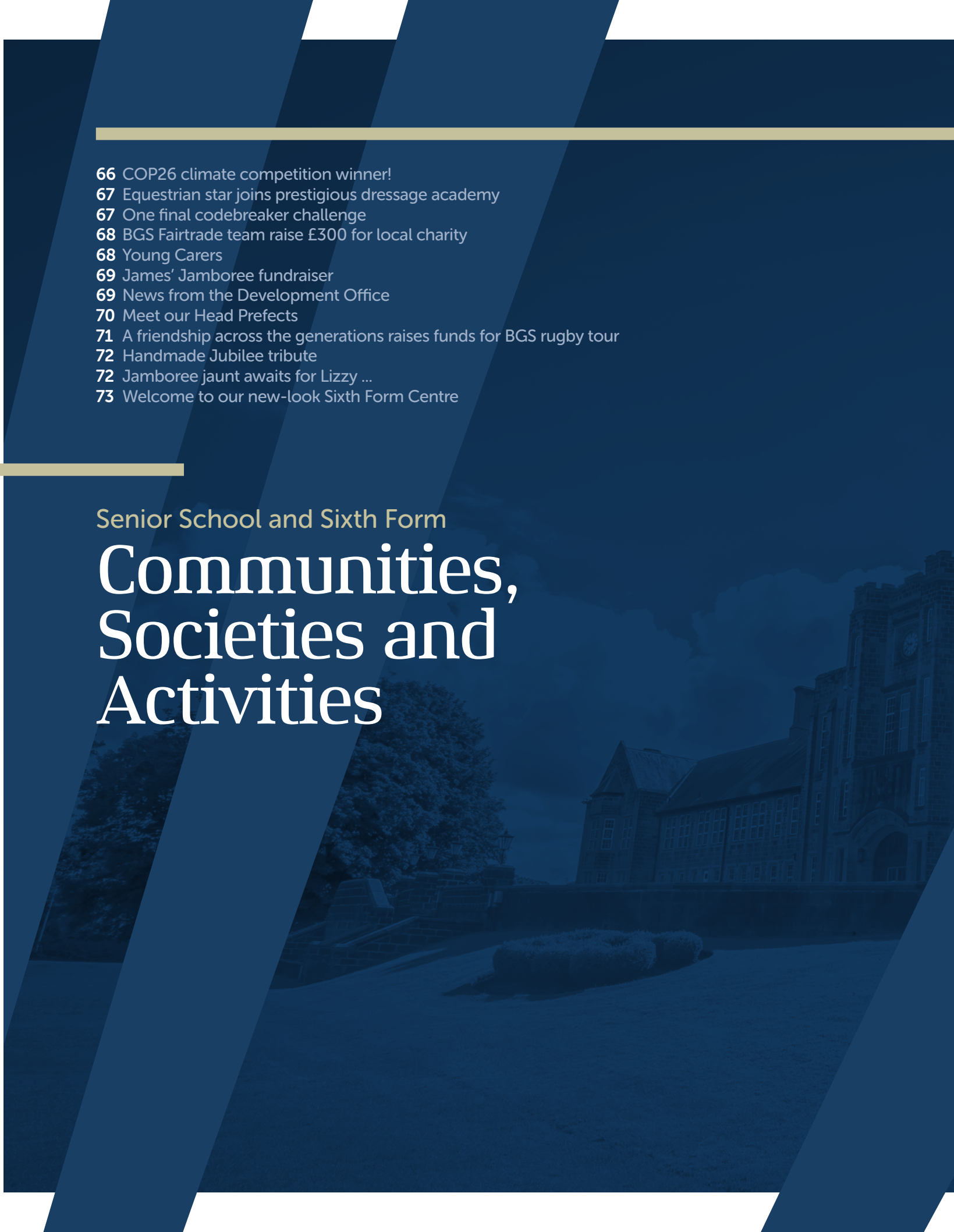


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Senior School and Sixth Form

Communities, Societies and Activities





Communities, Societies and Activities

COP26 climate competition winner!

– AUTUMN TERM 2021

Rohan has won an environmental competition designed to show how entrants would tackle climate change and lead the COP26 summit.

Sixth Form student Rohan L won the competition with his magazine called 'Resist', as part of a COP26 event run by Leeds University. The event comprised various webinars on tackling climate change, taking different perspectives such as legal, business and geographical.

For the competition, Rohan decided to produce a magazine focusing on the indigenous peoples in Indonesia. Articles looked at the workings of a fossil fuel orientated economy, the socio-environmental debate surrounding oil palm and the indigenous struggle.

Said Rohan: 'I was really pleased that I won, and it was good to see the hard work pay off and that my work could be valued in a university setting.'

Rohan's competition win came as world leaders continued to gather for the COP26 climate change summit in Glasgow.

'I think people are getting the physical components of climate change, like the ice caps melting and CO2 emissions increasing, but there's so much ambiguity about the human aspect of climate change and how it's going to affect people and how we can protect them.

'Buying sustainable produce, educating ourselves about current climate issues and pressuring TNC's (Transnational Corporations) to adopt ethical methods of intervention in emerging nations are just some of the ways people can make a difference.'

READ MORE ...

<https://bit.ly/bgs-cop26>





Equestrian star joins prestigious dressage academy

– AUTUMN TERM 2021

Teenage equestrian, Tabby W is a step closer to fulfilling her dreams of riding for Great Britain after being selected for British Dressage's prestigious Foundation Academy and being placed fourth in a national schools' competition.

Back in October, Tabby represented BGS at dressage in the finals of the National Schools Equestrian Association at Keysoe International, in Cambridgeshire, on her beloved Bequia (nicknamed 'Baggy'), her 17.2hh Hanoverian chestnut gelding.

It came after Tabby was selected for the British Dressage Foundation Academy, a supportive pathway aimed at increasing the chances of young riders being selected for Great Britain.

Said Tabby: 'I was really proud to get into the academy. I've been riding most of my life, since I was about four, and I started dressage when I was 12. Dressage is very technical, and it does look a bit like horse dancing. The horses have to be very supple and strong in their legs and it's harder than it looks.

'When I'm riding Baggy, we work together rather than me just telling him what to do, especially in competitions. He knows when it's a competition and he loves to compete and show off. It would be great to swap the BGS initials one day for GB!'

Tabby is studying for A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and History and would love to be an equine vet when she leaves school.

At the Foundation Academy, she will be taking part in specialist training with GB selectors, coaches and international judges as well as physios and mindset professionals.



One final codebreaker challenge

– AUTUMN TERM 2021

By T Birkinshaw, Head of Computer Science

After reaching the national finals of the CyberFirst Girls Competition earlier this year, our team of (now) Year 9 codebreakers were invited to a celebration event at the McLaren Technology Centre.

Before the event, the girls were given one final challenge: solving a series of cybersecurity puzzles which led to a secret message from F1 driver Lando Norris.

On the day, they were treated to talks from a variety of figures in the cybersecurity industry, before getting a behind-the-scenes tour of the McLaren Technology Centre, which is not normally open to the public. There was a real variety of vehicles on show, from Bruce McLaren's first race car (a 1929 Austin 7 – still fully working!), to the McLaren MP4-23 driven by Lewis Hamilton when he won his first F1 championship.

It was a truly fascinating day for all involved, and no doubt one which our pupils will remember for a long time.



BGS Fairtrade team raise £300 for local charity

– AUTUMN TERM 2021

The Fairtrade team led by Mrs Kingsley raised £300 last year by selling Fairtrade snacks in School. They used the funds to help families in West Bradford supported by the Early Help Children's Services team.

The team, who are unable to accept financial donations, require shopping vouchers, so they can buy clothes for children in local families who require some extra support.

Joanne Belgrave, the Bradford West Family Hub Co-ordinator, came into School before the October half term break to collect the vouchers and thank the students, and will use them to buy children's hats, gloves and warm layers for the winter weather as well as underwear, socks and other basic clothing for children.

Well done to the Fairtrade team for their act of generosity and to everyone who supported this initiative.

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Well done to the Fairtrade team for their act of generosity and to everyone who supported this initiative.

Young Carers

– SPRING TERM 2022

Every Thursday evening from 4.00pm until 6.00pm a dozen Young Carers from across the Bradford District come to Bradford Grammar School to receive academic help and support from ten Year 12 Volunteers.

Our Volunteers are helping the students academically in Maths, English, Science, Design Technology and with any other academic needs. The two hours are mutually beneficial with our students developing useful tutoring and mentoring skills and the young carers receiving academic and emotional support. Ketisha Dale, The Senior Leader from Young Carers, has been really pleased by the impact our sixth formers have made in just a few weeks.

The group will continue to meet on Thursdays until Easter.



James' Jamboree fundraiser

– SPRING TERM 2022

Making flapjack for pampered pooches and busking in Halifax's Piece Hall are just two of the ways enterprising BGS pupil James N has been raising funds for his trip to a world Scouting event next year.

James, 13, of Halifax, has been delighted to secure a place at the 25th World Scouting Jamboree, in Korea, next August, which will welcome 40,000 youngsters from across the globe.

To fund his trip, James has to raise £3,800 and, so far, he has been selling sweets to fellow BGS pupils, baked goods, cleaning cars and selling flapjack made especially for dogs via a local coffee merchant.

He has also busked on his violin in Halifax to raise funds and is planning a Race Night at Sidal Rugby Club on March 12 and a sponsored Coast to Coast cycle ride.

The teenager, who is a member of 35th All Saints Halifax Scouts, said he'd found raising a large amount of money daunting initially, but with the support of his family broke down the amount he needed to raise by each month and planned his fundraising activities.

Said James: 'I think it's really important we fundraise for this ourselves. It's part of the enjoyment of the whole thing. It teaches you courage, whether you're asking businesses for prizes for a raffle, organising race nights or selling sweets to pupils in school, it's all putting yourself out there. It also makes you quite entrepreneurial!'

James was selected for the trip after taking part in a jamboree day at Bradley Wood Scout Campsite, in Brighouse, last year.

'I'm really looking forward to going and making new friends. I think it's going to be brilliant,' he added.

JAMES HAS SET UP A 'GO FUND ME' PAGE. FOR MORE DETAILS:
<https://gofund.me/5e36e79e>



I think it's really important we
fundraise for this ourselves. It's part
of the enjoyment of the whole thing.
It teaches you courage ...

News from the Development Office

– SPRING TERM 2022

By Lindsey Davis, Director of
Development & External Relations

Here in the Development Office, we've been delighted by the success of the 1662 Campaign for Assisted Places, which is changing lives and widening access to BGS for bright young people in our region. More than 230 Old Bradfordians and friends have raised £1.5 million to date, helping us on our mission to double the number of students who benefit from Assisted Places from 10 to 20 per cent of the school community.

This is just the start. BGS is launching its first ever Giving Day on 12-13 May, celebrating all things BGS with Old Bradfordians across the world! The goal? To use the experiences of everyone here at BGS to inspire even more support for our award-winning campaign.

We are seeking student and parent ambassadors to share stories about life at BGS, so that wherever they are, Old Bradfordians feel connected to today's BGS. Who knows, perhaps yours will be the story to inspire a donation?!

To learn more about being involved, contact development@bradfordgrammar.com or call 01274 553712.



Meet our Head Prefects

– SUMMER TERM 2022

We speak to Head Prefects,
George and Caitlin, about their
new roles and their time at BGS.

**What made you want to be
a Head Prefect?**

George For me, the most important thing was to repay the investment and opportunities that the school has given me since I joined in Year 7 – from the multitude of sporting activities to being in lessons where the teachers have helped develop me to where I am today.

Caitlin I've been here since Year 7 and I'm proud to have been part of BGS and to have had the opportunities that have been offered to me. I've worked hard in, and for the school, and I feel I am being rewarded for that as well as giving back to the school and being a role model for younger students.

**How did you feel when you found
out you'd been selected?**

George It was unexpected. The other two Senior Prefects were just as qualified as me, but I was extremely happy and I couldn't get the smile off my face when I found out.

Caitlin I felt very excited and shocked. I am proud of all of us that are Senior Prefects.

**What duties do you have
to undertake?**

George A lot of it comes down to the organisation of the other prefects. I'm a Pastoral Prefect as well so I'll organise the board games club at lunchtime and organise some bigger events such as the ball or the school yearbook.

Caitlin We have to organise the Christmas and summer balls and also help out at lunchtimes. We give tours to Old Bradfordians and visitors to school, hold assemblies and we give speeches at Founders' Day and Speech Day.

What subjects are you studying?

George Maths, Economics, Psychology and PE

Caitlin Art, English Literature and History

**Which parts of the role are you
looking forward to?**

George I think I'll enjoy being a role model for the younger students and to help them have the same experience at the school that I've had – that's really important to me.

Caitlin This role is a great opportunity to meet people. I feel like I've gained a lot from school which I'm happy to talk about. I'm looking forward to the assemblies and being able to speak in front of people and meeting visitors on Open Days. I'll enjoy encouraging others to make the most of their opportunities.

**What will the most challenging
parts of the job be?**

George From what I've heard, the most challenging parts are people management and making sure that everyone is fulfilling their roles and responsibilities. It's about everybody stepping up because the chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

Caitlin I agree with George in that it's about making sure everybody feels listened to. I am also keen to keep up with all my co-curricular activities which will require managing my time.



It's how you get along with people
and how you handle responsibility
that matters.



They're looking for someone who has the commitment and connection to the School and you don't want to fake that, it needs to be real!

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How do you think you will complement each other?

George Both of us are strongly determined and have a drive to fulfil the role to the best of our abilities. If we both have the dedication, then we can bounce ideas from one another and that will make a very effective team.

Caitlin I think George and I are both driven and we want to do the job well. We're both friendly people and good communicators. It will be a good opportunity for us to get to know each other as well.

What advice would you give to those who want to be prefects?

George The advice I would give is to be honest and be yourself, especially when you're applying for the position and in the interviews. They're looking for someone who has the commitment and connection to the School and you don't want to fake that, it needs to be real!

Caitlin Work hard and be nice to people. A lot of it comes down to what you're like as a person rather than the subjects you study and what you want to do after school. It's how you get along with people and how you handle responsibility that matters.



A friendship across the generations raises funds for BGS rugby tour

– SUMMER TERM 2022

A friendship across the generations led to a generous donation to the BGS South African rugby tour in July.

Year 11 student George W met Anita Dickerson, 78, almost three years ago when he started his morning paper round in Bingley.

Anita, and her husband David, were customers of George's and have been friends ever since. Anita and David were very appreciative of George delivering their papers, especially during the pandemic, and would often have a socially distanced chat on the doorstep. Even though George has recently stopped doing his paper round, he and Anita have stayed in touch.

Anita is a big rugby fan and when she found out about school's plans for a tour to South Africa, she started to raise money by selling her lovely cross-stitch work. She has since raised the amazing sum of £1,300 to contribute to the rugby tour.



Handmade Jubilee tribute

– SUMMER TERM 2022

This term, members of 'Handmade' (and a couple of special guests) have been working on a group project in order to commemorate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

They designed their own blocks, all linked to London/Britishness/The Queen, and hand stitched them. They have now been pieced together into a beautiful hanging which will be hung in the Headmaster's Corridor.



Jamboree jaunt awaits for Lizzy ...

– SUMMER TERM 2022

Sweet cones, a Spring Fair plant and book stall and a race night are just some of the fundraising activities Year 8 student Lizzy W has been running to secure her place at the 25th World Scouting Jamboree next year.

Lizzy, 13, needs to raise £3,800 before next August so she can join more than 40,000 Scouts from across the world at the camp in Korea.

The teenager is a member of the 65th Bradford South Scouts and is looking forward to more fundraising activities, including a potential raft building event.

She said: 'So far, I've raised almost £1,000. Some things make more money than others and you have to make sure you cover your costs, but it all adds up. The amount we raise also goes towards helping Scouts in other countries who wouldn't be able to attend otherwise.'

'I'm really looking forward to the experience and meeting lots of different people. It will be like one big festival.'

'I've never had the opportunity to do anything like this before. I think the whole experience of fundraising is about earning your place rather than simply being given it and I think it's better that way.'

Other activities Lizzy has organised are a Spring Fair in Shelf, which included a sponsored throwing of wet sponges, running the tuck shop at Scouts and selling tickets for a LazerZone evening in July.

TO SUPPORT LIZZIE PLEASE VISIT HER 'GO FUND ME' PAGE ...
<https://gofund.me/5c3cedc9>

I've never had the opportunity to do anything like this before. I think the whole experience of fundraising is about earning your place rather than simply being given it and I think it's better that way.



Welcome to our new-look Sixth Form Centre

– SUMMER TERM 2022

An exciting new chapter for Bradford Grammar School is happening with the opening of our newly redesigned Sixth Form Centre in September.

The remodelled centre will feature distinct zones designed for private study, modern IT capability and comfort providing the perfect place for our senior students to learn, study and unwind.

The new Sixth Form Centre café will offer a wide, seasonal menu with service beginning early in the morning and continuing throughout the day. A large computer suite with fast wireless connectivity will be integral to the space and amply meet the requirements of our hardworking A Level students.

Ross McOwen, Head of Year 13 at BGS, said: 'The bespoke accommodation will provide our Sixth Formers with the finest, state-of-the-art facilities.

'Having opened our original Sixth Form Centre in 2001, we feel the time is now right to create the ideal, professional, environment in which our evolving vision for our students can be realised, enabling individuals to flourish, whatever their chosen career pathway.

'I look forward with great anticipation to a new era of the BGS Sixth Form where we will continue to celebrate our culture of academic pursuit and intellectual curiosity, celebration of wider interests and fostering of a healthy lifestyle, and high aspirations for all.'

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Senior School and Sixth Form

Trips





Trips





Making friends the BGS way!

– AUTUMN TERM 2021

By Emma Tomlinson, Head of Year 7

What a way to start the school year! The whole of Year 7 took part in a three-day residential trip to PGL Caythorpe Court in Lincolnshire in the very first week of term. A daunting prospect, perhaps, with it being so early in the term and following 18 months of disruption, but the pupils threw themselves in, in true BGS style, and made the most of what this opportunity presented.

We enjoyed a packed schedule which comprised two activities in the morning, two after lunch and then one more in the evening. We did archery, climbing, zipwire, giant swing and (always a favourite) raft-building, to name but a few.

To add to the experience, we stayed in the Tented Village with pupils in groups of up to five in each tent. Many enjoyed their first try at sleeping under canvas, although the lack of light and the bugs caused some cheery chaos at times.

All pupils exceeded expectations, overcoming homesickness, throwing themselves into the activities, behaving impeccably and doing BGS proud. They came together as a year group very swiftly and I'm excited to see what the rest of the year brings for them.



Sixth Form Classics trip to London

– AUTUMN TERM 2021

By Kate Meakin, Head of Classics

One of the first productions to emerge from lockdown was a specially written four-actor performance of Ovid's 'Metamorphoses' at Shakespeare's Globe.

By turn thrilling, unsettling, humorous and dark (and sometimes all at once), this was an unforgettable way for our Sixth Form students to re-immense themselves in Classics trips.

We were lucky to be able to combine this with a visit to the Nero exhibition at the British Museum, which invited us to decide whether to re-assess Nero's image as a dangerous matricidal megalomaniac: on the whole we decided against.

Senior School and Sixth Form Trips



Unearthing the secrets of the local area

– AUTUMN TERM 2021

By Fran Handbury, Head of Geography

For the first time in their geographical studies, Year 13 geographers struck out to gather fieldwork data for their own investigation. The independent investigation gives students the freedom to research a topic of interest to them and the chance to study the intricacies of the local area.

Students investigated topics as diverse as the temporal changes in the use of Lister Park and the motivations of Ilkley residents for purchasing locally sourced food. Alongside traditional data collection methods like questionnaires and pedestrian counts, pupils conducted creative fieldwork techniques such as mood mapping, sound mapping and urban wanderings to build an understanding of people's experience of an area.

After their day in the field, the data crunching could begin, before a detailed analysis of their findings to answer those all-important questions for investigation. As you read this, their exertions are fast becoming one of their many memories of school life but the skills they worked so hard to develop will serve them into the future at university and beyond.



On the trail of the Tudors ...

– SPRING TERM 2022

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After two years' absence we were royally welcomed by our experts as we trod in Wolsey's steps at Hampton Court ...

Despite everything, including a very unhelpful M1, the Year 13 Historians made it to London for their residential Tudor Trail in January.

After two years' absence we were royally welcomed by our experts as we trod in Wolsey's steps at Hampton Court, studied the graffiti of Tudor political prisoners in the Tower of London and tried not to crack our heads on the low beams of The Golden Hinde.

The highlight turned out to be a bespoke tour of Westminster Abbey which included a proper close-up of Henry VII's magnificent tomb in the Lady Chapel.

We also managed a good tour of an unsurprisingly empty London by foot and river. The final stop on the way home was Kenilworth Castle to see how Leicester welcomed Elizabeth I on her royal progresses. It was good to get out.



London Classics Trip

– SPRING TERM 2022

UCL's lively and unorthodox production of Euripides' 'Electra', along with a talk from Dr Michael Loy, gave Greek and Classical Civilisation students from Years 9 to 13 insights into the staging of Greek tragedies.

The highlight for most of us, though, was an out-of-hours tour of the British Museum's Greek galleries, with an inspiring and thought-provoking introduction by an archaeologist from UCL.



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Senior School and Sixth Form

Events and Visiting Speakers





Events and Visiting Speakers



Inspirational Dyson engineer visit

– AUTUMN TERM 2021

An inventor who has designed products in use across the world encouraged hundreds of Yorkshire children to solve problems and innovate during a two-day event.

Ben Edmonds balances his time working as principal engineer at Dyson with inspiring the next generation of inventors through his company, InnovationBen.

During a visit to BGS, as part of one of our regular outreach events, enthusiastic children at the junior school and other

Yorkshire schools took part in a design innovation challenge hosted by Ben. He then led innovation workshops for BGS's GCSE students, before giving a public lecture in the evening to explore the future of engineering design and innovation.

Headmaster Dr Simon Hinchliffe, said: 'We were delighted to see that so many children from other schools in Yorkshire could join us in enjoying Ben's interactive workshops. I'm sure he will have inspired many of them to consider taking up careers as inventors and innovators.'

READ THE FULL STORY
<https://bit.ly/BGS-Dyson>



Telethon success!

– AUTUMN TERM 2021

By Lindsey Davis, Director of
Development & External Relations

In July 2021, 13 student callers took to the phones to raise funds for our 1662 Campaign for Assisted Places.

Callers were recruited from the Sixth Form and recent leavers, from a fiercely competitive field of applicants. Over the course of two weeks, they enjoyed 407 inspirational conversations with Old Bradfordians (OBs), raising more than £138,000 in support of two fully funded Assisted Places in the process! Their efforts meant that we were able to welcome a child to Year 7 and a new Year 12 Sixth Former this September – young people who would not be enjoying all that BGS has to offer without this support.

Our amazing caller team really enjoyed the experience, learning valuable communication skills which will stay with them for the rest of their lives. They benefitted hugely from learning about the experiences of OBs, which in some cases have helped to inform their own university and career decisions. And finally, they felt they were genuinely making a difference.

Student caller Ans said: 'Knowing that you're actually making a difference with the money raised is invaluable. Students like myself will have their lives improved drastically.'

His teammate Aliya said: 'I've got to admit, I felt like a superhero at times. Securing donations from generous OBs of all ages was immensely rewarding, as they came together to help change a bright and talented student's life ... I would do it again just to walk back in history and learn about the experiences of the Old Bradfordians.'

We are grateful to everyone who pledged their support. To date, the 1662 Fund has raised more than £1.1 million for Assisted Places.

If you would like to learn more about the 1662 Campaign, please contact the development@bradfordgrammar.com or call 01274 553712.

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We are grateful to everyone who pledged their support. To date, the 1662 Fund has raised more than £1.1 million for Assisted Places.

BGS artists give back!

– SPRING TERM 2022

In February, budding artists from Years 9 and 10 welcomed award-winning illustrator Chris Mould to BGS. Chris is an ambassador for the children's hospice Forget Me Not, and pupils were delighted to present him with a cheque for funds raised in support of the charity, thanks to proceeds from the Biennial BGS Art Exhibition.

Chris's distinctive, slightly Gothic style will be immediately recognisable to anyone who enjoyed his reimagining of Ted Hughes' 'Iron Man', his contributions to a new illustrated edition of George Orwell's 'Animal Farm', or more recently, the TV adaptation Matt Haig's book 'A Boy Called Christmas', which Chris illustrated.

During his visit to BGS, Chris delivered a hugely enjoyable presentation on his artistic career to pupils and provided an injection of real artistic inspiration to the school day.





Gotta have faith ... BGS style!

– AUTUMN TERM 2021

By Richard Skelton, Head of Religious Studies

The Faiths in the City event for Year 9 pupils is an annual event for the School. This year was the tenth Faiths in the City event. Every year the School invites different local faiths leaders and artists into School to lead workshops and activities with pupils.

The theme this year was 'racial equality and harmony' and the day began with a powerful and thought-provoking performance from The Riding Lights theatre company from York.

Other highlights from the event included a fantastic dance workshop, where pupils learned classical Indian dance moves and about how the Hindu faith promotes equality and diversity through dance and scripture. More highlights and examples of workshops included Sikh music and performance, Islamic calligraphy and art, Buddhist meditation and practice.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed and embraced the experience, feeding back to each other on the different events at the end of the day and asking fantastic questions of our faith leaders. This was another fabulous event that was fun, engaging and a great experiential learning experience for all. Well done, Year 9!



Award-winning novelist holds creative writing workshop

– AUTUMN TERM 2021

Old Bradfordian Ross Raisin (1998), author of 'God's Own Country', 'Waterline' and 'A Natural', spent the afternoon of 5 October delivering a creative writing workshop to BGS pupils.

The workshop involved pupils analysing an extract from a short story and exploring how characterisation was so effective. Pupils then worked in pairs choosing a photograph and compared what ideas they had about the character's motivations, their personality and their thoughts before spending time writing character sketches of their own.

Later, Ross took part in one of the school's In Conversation events, which was also open to students at Beckfoot Upper Heaton School, in Bradford.

Said Ross: 'In all the ways that the school has changed over the past couple of decades – the ultra-modern new facilities, the more youthful face of the teaching staff, the beautiful library – it is the increasingly progressive policies of inclusion, of students from less well-off backgrounds and of the local community, that was the most pleasing thing for me to come back to. I left energised by my afternoon with the students.'

Ross has won or been shortlisted for more than ten awards, including winning the Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year Award in 2009 and being named in literary magazine and publisher Granta's once-a-decade Best of Young British Novelists list. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 2018.

Ross teaches creative writing at Leeds University and as part of the Guardian Masterclass programme. His next novel, 'A Hunger', will be published in summer 2022.

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... it is the increasingly progressive policies of inclusion, of students from less well-off backgrounds and of the local community, that was the most pleasing thing for me to come back to.



The beat goes on – Taiko style

– SUMMER TERM 2022

Mr Verfueth, who runs our Japanese club, organised a Taiko drumming day with the generous support of the Japan Foundation.

The whole of Year 7 took part in the workshops where they learned about the history behind this musical artform and had a go at playing the different sized drums. They quickly picked up some very complicated rhythms!

The day finished with a spectacular and rousing performance by the professional drummers – an excellent whole-school assembly to celebrate the end of term.

From September, we're excited to offer Japanese as an enrichment course on the Sixth Form curriculum.

Old Bradfordian drop-ins

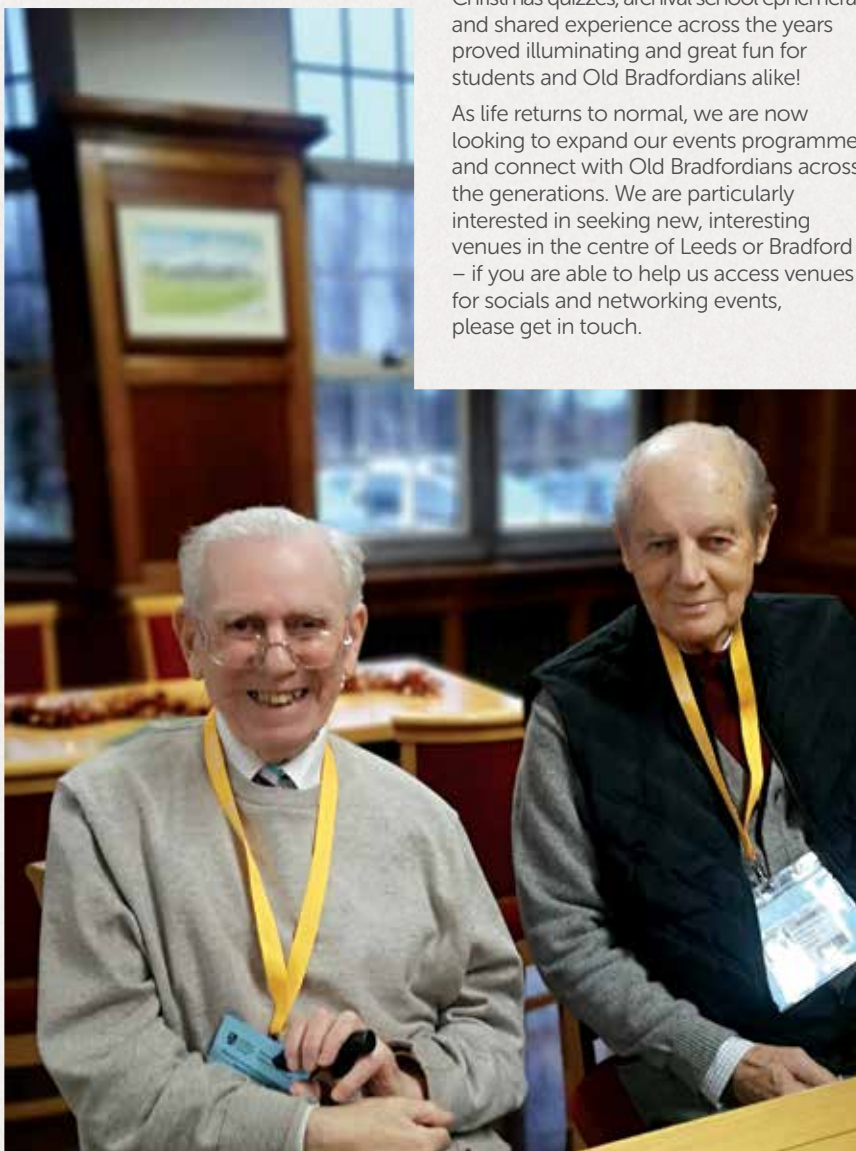
– SPRING TERM 2022

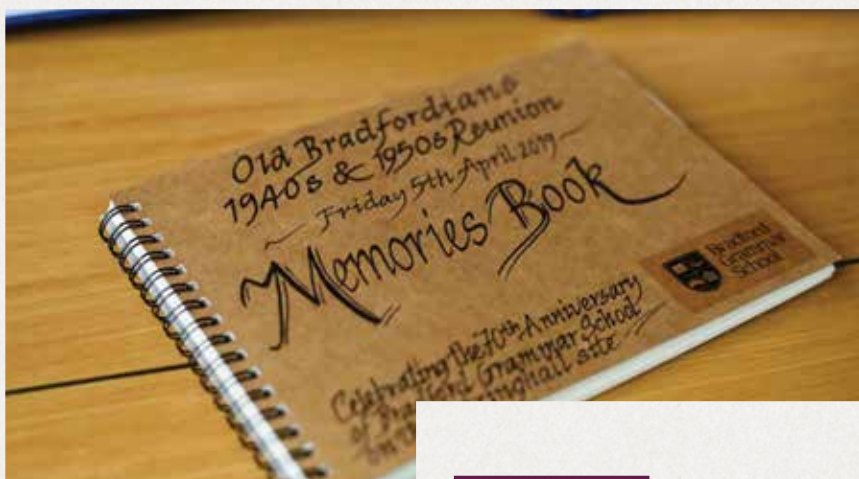
By Lindsey Davis, Director of
Development & External Relations

It's been wonderful to welcome Old Bradfordians back to school again. Over the last few months, student volunteers have hosted Old Bradfordians at BGS, having the opportunity to learn more about BGS history, provide conversation and share school news with locally based former students.

Christmas quizzes, archival school ephemera, and shared experience across the years proved illuminating and great fun for students and Old Bradfordians alike!

As life returns to normal, we are now looking to expand our events programme and connect with Old Bradfordians across the generations. We are particularly interested in seeking new, interesting venues in the centre of Leeds or Bradford – if you are able to help us access venues for socials and networking events, please get in touch.





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... to share many wonderful memories of their time at BGS. A great time was had by all.

1940s and 1950s Reunion

– SUMMER TERM 2022

Our annual 1940s and 1950s reunion took place on Friday April 8 and was a huge success.

More than 40 Old Bradfordians came together to enjoy food and drinks and to share many wonderful memories of their time at BGS. A great time was had by all.

TO SEE MORE IMAGES FROM THE DAY VISIT ...

<http://bitly.ws/sfU9>

BGS Giving Day

– SUMMER TERM 2022

Our first ever Giving Day Campaign was held on Thursday May 12 and Friday May 13. Thanks to a collective effort – and in true Hoc Age style – we not just met our match challenge target, but also exceeded it!

£75,266 was raised from 146 donors across the Old Bradfordian, staff and parental communities.

The entire School played its part in fundraising – including the headmaster, Dr Simon Hinchliffe, who was happily gunged once we'd reached one of our targets!

The 1662 Campaign for Assisted Places is stronger because of the generosity of the BGS community. A big thank you goes to all donors for enabling us to offer a bright child an outstanding, life changing education at Bradford Grammar School.

Assisted Places encapsulate a strong historical thread running through BGS and as we celebrate 360 years of our Royal Charter, it's been demonstrated yet again that these ideals are as important to us all today, as they have always been.



Ilkley Walk sees charity amount reach almost £5,000

– SUMMER TERM 2022

Year 7 pupils were delighted to present almost £5,000 and unwanted sports kit to Action for Sport, their chosen charity, in a special assembly.

They raised the money throughout the year by running a café in December, holding a Christmas disco and through a sponsored walk to Ilkley in May. The annual Ilkley walk has become such a fixture in the BGS calendar that pupils now bookend their career in the Senior School, walking to Ilkley in Year 7 and walking back in Year 13.

The weather was perfect for this year's event; cool and dry. All 135 pupils who set off from BGS enjoyed a picnic near the Lost Lad boundary stone, continued over Ilkley Moor at the Twelve Apostles and then enjoyed a bit of free time in Ilkley town centre before getting the train home. It was a great day out for pupils and staff alike.

The money raised will be used to help Action for Sport reach disadvantaged children in the Bradford area, helping them to access sport. Clive Michallat and Andrew Kenure, the co-founders of Action for Sport, were absolutely delighted with our donation and said a huge thank you to the children.





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Sporting Achievements



Sporting roundup Autumn 2021

– AUTUMN TERM 2021

By Ollie Rogers, Director of Sport

What a start to the year it has been on the sports field! With over 200 fixtures completed to date, it has certainly been action-packed for all year groups.

I have been very impressed with the new intake of Year 7s – we have seen over 90 students already represent the School in various sports, both mid-week and at the weekends. The commitment they have already shown will put them in good stead for the future.

Year 8 have been enjoying the opportunity to finally start playing regular fixtures after last year's drought on the fixtures front! Keep working hard and enjoying the different challenges.

Fixtures have been coming thick and fast for all age groups and it has been great to see students test themselves under the pressure of game days! We always play to win but not at the expense of enjoying the journey along the way. Year 11 pupils have set a new benchmark with their cup runs in cross country, hockey, netball and successes on the rugby field and we wish them well as they continue into the later stages of these competitions. This set of students are very determined, always working hard to set new standards and take on any challenge put in front of them. They are a great example to us all.

Our rowers have been back on the river, when levels allowed, to fine tune their technique ready for the regattas ahead. I know the seniors are keen to show what they are capable of and it is very pleasing to see this determination inspiring the younger generation.

Water polo, table tennis and orienteering squads have also been training hard with fixtures starting to pick up as the year goes on.

Over the half term break, we hosted a Tracey Neville netball masterclass. Over 50 girls attended in order to gain further understanding of the game. We will certainly be hosting more of these in the future across different sports, so please keep an eye out!

Also, over the half term break, the Year 8 rugby boys and Year 9 netball girls enjoyed a mini tour to North Wales. The squads took to the field and competed well against strong opposition whilst also challenging themselves off the field at Zip World for some adrenaline filled activities.

The new swimming programmes have been under way this term and have been a real hit with those involved. Training up to 16 hours a week has been made possible whilst also keeping an excellent provision for the students who like to train once or twice a week to hone their skills.

The tennis programme continues to gain momentum with old and new students involved in developing their understanding and ability in tennis throughout the year. We are certainly seeing some of these players showing real promise.

The athletic development programme has also been ever present where over 120 students are working on individual programmes to build speed, movement efficiency, strength and robustness when performing in their chosen sports.

It has been very exciting to see how well all the students have performed so far this year and I would like to thank the staff for their continued hard work in supporting their development and offering so many high-quality opportunities to stay active.



Rebecca secures gold for England!

– SPRING TERM 2022

Rebecca became the first female student in BGS history to don an England cross country vest – and won gold in the process.

Year 11 student Rebecca F won gold in the inter boys and inter girls 4 x 1500m relay race in the Home Countries' International Cross Country race at Pembrey Country Park, in Wales.

Said Rebecca: 'It was amazing to be selected for England so I was overjoyed when I won gold as well. When you start running when you're younger this is the dream you have – to one day run for England. It's been my goal for seven years, so in many ways it was surreal that it was happening. I really enjoyed it.'

The competition saw entrants from Wales, Ireland, England and Scotland. Rebecca, who runs with Bingley Harriers, has made many friends in the running world having competed regularly over the last few years.

She said: 'I've raced against them so many times but we're all friends. We run because we enjoy it. We all do the training and put the effort in but if we took it too seriously it would take away from the enjoyment of it.'

Like many of BGS's athletes, Rebecca enjoys the support the school offers to runners.

'The support is really good,' she said. 'We're lucky to have a running group which goes out at lunchtimes, and we have a good team atmosphere so quite a lot of us came to the finals in Kent (which determined England selection.) It takes some of the pressure off having friends there.'

As for future ambitions, Rebecca is happy to simply keep on running. 'I'll keep enjoying it and see what happens,' she said. 'Hopefully it will entail running more international races.'

Simon Hinchliffe, headmaster at BGS, said: 'We were incredibly proud of Rebecca simply being selected for England. It reflected all her talent and her hard work training, particularly through the wet winter months. To win gold was absolutely fantastic and we can't wait to see what she and her thriving BGS cross country teammates achieve over the next few months.'



It was amazing to be selected for England so I was overjoyed when I won gold as well. When you start running when you're younger this is the dream you have ...





BGS hockey players are a 'strong force' for the future

– SPRING TERM 2022

Boys' hockey started this term across age groups. This year was the first time we have fielded a genuine 1st XI side comprising of Year 11 and 12 boys. They have trained well and performed far beyond expectations, with a decent cup run and victories against St Peter's York, Sedbergh and Pocklington.

Further down the school the numbers engaging with the programme are excellent. Some students are developing skills for the first time and others are being able to showcase their experience in national competitions. The U14 and U13 have been crowned County Champions and will continue to be a strong force in future years. Well done to all involved.

The U16 girls, having had a strong term in the autumn ended their cup run against Scarborough College in the quarter finals of the Tier 2 National Cup.



ESAA Fell Championships 2021

– AUTUMN TERM 2021

By Sally Barennes, Assistant Coach,
Cross Country

On 26 September, BGS took seven pupils to participate in the ESAA Fell Championships, hosted by Sedbergh School. Amongst them, Amelie L won the U17 girls' race to become the English Schools' Fell Champion.

Amelie, who is quite a 'mountain goat' on the fells, also led her team to victory, with strong support from Rebecca F who placed fourth and Carla B in fifth. There was another strong performance from Theo C who finished seventh in the U19 boys' race.

Kudos to all seven runners who represented the School (others were Elsa F, Phoebe M and Alex F) and completed what was indeed a gruelling event – the runners 'zigzagged' up the well-known 'Winder' fell and then 'let themselves go' down a steep descent back to the finish. These strong early season performances on the fell are a good indicator of fitness levels and bear well for the forthcoming cross-country season.



Outstanding season for cross country teams

– SPRING TERM 2022

BGS runners have enjoyed a fabulous season, especially our Intermediate and Senior Girls. In fact, this group of talented young female runners are without doubt the best schools' team in the country.

They earned that crown in comfortably winning both the ESAA XC Cup as well as the prestigious King Henry Relays. The team of Rebecca F, Amelie L, Emily G, Carla B, Elsa F and Grace D are currently head and shoulders above their nearest rivals. They have been rewarded for their successes with a trip to Slovakia to represent our nation's schools in the World Schools XC Event.

... this group of talented young female runners are without doubt the best schools' team in the country.



Just to share a few more highlights from our leading female runners ... Rebecca F won the English Schools XC Cup race individually as well as the West Yorkshire Schools XC and she ran the 4th fastest leg of the day at the King Henry Relays. Most recently Rebecca also squeezed into the England team with her 10th place finish in the English Schools. Amelie L is the reigning ESAA Fell Champion and Emily G was herself this year crowned British Schools Orienteering Champion, winning both the classic day-time and night-time orienteering events.

Alex F, Rebecca's elder brother, is our leading male runner. Now in Year 13, Alex has finally been able to benefit from the support of a team. Indeed, we fielded a team at the King Henry Relays for the first time in several years and the boys finished a commendable 9th. Alex himself was runner up in the West Yorkshire Schools XC and his younger teammate Ben H was similarly runner up in the Intermediate event.

Theo C, Alex's Bingley teammate joined the BGS Sixth Form in September and is a huge asset to the squad. Theo together with Ben and Alex represented West Yorkshire at last week's English Schools event in Kent. Phoebe M also made the team together with Rebecca, Amelie, Emily and Carla. We therefore had an impressive eight athletes from BGS qualify as individuals for the ESAA XC Championships.

Our boys are also fortunate to be invited to accompany our girls at the forthcoming World Schools XC. We need to build on the momentum and indeed hope that the many successes of our Intermediate and Senior students will help motivate our younger athletes.



Top teams for Table Tennis

– SPRING TERM 2022

This term has been a busy one for Schools' Table Tennis. Bradford Grammar hosted the West Yorkshire Schools Individual with more than 100 pupils from West Yorkshire taking part in eight competitions and then the Zone Finals of the ESTTA Team Competition.

Bradford Grammar had team success with U16 girls and U13 boys qualifying as Zone Winners. The boys' team of Aarez A, Anish M, Neelen T, Billy T and Stanley W defeated Birkdale 6-2, Newcastle Under Lyme 7-1 and Beckfoot School 6-2. The girls defeated Newcastle Under Lyme school 5-3. Evie D, Emma M, Holly L and Brenda N also qualified for the Regional Finals in February.

Emily G became British Night Orienteering Champion in her age category, following a storming run through the snow at night on Ilkley Moor to beat the best girls in the country.





BGS stars secure host of orienteering achievements

– SPRING TERM 2022

By David Alcock, Orienteering Coach

It has been a fantastic few months for our BGS orienteers. Over February half term, Year 12 student Emily G became British Night Orienteering Champion in her age category, following a storming run through the snow at night on Ilkley Moor to beat the best girls in the country.

Building on Emily's national success, in March, Year 9 student Henry S achieved a Bronze in the British Middle Distance Orienteering Championships at Rushmere.

It came as BGS orienteers returned from the British Schools Championships at Stowe, Buckinghamshire, in November last year with their best ever results, leaping up from eighth in 2019 to joint second place.

Captain Emily G (Year 12) and Vice-Captain Tom T (Year 11) won their categories, Joseph D was second Year 8 boy, and Henry S was third Year 9 boy. The Year 9 boys (Henry, Daniel and Ben) won their age category, as they did two years ago. Meanwhile, the Year 10 boys (Edwin, Mustafa and James) were third, reclaiming their podium spot from 2018. The nine counters who helped BGS to second position were Emily, Tom, Joseph, Henry, Daniel, Ben, Edwin, James, and Maya.

The race was the culmination of a weekend away which included a night orienteering session and an Italian meal. The team boasts several county-level athletes, and we look forward to success at forthcoming future events.



From Classics to the Commonwealth Games!

– SUMMER TERM 2022

Classics teacher Jack Oliver did BGS proud when he fought back from injury to compete for England at weightlifting in the Commonwealth Games.

Mr Oliver, who teaches Latin, missed out on a medal and achieved sixth place in the 73kg category at the games in Birmingham in July.

Mr Oliver, who'd been using the school's gym during the evening so he could fit his training around his busy teaching schedule and commute, said:

The training I'd done was good enough for a medal but sometimes things don't go your way. I never thought I'd ever get to a fourth Commonwealth Games and I'd forgotten how special it was competing at a home games.

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'The training I'd done was good enough for a medal but sometimes things don't go your way. I never thought I'd ever get to a fourth Commonwealth Games and I'd forgotten how special it was competing at a home games. It's so much better – you could really hear the difference in the crowd.'

Originally from London, Mr Oliver began weightlifting when he was 14 when his gymnastics club converted a former broom cupboard into a weightlifting gym.

He went on to compete professionally for 17 years and has a silver medal from the 2018 Commonwealth Games and came tenth in the weightlifting 77kg category during the London Olympics in 2012.

Mr Oliver, who joined BGS in 2018, had almost retired from the sport due to injury when in early 2021, during the pandemic, he went to the gym with a friend and started lifting again.





BGS students celebrate World Schools Cross Country Championships success

– SUMMER TERM 2022

Amelie races in Spanish mountains

– SUMMER TERM 2022

BGS runner Amelie Lane headed to the Canary Islands after being selected to compete for Great Britain at the European Mountain Running Championships.

Amelie was selected for the U20 Women Up and Down team in the innovative continental championship, which combines the disciplines of trail and mountain running, in El Paso, on the Spanish island of La Palma in July. The talented runner came tenth.

A talented team of runners were celebrating again after returning to Bradford as world schools cross country champions. The teenagers competed for BGS in the ISF World Schools Cross Country Championships, in Slovakia, where the girls' team were placed first overall.

Students Rebecca F, Grace D, Emily G, Amelie L, Elsa F and Carla B, who run for clubs across West Yorkshire including Bingley Harriers, Wharfedale Harriers and Ilkley Harriers, were delighted by the result.

Meanwhile the boys' team of Joe H, Ben H, Theo C and Alex F ran their socks off to come seventh out of 13 teams across the world.

The latest girls' victory comes after the first female student in BGS's history to wear an England vest, Rebecca F, competed in the Home Countries' International Cross Country race where she won gold in the inter girls 4x1500m relay race. Rebecca gained a silver medal in the world schools cross country championships, ensuring the team took the top spot overall.

Simon Hinchliffe, headmaster at BGS, said: 'BGS runners are enjoying a fantastic season and for the girls to be crowned world schools champions is a credit to the school and to themselves. They've all trained hard to get where they are and we're incredibly proud. I'm sure they'll remember this moment for the rest of their lives.'





BGS hockey coach graduates from Great Britain programme

– SUMMER TERM 2022

BGS' David Birch was celebrating in June after graduating from the Great Britain Hockey Advanced Coaching Programme.

The prestigious programme only accepts 30 applicants per cohort, including 20 from England, five from Wales and five from Scotland.

Mr Birch, a Specialist Hockey Coach at BGS, has spent three years having the opportunity to further his learning, including at camps featuring various England Age Group Squads.

He said: 'I've learnt so much from it and it was amazing how much detail the coaches gave. I really welcomed the opportunity to observe them close up. The programme has been really excellent for developing my knowledge beyond what technical and tactical aspects are delivered on the pitch, I now consider the psych-social, mental and physiological needs of all players.'

'The kids at school are just getting better and better and there are a couple of really promising young players progressing well in the England Hockey pathway. I've really enjoyed putting all I've learned into practice.'

Mr Birch graduated at a ceremony in June at the Hockey and Tennis Centre at Olympic Park. Great Britain's most successful ever coach, Danny Kerry, who was the coach of the Rio 2016 gold medal winning side, presented David his programme certificate. He is currently studying for a Masters in Coaching at Leeds University.



Rugby support for #ThisIsLuke

– SUMMER TERM 2022

BGS's Specialist Rugby Coach, Dan Scarbrough, was Head Coach of Yorkshire County Men's XV this season in the England Rugby Bill Beaumont County Championship 2022.

This season the championship consisted of two games with Yorkshire travelling up to Whitley Bay Rockcliff RFC on Sat May 7 to face Northumberland, followed by the War of the Roses match against Lancashire on Sat May 14 at West Park Leeds as part of the Yorkshire RFU 'Grand Day Out' played as a double header fixture with the Yorkshire Women's team.

The team won both games scoring more than four tries in each to take maximum points in the league, with Harry Boyd an Old Bradfordian taking part on the wing and scoring against Northumberland with his first touch of the ball.

Next season will see an extra match with the finalists playing at the home of rugby at Twickenham stadium.

The match supported the #ThisIsLuke fundraising efforts for an eight-year-old ex-Skipton Rugby player who lost his limbs to meningitis.

A busy and successful sporting summer term at BGS

– SUMMER TERM 2022

By Ollie Rogers, Director of Sport

It's been great to see students embrace the summer sports programmes here at Bradford Grammar. It seems like such a long time ago since we had an uninterrupted summer sport programme.

We've seen the return of the Bradford Grammar Athletics League with local schools coming to compete across different disciplines. This is a great opportunity for the students to compete on a more familiar level. We've had three of the four squads qualify for the regional round of the ESAA Cup plus plenty of representation from the students for the City of Bradford in the West Yorkshire Championships.



Cricket has returned for both the boys and girls with both hard ball and soft ball matches. The familiar fixture list and cup competitions have been welcomed back with the games being as competitive as ever. The six-a-side competitions are a welcome variation of the format to really test the students' skills under pressure. This year has seen us put our very first all-girl hard ball side against a local club side in what was a fantastic match that went to the very last ball. I am sure these occasions will become regulars on the fixture list and inspire the girls to enjoy the game of cricket.

The gymnasts also had a super run out at the English School Gymnastics Association National Finals. They have all been working exceptionally hard to prepare for this and secured fourth place, narrowly missing out on bronze.

The rowers have been enjoying the good weather out on the river with a mix of Saturday training and regattas across the North of England. They've competed well across the age groups against strong opposition. The whole squad has really shown what they are capable of this year with the first eight flying well in Durham and Bella M finishing 4th in the National Junior Sculling Regatta.

It's been great to see students embrace the summer sports programmes here at Bradford Grammar. It seems like such a long time ago since we had an uninterrupted summer sport programme.



The tennis programme has been as busy as ever with the normal block fixtures taking place alongside a mix of mid-week friendlies, Local Schools League' tennis festivals and the introduction of Bradford Park League Matches.

The standard has been great to see with more students than ever playing in competitive matches. The all-year-round tennis programme is really having an impact on the students making sure they are ready for action come the summer months.

Well done to everyone who has been training and competing well this term.



Sport Reports

Netball

It's been fantastic to get the netball programme back up and running following the prolonged period of no fixtures and minimal training sessions throughout the COVID pandemic. It was evident that our players and coaches were eager to get back to netball and this season has been anything but quiet with an impressive 207 fixtures played across the age groups. 109 games won, 86 games lost, and 16 games drew put us at a 52.7 percent success rate for the season.

Alongside fixtures, our Netball Parents' Association has done a wonderful job running our Annual Christmas Markets and Fashion Show fundraiser events, which were well attended after many months of isolation and restrictions.

We were honoured to hold the West Yorkshire round of the England Netball National Schools' Competition and to host the Bradford Schools' age group tournament.

We would like to thank all involved in the Bradford Grammar Netball Club this season - the parents, coaches, athletes and most importantly our wonderful netball graduate Hannah Newman who, after two years with us, is moving on to coach netball to those less fortunate in Zambia. We wish Hannah the best of luck and feel privileged to have had her with us for the past two seasons.

1st VII

Our 1st VII has been something really special this year and have been a pleasure to coach. This competitive, determined squad have not had an easy season by any means, winning only seven out of 18 games, losing nine and drawing two, however the improvements made across all players in the squad from the start to the end of the season is something they should all be proud of and is entirely down to their sheer hard work and commitment, led by our fantastic captaincy duo, Amelia B and Rebecca M.

We started the season with a nail biting one goal win over Stockport Grammar, where strong performances from Club Captain Grace C and super shooter Emily H helped us get over the line. Unfortunately though, our winners' luck soon came to an end with two tough losses against Cheadle Hulme (26-41), in the first round of the Independent Schools National Cup and Woodhouse Grove (22-30). Clear examples of our improvements made came later in the season where we went on to beat both Woodhouse Grove and Cheadle Hulme the second time around 25-24 and 38-37.

A definite season highlight for this group was ending the season at the Queen Margaret's Tournament where our girls played some pleasing netball in hot conditions. Particular strong performances from mid-court superstars Anuli O and defence demon Molly B helped us to finish 4th overall, losing out to a strong St Peter's team in the Semi-final, who eventually went on to win the whole thing.

We would like to use this opportunity to wish all of our leavers the best of luck as they embark on new chapters in their lives. We are so proud of you all and thankful for all that you have contributed towards BGS Netball.

1st VII Award Winners

Players' Player Anuli O

Coaches' Awards Molly B

Most Improved Rebecca M

The Pat Evans Overall Contribution to Netball Memorial Award Grace C

Role Model of the Year Grace C



2nd VII

The 2nd VII at BGS is always a happy place to be but the squad of 2021-22 have had a special vibe. Not only has there been a great team spirit, but also a thirst for knowledge, enthusiasm to train and a desire to improve as individuals and as a squad.

The most impressive development of the squad throughout the season has been the ability to decision make and implement a game plan effectively, reacting and responding to the current situation. It has been a pleasure to watch the girls mature as netballers.

Many players have needed to be adaptable and play multiple positions as a result of injury, unavailability or, on the odd occasion, players going to the wrong venue for a game! But this group has invariably found the answers and has always remained both competitive and positive regardless of the opposition.

Opening the season with a loss to Woodhouse Grove 9-35, the girls and I reflected upon the positives and 'work ons'. It is testament to their work ethic and talent that in the second fixture against the same opposition we came out with a 14-14 draw.

On court, highlights of the season were the wins against Cheadle Hulme 24-15 and RGS Newcastle 21-7 with the true highlight being the fun, friendship, support and true bond which grew among the squad. They have been an honour to coach. There will be many of the 2nd VII Year 12s looking forward to competing for 1st VII places next season as a result of the experience gained in this. All that remains is to wish the Year 13 Phillipa, Lily, Maddie and Kitty well, I hope you will cherish your BGS netball memories.

2nd VII Award Winnners

Coaches' Award Caitlin R

Most Improved Rachel M

U12

Our U12 squads have had a brilliant first season this year. Attendance at training has been exemplary and a clear willingness to develop has been evident across all three squads.

The squads have had a very busy, but all the more enjoyable and rewarding, season with a total of 24 fixtures for our A squad (15 wins, 8 losses and 1 draw), 20 fixtures for our B squad (14 wins, 5 losses, 1 draw) and 9 fixtures for our C squad (6 wins and 3 losses). All three squads showed development in strength and depth of squad as the season progressed, and while every game was a learning experience for our young players, there were some clear season highlights for all three squads.

Our U12A squad had an applaudable first season at BGS Netball, with many well-deserved wins across the board. However, the season highlight was their journey in the Sisters n Sport National Netball cup. We first drew Wakefield Girls High school in round one of the cup. This was played straight away in the season before the girls and coaches had had much chance to settle into the game and gel as a team. The tough game ended in a devastating loss for our girls sending them into the plate competition. Nevertheless, they were keen to get back to training and pull together for what turned out to be a remarkable run in the National Plate, playing some brilliant netball to beat Fallibroome in the semi-final and send them through to the National Plate final at Bromsgrove School. We travelled down to Bromsgrove to be met with a squad photo shoot before playing Prior Field, a southern side whom we had not come up against previously. It was clear our girls were full of nerves but they managed to scrape a 15-12 win crowning them National Plate champions. Our very own Isobel T was named player of the game

and was chuffed to receive her Player of the Match trophy by a Severn Stars Superleague player.

Highlights for our U12B squad were hard to choose however convincing wins against Woodhouse Grove, Hymers and RGS Newcastle were definitely up there. Our girls also played their heart out in the Bradford Schools' District Tournament, playing against A teams from other schools and finishing third overall, losing out only by our own A team and Ilkley Grammar A.

Our U12C squad mainly represented the school in the Bradford Schools' League where they faced tough A team opposition at times but also came away with some good wins. A definite season highlight for this squad was traveling to RGS Newcastle where they managed a 15-4 win. The win made the sing a long on the bus home all that bit louder!

U12 Award Winners

Players' Player Sara K

Coaches' Awards Gracie M and Elizabeth P

Most Improved Rebecca J and Venus W

Naina Krishna Memorial Award for Talent Isobel T

Junior Team of the Year

U12A National Squad



U13

Our U13s have had yet another successful season this year with the U13A team getting the second highest win percentage out of all our squads across all age groups with 66.7 percent, narrowly missing out to the U12B team who secured an impressive 70 percent success rate.

This year group was oozing with natural talent and there were many individual and team successes throughout the season.

For our U13A squad, despite suffering some heartbreaking losses against RGS Newcastle (18-16) and South Craven in the final of the Bradford Schools' district tournament, managed some creditable wins against Hymers (30-11), Sedbergh (30-8) and Stockport Grammar (15-13). Being named runners up in the district tournament was clearly upsetting for our girls who went the whole tournament without letting any team get a goal against them and it was clear they were too comfortable going into the final. However, our girls used this learning experience to play some class netball against the same South Craven team in the league and came away with a 10-5 win. Several from this age group also earned a spot in the U14 National Schools' squad a year young. Superb displays of netball from Jessica B, Olivia G and Elizabeth R added to the fantastic performances that were put out on court at the West Yorkshire round of the England Netball National Schools' Competition. An exciting prospect for next season's attempt.

Our U13B team were a real close knit group this year. Their admirable team cohesion definitely added to their notable strong performances against Woodhouse Grove, RGS Newcastle and Birkenshaw Bells Netball Club. Captains Jessica T and Millie C really went above and beyond in the role and should be very proud of themselves and what they and their team have achieved. The many strong performances from Kathryn D and Erin B are also worth a mention.

Our U13C team had a mixed season in the Bradford Schools' League, coming away with four losses to stronger A team opposition and three wins including against Ilkley Grammar B team and South Craven B team.

U13 Award Winners

Players' Player Kathryn D

Coaches' Awards Erin B and Jessica T

Most Improved Olivia G and Isabelle S

U14

Both squads worked incredibly hard this season, and it really showed in their performances on the court. The A team started the season facing a few challenging games against Stockport and Cheadle Hulme but, as a result of their commitment and effort, by the end of the netball term they were crowned Bradford Schools' champions and were competing with the likes of St Peter's and Hymers.

The B team went from strength to strength over the season. The support and encouragement, led by captain Eleanor C, that the girls displayed when facing both challenges and success was wonderful to see. Their improved performance was down to their strong efforts and attempts to put technical work from the lessons into their match play.

Some of the year group were selected to be a part of the U14 Nationals Squad. It was a real privilege to be involved and for those involved it was testament to their hard work and dedication. They should be very proud; especially due to their impressive performance on the day, narrowly missing out on a place in the next round. Huge success also came in the Sisters n Sport Cup competition where this same team reached the quarter final stages, unfortunately losing by a golden goal in an intense home game but beating some strong sides along the way!

The girls got an amazing team building opportunity in the October half term with a tour to North Wales. As the first netball tour for BGS since before COVID it was really special to see how much the girls enjoyed the trip. Some overcame fears at Zip World, others found a new position they enjoyed, and everyone was able to bond with their teammates on and off the court. On our return to school, it was so nice to see how the trip helped both the performance of the girls and their team cohesion.

I've loved working with this group of girls over the season and I'm really proud of how far they've come during the course of the year.

U14 Award Winners

Players' Player Iris E

Coaches' Awards Eleanor C and Abigail W

Most Improved Isabelle H and Kashfia M



U16

We made the decision at the start of the season to combine our two small U15 and U16 squads to create a mixed age U16A and U16B. While this is something we were reluctant to do, it meant we were able to field two full squads of relative quality each week without failure and it ended up working in our favour.

Our very young U16A squad had a very successful season playing 20 games; winning 13, losing five and drawing two. Season highlights were definitely the convincing wins against Stonyhurst (54-12), St Peters (40-21) and Sedbergh (28-20). Alongside a busy Saturday and mid-week fixtures list this talented squad also had an admirable run in the Sisters n Sport National Cup. The first round of the cup had us come up against Wakefield Girls. A strong performance from MVP Isobel H helped us towards a cogent 34-21 win. Our winning streak continued with a 48-5 win over Penistone Grammar in round two and a 41-30 win over a very strong and well drilled Sedbergh side in round three. Round four is unfortunately where our cup run came to an end with an unfortunate loss against The King's School in Macclesfield.



This group had a strong run in the Bradford Schools' League coming away undefeated and winning the league and the district tournament.



As proud as we were of the U16s hard-fought National Cup effort, their success at the England Netball National Schools' Competition was the definite highlight of the season. The first round required us to beat the likes of Woodhouse Grove, The Rodillian Academy and Ashville to progress to the regional round. A loss to a strong GSAL side meant we progressed through to the Regional Round in second place. In January we travelled to the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield for round two. Playing in such an impressive venue against the best in the region was a new experience for most of our young squad resulting in a slow start to the day. As the girls settled into the afternoon, they played a much better quality of netball and ended up finishing third overall, missing out on qualifying to the national final on goal difference.

Our U16B squad had a mixed season playing 13 games, winning six, losing six and drawing one. It was rewarding to see the knowledge and confidence of these players develop with the season and start to witness them experimenting with set plays. This group had a strong run in the Bradford Schools' League coming away undefeated and winning the league and the district tournament.

U16 Award Winners

Players' Player Anu A

Coaches' Awards Isobel H and Anabel P

Most Improved Huda I and Lily H



Rowing

The rowing world saw a return to a degree of normality, with a full competitive calendar in the last 12 months.

The year got off to a good start at the Bradford Autumn Regatta with wins in the Senior Coxed Fours, crew comprising Harry B, Freddie A, Alex D, Harry B cox James E, and Junior 15 Single sculls, Edwin V L, events. This event also saw several other excellent performances considering it is held only two weeks into the new school year.

The Autumn and Spring terms then saw water time severely disrupted by high river levels which sadly is becoming more frequent, and more training having to be done on the rowing machines. At the South Yorkshire Head on the river Don, which was held despite extremely wet, windy and cold conditions, we saw excellent wins in the J14 coxed Quad, Thomas P, Thomas V, Torben F, Dylan T and Cox William CR. In Junior 17 sculls Edwin VL who despite only being J15 had the 3rd fastest time by any single sculler on the day, a truly fantastic performance.

The summer regatta season saw some excellent performances, especially from the Junior 14 squads, with Bella M starting to show on the water the promise that she has displayed on the rowing machines. Her successful season in the single scull saw convincing wins at York, Durham and Bradford Regattas before coming 6th out of 44 entries at the National Junior Championships in July.

The final event of the summer term saw six wins at Bradford regatta being Women's Junior 14 Singles Bella M, MJ14 2x William CR and Harry W, MJ14 coxed quads Dylan T, William CR, Oliver H, Thomas P and cox Tom V, MJ 15 single Edwin VL, MJ18 single Harry B and the Senior Quad Tzavier T, Ben J, James B and Aldiyar G.



Off the water the school Boat club saw the welcome arrival of two new boats into the fleet. The first boat to arrive was a Fillipi Lightweight single scull, purchased for our smaller lighter athletes in mind and used very successfully this season by Bella M. This boat has been named MARY JANE CHAPMAN in recognition of the many years that Mrs Chapman has supported the Boat club. The second new boat to arrive was again a lightweight boat, being a Kanghua coxed Quadruple scull again purchased for our younger and lighter weight athletes in mind. This boat was purchased thanks to an incredibly generous donation from a family at BGS. The only downside to this purchase is that the family wished that the boat be named SIMON DARNBROUGH!

From a personal point of view, the best news of the year came when Megan Jones-Gerrard was made a full-time assistant coach for the Boat club.



Off the water the school Boat club
saw the welcome arrival of two new
boats into the fleet.



Hockey

Bradford Grammar School Hockey enjoyed a full return of regular block fixtures, cup competitions and a full uninterrupted season. It has been an absolute joy to see both the girls' and the boys' programme run fully for the first time from U12 level to Senior level. All age groups of both genders have represented the school very well throughout their respected seasons, committing to training sessions all year and all teams progressing well in their cup competitions.

The Hockey Parents' Association has been supporting the on-pitch hockey non-stop through support on the side-lines and with fundraisers such as BBQs, curry and quiz nights and golf days. Our pupils have done their part in supporting the Hockey Parents' Association through their own fundraising. Our U12 girls completed their 10,000 step challenge while multiple age groups hosted bake sales.

With a full season completed, our tour plan looks to be resuming in the next academic year where we see our boys' and girls' senior squads travel for a weekend trip to Scotland in September, our U14s and U15s travel to Rotterdam in April and lastly, our girls' and boys' senior squads will be touring to South Africa in 2023, as part of their preparations for the 2023-24 season.

Looking ahead to the 2022-23 season, we're excited to see our athletes in action pushing to reach new heights, whether that be making their debut for the school, getting further in a national competition or achieving school colours. BGS Hockey has a healthy and nurturing culture to help all achieve their ambitions.

Thank you to all parents and pupils for their time and commitment throughout the year. We hope you have a restful summer and come back in September raring to go for yet another exciting season.

U12 Boys

U12 Boys' hockey has seen an influx in numbers at co-curricular training and school fixtures, where we have seen nearly 50 boys from Year 7 represent the school in hockey fixtures. It has been fantastic to see a range of experiences at Bradford Grammar School U12 hockey training, welcoming pupils who have club/player pathway experiences to pupils picking up a stick for the first time. The squad enjoyed fixtures against Giggleswick, Gateways, Pocklington, Hymers College and Ashville.

The squad has had a season focusing on core skills and touching on principles of play, where we hope the boys will carry on their great work in Year 8. The group has engaged particularly well with the Athletic Development programme alongside their hockey to ensure they are able to compete physically. Next year will see the age group compete in their first national school competition in the U13 In2Hockey England Hockey competition.

U12 Girls

The U12 girls' hockey squad are a talented and committed group of students. They started the year strong by becoming the winners of the annual Ewart Cup at Barnard Castle. The girls played with enthusiasm and determination against tough competition. Particular highlights were the games against Durham School winning 3-2 and Craigclowan winning 2-1. The squad showed great dedication to training throughout the year where they worked on consolidating skills, game play and built on team cohesion. The girls have had a great season of fixtures with wins against St Bedes, RGS, Silcoates and Wakefield. The teams came up against some more challenging opposition in AKS Lytham where a loss gave the girls much needed reflection on game play. The U12 A team fought hard against a well-disciplined Harrogate side and lost by two goals, however, the U12 B team came out on top winning 4-3. They rounded off a great season with a 6-0 win against GSAL.

A total of 33 girls represented school this year and we hope to continue building on these numbers and success.



U13 Boys hockey had a great season with lots of pupils attending co-curricular training on a regular basis. Given that this age group only received three weeks of hockey last year, it has been amazing to see so many pupils wanting to pick up a stick for the first time and give the sport their best effort.

U13 Boys

U13 Boys hockey had a great season with lots of pupils attending co-curricular training on a regular basis. Given that this age group only received three weeks of hockey last year, it has been amazing to see so many pupils want to pick up a stick for the first time and give the sport their best effort. Some of whom, have become regular attendees at co-curricular training and have represented the school on fixtures. The squad had their West Yorkshire round, of the In2Hockey England Hockey competition just after Christmas, which saw them breeze through the competition to qualify in 1st place with five wins: Kettlethorpe (2-0), QEGS (2-1), Silcoates (3-0) and Ackworth (5-0). Qualification meant the squad went onto the Yorkshire finals, where again, BGS qualified in 1st place with wins over Hill House (3-0), Giggleswick (5-1), QEGS (2-1). They reached the final to beat Hymers College in a penalty shootout after drawing in normal time 2-2, where we saw our player of the year and goal-keeper, Harrison C, pull off a great performance, one of many fantastic performances from the season. He's definitely one to watch. Thus, the boys qualified for the North East finals where they beat Ecclescliffe (4-2), drew to Hymers (2-2) and lost to Yarm (3-0), finishing 2nd overall and missing out on a place at national finals by 3pts. Again, another great achievement where a boys' side at this age group has never reached this stage of the competition before. The future is bright for a group of such fantastic and committed young players. It has also been great to see some of the boys have gone to play further hockey outside of school, either through joining a local hockey club or progressing to the England Hockey player pathway. Well done to Rory W who has been involved in the England Hockey Yorkshire Performance Centre and has been selected for the England Hockey Performance Centre Challenge Cup, taking place in July at the newly laid Nottingham Hockey Centre.

U14 Girls

The U14 girls' hockey squad had a great first season of experiencing 11-a-side hockey. Considering that this age group have jumped from 7 a-side competitive hockey in Year 7 to 11 a-side competitive hockey in Year 9, the group had done extremely well. The squad size was small from start to finish but the commitment the girls showed throughout the season was phenomenal, so good that the whole squad received their Junior School Club Colours! In terms of cup competitions, this was the first experience for all girls in a school setting (given they missed their Year 8 competition due to the pandemic). The girls came 2nd in the West Yorkshire round, which qualified them for the Tier 1 North East & Yorkshire finals; a first for a BGS U14 girls' side.

The girls went into the tournament with the aim of gaining experience of this high-level competition and get a taste of playing against high quality opposition; the squad had a very hard group consisting of Hill House, GSAL, St Peter's and Ampleforth. The games came thick and fast, and the girls can hold their heads high having competed in every game very well. Coming away with a draw against the overall winners, who won all of their other games, was a particular highlight of this difficult day!

For the remainder of the season, the squad went from strength to strength. With a big focus on their pressing tactics and their attacking play, particularly good victories during the season were: Queen Margaret's (4-0) Harrogate Grammar (8-0) The Grammar School at Leeds (7-1)

The squad should be extremely proud of their efforts, commitment and attitude towards the school's hockey programme. Many of the players have gone on to push themselves to the next level through either signing up to the school's Athletic Development Programme, joining a local hockey club or being a part of the school's indoor hockey programme. We look forward to seeing them in action at U15 level, next season.

U15 Boys

The U15 boys' hockey squad has been excellent at committing to all hockey opportunities presented to them this season. The boys were able to play hockey during games lessons across the first two terms of the year which enabled them to prepare well in the first term for a busy second term of fixtures. The squad committed regularly to all co-curricular training, introducing principles of play and tactics to help with their preparations. The boys played a couple of 'pre-season' friendlies in the first term, which were extremely beneficial in identifying what they needed to work on before cup competitions came around in the second term.

The squad started the second term strongly with a 4-0 win over Giggleswick, followed by a tough Independent School Hockey Cup game vs Yarm (who went on to make finals day in the competition). The group attended an altered version of the game, 'The MGS Powerplay' which was great fun while also competing against some high-quality oppositions. The boys came away with wins vs: Bolton 2-0, Abbotsholme 5-3, Caldys Grange 4-3. Then just missing out in the semi-final to a strong Yarm side. The last competition the boys had for the season was the Yorkshire Cup where they played some great hockey, putting everything together they had worked on throughout the season, getting good results early on but sadly bowing out in the quarter finals to Cundall Manor.

It's been so pleasing to see this group develop as the year has gone on with four achieving Junior Full Colours and nine achieving Junior Club Colours. We hope to see all of the boys push on in the coming years to achieve the next level in their journey. Lastly, the squad received exciting news at the end of the season. In 2023, as part of their preparations for their first taste of senior hockey, they will be touring South Africa for 12 nights. The tour is designed around team building and culture to ensure we give the squads the best possible chance of being the best of themselves. Along with this focus, the experience of living in a different culture and exploring professional sporting settings will be invaluable to our pupils and will give them something to aspire to beyond life at BGS.

U15 Girls

The U15 girls' hockey squad had a mixed season, starting very strongly by going the first nine weeks with a 100 percent win rate. The squad played in the Independent School Hockey Cup and achieved the furthest round in the school's history; a national quarter final in a top tier competition. The team started off by playing our local neighbours GSAL, which proved to be a very tense affair where the game ended 2-2 at full-time which went onto extra time. Bradford Grammar won a penalty corner in extra time as the full-time whistle was blown, which they converted to win the game in dramatic fashion. The team then went on to defeat Queen Margaret's before meeting a strong AKS Lytham in the quarter final. The team can be proud of this achievement, doing so well in a tier 1 competition against some strong schools.

The group spent a lot of the season focusing on game management, and how they may adjust their tactics to win games. This was demonstrated through some excellent performances and victories vs Barnard Castle (3-0), Stonyhurst (6-0, where we witnessed a remarkable performance from forward, Penny B, netting all six goals), Queen Margaret's (4-0), Hymers College (4-2) and Wakefield Girls High School (3-2).

As our U15s enter Year 11 next season, we look forward to seeing them compete in their England Hockey competition, while balancing their academic studies during the season. It was also great to see some pupils signing up to their local hockey clubs and progressing in the England Hockey Pathway. Well done to the following for being a part of the England Hockey Yorkshire Performance Centre; Bea H, Elizabeth G, Megan E & Penny B.

U16 Girls

The U16 girls' hockey squad saw their return to an England Hockey competition for the first time since March 2020, which was their famous reaching of a national final. The squad started off the competition very strongly defeating Wakefield Girls High School 11-1. The victory saw them meet Sedburgh in the next round; a dominant school for hockey in the north of the country. BGS lost out 0-2 which did not reflect the group's performance. The defeat saw BGS enter Tier 2 where they excelled to a national quarter-final with victories over RGS Newcastle (5-1) and Trent College (3-0). Our girls cup run came to an end against a strong Scarborough College side. The group can be proud of what they have achieved, not only in this season, but what they have done across multiple seasons as a single year group. We look forward to seeing how the group progress in their senior hockey years.

Our U16s, mixed with younger year pupils, also participated in a national indoor hockey competition. BGS only introduced indoor hockey in 2018, 2021 saw our school fully compete against the best of the best in the North East and Yorkshire region. The group had trained significantly well eight weeks prior to their competition undertaking many physical challenges, technical training and ensuring their tactics were spot on for the competition. The school that comes 1st in this competition goes to national finals to represent the North East and Yorkshire region; the group could sense they had a chance. The tournament started strongly with a 4-1 win over Wakefield Girls High School. Our second game was against, the overall winners in the end, Scarborough College where our girls lost 2-1, conceding with 12 second left on the clock. It was a hard result to swallow, given how impressive the performance

was. The squad powered on during the tournament, securing wins over Hymers College (2-0) and Yarm (2-1) and finishing 2nd in the competition. The highest ever finish for the school in this competition.

Well done to the following pupils for representing the school so well:

Abhjina S Year 11

Anna B Year 11

Laura K Year 11

Lucy RW Year 11

Olivia T Year 11

Rebecca F Year 11

Bea H Year 10

Elizabeth G Year 10

Penny B Year 10

Holly W Year 9

Betsy R Year 8

Senior Boys XI

Building on the foundations of interest, talent, and enthusiasm within boys' hockey over the last few years, the 2021/22 season has allowed BGS to compete in a regular fixture list and national competitions for the first time in the U18 category. This season was focused on opportunity and enjoyment for the 24 boys that have represented and committed to after school practice and fixtures throughout the year, showing a desire to develop as individuals and as a squad. The ability to balance training, fixtures and academic studies is not easy and the squad has done this well. The boys have particularly impressed the coaches with their camaraderie, work ethic and enthusiasm which has resulted in some great moments on the pitch. They showed this in the England Hockey Tier 2 fixture against Giggleswick. Despite the great win with Zak B and Thomas T being crucial to the victory, the resilience the boys showed throughout the game when involved in some heated moments showed true to the character of BGS hockey. The team progressed well in the England Hockey Tier 2 competition beating St Peters in an impressive end to end game where they won 6-4. The second game proved challenging against local opposition where decisions didn't always go their way but the desire to win saw them achieve a 2-0 victory. In the third round, the boys narrowly lost on penalties after drawing 3-3 to QEGS. This experience gave captain Jack D and the team time to reflect on the importance of resilience and maintaining focus and motivation until the final whistle. The team faced many other fixtures during the

season in which wins were gained against Giggleswick (3-0), Sedbergh (5-1), Pocklington (3-0) and the final fixture of the season witnessed a (2-2) draw against Hymers. It is well noted that Zak B was a huge asset and influence on the squad, joining BGS in September and finishes the season scoring 17 goals. In The Independent Schools Hockey Cup they faced Yarm in the first round, a highly experienced and physical squad who challenged the boys. While the score line didn't go our way, we gained an insight into playing at a high level and this experience is something the boys can take forward into the fixtures next season.

The community cohesion the squad has created this season is something we are very proud of and look to add excellence and service to this in the coming season. Losing no players this year and gaining some experienced and talented players from the current U15 squad, next season looks to be an exciting one.

Girls 1XI

Senior Girls' Hockey saw a new era of athletes enter their Sixth Form years and it always promised to be an exciting year for the squad. There were many achievements to recognise throughout the year; having 24 Sixth Form girls represent the school at this level during the season was a new record for the senior hockey programme. It was fantastic to see so many pupils coming through the school able to balance their academic work alongside their sporting commitments.

The season was purely focused on the values of commitment, opportunity, determination, excellence and service and how we translate that into our on-pitch performances. The squad started the year with some big wins vs the likes of Stonyhurst, Silcoates, Barnard Castle, AKS Lytham and Mount St Mary's College. In terms of cup competitions, the group came across a very strong, international experienced, Sedbergh 1XI in the early rounds of the Independent School Hockey Cup where our girls gained good experience at a level of which they had not seen before. Building on these experiences, the senior girls excelled in their England Hockey competition, winning the early West Yorkshire round, qualifying for Yorkshire Finals with wins over King Ecgberts and Ashville College which saw us meet Hill House in the finals where BGS equalised (after playing the last four minutes without a goal-keeper) with three seconds left on the clock.

Qualifying from the Yorkshire Finals led us to the North East finals, where the winning team from the four schools present would go onto National Finals in London. Our semi-final saw us meet Yarm, a strong opposition who had reached the quarter finals of the Independent School Hockey Cup, sadly just missing out 0-2. Our BGS senior girls' squad will hold their heads high, as this is the furthest any senior hockey side has reached in a national cup competition in the school's history.

Athletics

More importantly, the group will be more proud of the culture they have created and the memories they have made on the pitch. Only losing a small handful of players through Year 13 means the squad can carry on the momentum they had this season into next, with a very talented year group joining them. The squad would not have achieved as much as they had done without the superb leadership of our Senior Captain, A Dixon. We wish her and the following departing senior hockey players all the best for their future endeavours and thank them for all they have done, including P Threlfall and G Hall.

Our senior girls' indoor team also had a great season, gaining good wins in the build up to their national competition, beating the likes of RGS Newcastle. At the North East stage of the National competition, we gained wins over Pocklington (5-0) and Queen Ethelburga's (2-0), drawing with Giggleswick (1-1) saw us finished 4th in the competition out of 10 schools.

Despite the next season being in the far distance, the hunger for success has not disappeared from this group with them already setting goals for next season and identifying areas of performance they want to work on during the summer break. Certainly, a group to keep an eye on next season. Specialist Sports Coach (Hockey), and head coach for the senior girls, Mr Birch wishes to thank the group for their hard work and commitment throughout the season, the hours on and off the pitch does not go unnoticed. The girls do a remarkable job balancing their school work and other commitments to not only commit to BGS Hockey but also keep it at such a high level.

2022 has been a break-out year for the BGS athletics programme. After nearly three years exile from competitive athletics events due to COVID, we finally had a full season, and what a season it was!

This year saw us host the Bradford Athletics League (BAL), have competitive Saturday fixtures with GSAL and compete in the Bradford Schools' Athletics Association (BSAA) and England Schools Athletics Association (ESAA) competitions with huge success. In the BAL league we had 10 schools enter including BGS. This was run over two separate heat events with the top five schools qualifying for the finals day. BGS had all four of our teams win their heats and qualified for the finals in first place overall. Unfortunately, come finals day, after the athletes finished their warmups and the first event got under way, the heavens opened with one of the worst storms to be seen. It turned the track into a swimming pool meaning the final had to be abandoned.

We had our first Saturday athletics fixture for some time, a friendly event at GSAL, where many athletes could enter and compete in as many events as they wanted to. We had more than 50 BGS athletes compete on the day and were supported by parents watching and cheering them on. It was a very successful exercise for the development of school athletics, and we've planned a number of these events for next season.

In the ESAA competition we travelled to Wakefield and had a very successful event with multiple first places which saw our Junior Boys, Junior Girls and Inter Girls teams all qualify for the regional round in Mansfield. In the regional round we had an amazing 6 x 1st places, 9 x 2nd places and 9 x 3rd places.

In the BSAA league we had an incredible 11 athletes selected to represent Bradford city at the West Yorkshire schools' competition. Daniel B, Theo C, Grace D, Ediddiong E, Emily G, Martha J, Phoebe M, Daniel O, Annabel P and Eve S. We finished this competition with 1 x 1st place, 3 x 2nd places and 1 x 3rd place. We also had another member of our team Rebecca F qualify straight through to the England school's finals in Manchester to be held later in the year.

Overall, this season we have seen massive growth in the program, and we have had more than 70 students represent the school in competition in one form or another, which is fantastic. The success this year and overall participation in athletics bodes very well for the future of BGS Athletics. The future is bright.



Gymnastics

The return of Rebecca Parkinson has resulted in BGS's Gymnastics clubs being back at full capacity. It was excellent to see boys and girls from across the schools take advantage of the co-curricular clubs on offer.

The gymnasts worked hard on individual moves and routines throughout the year resulting in great progression. In February, the U18 team competed in the virtual Yorkshire Floor and Vault competition. Once again, the standard was very high and the girls were praised for their artistry and musical interpretation. The girls performed exceptionally well on both floor and vault resulting in a score of 111.62, finishing in third place overall. In June, the U11 and U13 teams travelled down to Stoke on Trent for the annual English Schools' Gymnastic Association Novice Competition. The competition is known for its excellent standard and display of gymnastics and the girls represented Bradford Grammar with the upmost honour, performing with originality and good execution. No medals were won with the U11s finishing 11th and U13s finishing in 4th place, missing the podium by 0.30 but a great experience for the younger gymnasts.

We sadly say farewell and give our best wishes for the future to one of our most experienced gymnasts, Charlotte W. She has represented school every year since she started in Year 9 and will be greatly missed. Looking ahead to next year, we are excited to be entering more competitions and hope to enter boys into competition for the first time.

Orienteering

What a year for Orienteering at BGS! The club built on the groundwork of previous years and grew in terms of participation and achievements, to become one of the top orienteering schools in the country.

In November, 20 BGS pupils journeyed to Stowe, Buckinghamshire, for the British Schools' Orienteering Championships, achieving the school's best ever results in the whole-school category, leaping up from eighth in 2019 to joint second place.

Captain Emily G (Year 12) and Vice-Captain Tom T (Year 11) won their categories, Joseph D was second Year 8 boy, and Henry S was third Year 9 boy. The Year 9 boys (Henry, Daniel B and Ben M) won their age category, retaining the trophy they won as Year 7s in 2019. Meanwhile, the Year 10 boys (Edwin van L, Mustafa B and James W) were third, reclaiming their podium spot from 2018. The nine counters who helped BGS to second position were Emily, Tom, Joseph, Henry, Daniel, Ben, Edwin, James, and Maya A. The race was a culmination of a weekend away which included a night orienteering session and an Italian meal.

The team now boasts several county-level athletes, and Emily and Henry have been selected for their age group's national training camps this summer, which will take place in Sweden and Scotland respectively. This follows on from their strong performances at British Championship events: over February half-term, Emily became British Night Orienteering Champion in her age category, following a storming run through the snow at night on Ilkley Moor. In March, Henry achieved a Bronze medal in the British Middle Distance Championships at Rushmere. Several BGS orienteers represented their local club, Airienteers at national level events in the summer term, with Henry achieving seventh spot in the British Sprint Championships at Leeds University in June.



Lunchtime sessions increased in frequency to once weekly, and local coach Tony Carlyle led some of them, as well as hosting a standalone Saturday session. Orienteers kept busy by attending – and in James's case, planning and organising - midweek and Sunday events throughout the year.

It was a shame that the British Schools' Score Championships and the Yorkshire and Humberside Schools' Orienteering Championships were both cancelled. Let's hope to see a complete schools' fixture list next year, and also to welcome a new breed of orienteers at Year 7.

I would like to offer a final thank you to Mr N Schofield, Mr O Rogers, Year 13 students Declan J and Sufyan K, and Year 12 students Joseph H and Emily, for their assistance with lunchtime and timetabled (Year 7) training sessions. The club would not have been able to operate without them.



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Swimming

COVID was still wreaking havoc in some schools, and we had three fixtures cancelled on short notice, however, a total of 54 students represented BGS Swim in 2021-22, up from 36 in the 2019-20 academic year.

St Peter's

It was a tough start against an extremely strong St Peter's, bolstered by a large number of club swimmers. Our U15 boys helped stem the tide of Peter's first places but, in the end, St Peter's turned out to be the team to beat this season.

ESSAs

St Peter's continued their dominance at the English Schools' Counties, however, the U13 Girls collected a bronze, while the U15 Boys claimed two relay silvers. The Senior Boys could have walked away with two silvers but for a disqualification in the 4 x 50m Medley. The Senior Girls, supported by a rare school appearance from European Junior medallist, Leah S, were able to take the Gold in the 4 x 50 Freestyle and Medley relays.

Ripon

There was a fantastic 'buzz' as BGS packed into the low ceiling, 20m, four lane pool, for our first fixture at Ripon Grammar in a number of years. The conditions favoured BGS swimmers accustomed to an extra five metres per length. A dominant performance from both A and B teams across the age groups saw BGS take the win 250 v 184; the U13 Boys and Girls taking a clean sweep of the top two podium places in each event.

Woodhouse

The team were a bit more reserved heading into their derby with Woodhouse Grove, but with confidence growing with each win, the volume raised, the atmosphere changed, and the result was set in stone before the conclusion of the meet. BGS Girls did not concede first place in a single event, and a BGS whitewash of both the freestyle and medley relays led to a 90 point domination of our local rivals. WHG 183 v BGS 273.

Bath Cup

Our annual jaunt to the Bath Cup started with a chilly early start in the 'heated' 50m Charlton Lido in South London and the 'refreshingly' cold swim under a beautiful sunrise was a highlight. A bush-craft skills session then followed, aiming to improve communication and confidence. A tired team (Boys: Oscar H, Rhys H, Harry P, Hugo S); Girls: Izzy B, Grace C, Philippa H, Charlotte K) then rocked up at the Whitgift Invitational for some tough racing and displayed some great resilience in the face of overwhelming competition. A good night's rest helped rejuvenate the team and led to some excellent improvements. Each student gave their best effort and honed racing skills to give the best performance they could, but alas, there were no finalists at an incredibly fast meet this year. The event was bitter-sweet as Izzy B (Girls' Captain), Grace C and Philippa H, who have been stalwart Bath Cup participants since Year 10 leave BGS this year. If the goal is to 'leave the sport in a better place' then these three BGS swimming legends have met the brief and then some. I am extremely grateful for the leadership, work ethic, attitudes and examples these girls have set for BGS swimmers during their time.

Sutton Trophy

For the first time in five years we attended the Sutton Trophy, hosted by Manchester Grammar School. There were some hard lessons for the 'Colts' (U15) team, comprised of two U13 boys, but A and B finals ensured ample opportunity for race practice.

Ripon and GSAL

In late March, we enthusiastically welcomed Ripon GS and Grammar School at Leeds to the Adrian Moorhouse pool for the first tri-school competition in three years. A tri-school set-up encourages closer competition between schools, so we are looking forward to the formation of more of these events in the future. It was hotly contested between BGS and GSAL. GSAL dominated the boys' events while BGS girls clawed back the deficit for each event. Ripon GS managed to steal some of the points that may have gone GSAL's way, making it a close affair. GSAL managed to own the gender specific events, but the introduction of the Mixed Medley Relay gave our best chance to combine and topple the depth that GSAL have. Ripon 209 v GSAL 279 v BGS 284.

The 'Dawn of BGS Aquatics'

This season also saw the emergence of the new-look BGS Swim. A programme designed to offer structure and flexibility for those seeking higher levels of performance and fitness was introduced and continues to build. We look forward to racing on the club circuit next season as a club in addition to our school fixtures.

Water Polo

Our strong relationship with St Bede's and St Joseph's (SBSJ) Catholic College continued to thrive this year. Quarter by quarter, and game by game, an inexperienced but enthusiastic team, led by veterans Harry P (Captain), Hugo S, Boris G and Haris M, grew.

While SBSJ's strength and depth continued to prevent a BGS win, if second half performances were accounted for, BGS would have been able to claim a tie more often than not.

This year saw the introduction of a tri-school mini-tournament between BGS, SBSJ and Hymers for the U14s. It was not to be for BGS, who fielded a young team of players new to the sport. Just like their Senior counterparts, the Juniors got better with each game, and managed to put three in the SBSJ net, however, it was SBSJ who took overall victory.

The team will be looking to return to English Schools' Water Polo action next year, as well as expanding their competition base.



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Squash

What a year it's been for squash! We have grown from a couple of students attending weekly on a casual basis to nearly 50 students signed up for league matches, which has been fantastic. Due to the growth of interest, we've had two sessions a week and therefore introduced an internal BGS league system where all players (regardless of gender, ability, or age) are able to play decent games each week.

We've seen such a range of players this year, from Years 7 to 11, from beginners to more advanced athletes, which led to an opportunity for our more senior players, like Will B and Tom T, to coach some of our beginners in lower years. We even have Travis Y in Year 5 coming each week which has been an inspiration for everyone.

The enthusiasm, dedication and commitment demonstrated by our squash players this year has been an absolute joy to watch and lead.

Coaches' Players of the Year:

Year 7 Fausto K

Year 8 Amar S

Year 9 Evie S

Year 10 Joseph B

Winners of the latest internal BGS leagues and as pictured:

League A Evie S

League B Rory W

League C Oscar W

A massive well done to all those involved and see you all next academic year!



Tennis

U12 Boys

The U12s Boys had a good year on the tennis court. This year seemed to be a good year for the intake of tennis players with a wide range of boys available who could play to a good standard.

They achieved a win percentage of 60 percent with some very competitive matches against schools such as a GSAL and Manchester Grammar. On the individual side, Harry S put in some top-quality performances being selected to represent the U15s Bradford League team and competing very well in the annual Road to Wimbledon event, along with Robbie M, beating multiple players in the year above. The same two boys put in good performances at the Hymers' mixed doubles competition, achieving second place, just losing out to a strong Pocklington team. I'm looking forward to seeing the boys in this year group develop their skills over the coming years.

U12 Girls

The U12 Girls have been a pleasure to work with this year. In games, a large number selected tennis which sometimes proved for a challenging session, however, the work ethic and great personalities of the girls made things work well. Over the course of their Saturday fixtures, they achieved a win percentage of 100 percent, an excellent achievement from all players that represented the school. Highlights from the season, were the partnership formed between Katy H and Amelia E, who competed excellently against whomever was put in front of them. Both of the girls played superbly in the annual Road to Wimbledon event, with Katy making it to the final stage to compete against the Year 9s. To top the year off, both girls were selected to play above their age group and represent the school at the Independent Schools' Tennis Championships at Eton College. They gained valuable experience, competing against some of the best players in the country.

U13 Boys

The U13 Boys enjoyed a superb summer of tennis. Following on from a strong uptake on the individual programme, a lot of the boys had improved their skills, not just over the summer. The improvement was shown across fixtures achieving an 80 percent win rate. The team successfully managed to secure a place at the LTA Schools' Team Tennis regional finals in September after winning their West Yorkshire group. A wide range of players contributed to the age groups success, whether it be Saturday fixtures or LTA team tennis matches. Zack B and Harrison C achieved a spot in the main draw of ISTA after coming through their qualifying group, sneaking the spot by a game difference of one. This was the furthest a BGS U13s boys' team had got in recent years.

U13 Girls

The U13 Girls managed to achieve a spot in the LTA Schools' Team Tennis regional finals as well after winning their West Yorkshire group. There were some close matches in the group stage, with the match against Wakefield Girls coming down to a shootout that Olivia G and Elizabeth S managed to win. Across their Saturday fixtures, the girls managed to achieve a win rate of 90 percent, with a good mix of girls competing on a regular basis.

U14 Boys

The U14 Boys started off the summer season with some of them coming on our preseason trip to Stamford School. Ameen J managed some excellent performances against Stamford winning all his matches and showing real improvement from last year. A lot of the 14s boys featured heavily in the U15s team which won the Bradford Parks Tennis League this season. Daniel B and Henry S picked up the majority of the wins. Henry S won the annual Road to Wimbledon competition which saw him compete in Hull against other players from around Yorkshire. Although he lost his first match, he went on to win the consolation draw. Ameen J and Henry S played in the annual Hymers mixed doubles tournament and, with their parents, they managed to win the event.



U14 Girls

The U14 Girls enjoyed a successful summer term. They achieved a win percentage of 100, brushing aside all competition. Notable performances came from, Ava R and Lucy L who were selected to play up an age group at the Independent Schools' Championship. They competed very well and made it through to the quarter finals of the plate competition. It was a good base to build from for next year. Ava R was a key part of the U15 team which won the Bradford league. It was also excellent to see Ava compete outside of school and increase her LTA ranking. This year she will be pushing for top 20 in Yorkshire.

U15 Boys

The U15 Boys made real improvements this year. A solid squad of players maintained a good standard across all the matches. Reuben H, Shishir S and Lucas A were the backbone of the U15 team which won the Bradford Parks league. With the addition of Dominic B the four boys also won the first ever BGS U15 Boys' Tennis Festival, which saw seven other schools come to compete at our fantastic facilities. The boys saw off a strong St Peter's team, winning in both matches on a killer deuce point. The team also won their West Yorkshire group of the LTA Team Tennis, securing a place at regional finals. I look forward to seeing this group of players develop next year.

U15 Girls

The Under 15 Girls had a good season with a win rate of 80 percent. A good mix of girls from both Year 10 and Year 9 made up this team, who worked well together forming a formidable group. The team also managed to win their West Yorkshire LTA Team Tennis group, securing themselves a place at regional finals in September.

Seniors

The seniors had an excellent year starting outside of the tennis season. The senior boys were entered in the LTA Year 11-13 Winter Cup. After winning the qualifying group which included St Peter's, High Storrs and Teesside, they qualified for the regional finals in Sunderland. The boys played some excellent tennis and managed to secure third place behind Altrincham and Stonyhurst. Moving into the summer term, both senior boys and girls enjoyed success in their Wednesday fixtures with some tight matches against Giggleswick, Hymers and St Peter's.

The senior girls had a good trip out to the St Peter's Senior Girls' Festival, competing against five other schools. There were some quality performances with the standout being Amelie and Olivia B beating St Peter's' first pair. Hannah G and Tehya O'C proved to be tough to beat, winning most of their matches in tiebreaks.

The senior boys had a very competitive match against St Peter's in the Glanville Cup. Nearly every match went to a third set tiebreak and, with a few points going our way instead of theirs, the result could have been very different. St Peter's made it through to national finals and, having seen that we pushed them very close, it's a very encouraging sign for the future.





Cross Country

What a year for BGS's cross country runners. Without doubt, this is one to remember for so many reasons. The season started as usual with Bingley School's races. All the runners did well and for some it was their first experience running competitively over this distance. As normal, the more seasoned runners dominated but ran well against each other.

Throughout the season there was a Christmas Handicap run in Lister Park that inspired many of the school to get out and run at lunch time to either compete or enjoy the fresh air. The fancy dress was questionable at times but added some nice colour to the dark clouds and bare trees.

It was also a year when the school remembered Selby Brock with a superbly attended Old Bradfordians' event. It was great and very fitting to see so many OB runners return to the school to remember Selby and his efforts helping students over many, many years.

The English Schools' Preliminary Rounds came and went with the Senior Girls progressing though to the regional round and through to the finals to be held in Newquay in December. With plenty of training under their belts and high hopes the girls took the nine-hour journey to compete.

Rebecca F, Amelie L, Emily G, Carla B, Grace D and Elsa F competed on a fast, challenging course which was muddy underfoot. Strong winds also made for a tough competition. Rebecca led her teammates to victory from the start of the race to clinch first place. Amelie and Emily were just a short distance behind.

Rebecca's confidence increased as the race went on, she held her form as well as the lead up and down the sharp inclines, gritted her teeth as it got tough and finished with three seconds to spare over her nearest rival. It was a great victory for her. Amelie and Emily had Rebecca in their sights and were also able to work off each other. Both are seasoned competitors. They finished strongly, in 5th and 6th respectively. Every position counted for the team. Carla, Grace and Elsa found the course and conditions particularly gruelling, but they dug deep and were rewarded with good finishing positions. Overall, the girls were comfortable winners of the team race with 37 points to spare over their nearest rival, St Catherine's School. We're incredibly proud of all the girls for becoming National Cross Country Team Champions.

In the King Henry VIII relays the girls (Rebecca F, Emily G, Carla B and Amelie L) were comfortable winners of the 50th anniversary of this prestigious race. They smashed a couple of minutes off the course record. The boys (Theo C, Joseph H, Daniel B, Tom T, Ben H and Alex F) finished a commendable 9th and enjoyed having a team to run in this competition for the first time in a few years.

What a year for BGS's cross country runners. Without doubt, this is one to remember for so many reasons.



BGS was prominent and in certain categories dominant at the Bradford Schools' XC in Northcliffe Park. 17 of them qualified for the West Yorkshire Schools as follows:

Year 7

Alice M, Izzy T, Lizzie P, Katy H and Rebecca J, Stanley W

Intermediates

Rebecca F, A, Carla B, M, Elsa F, Phoebe M and Ben H

Senior

Emily G and Grace D, Theo C and Alex F

The Senior Girls' and Boys' Team were invited to represent England in the Worlds Schools' Cross Country Championships on the back of the girls' success in the ESAA XC Cup win. This was an amazing opportunity to experience many different cultures and run in very different conditions. The five days spent in Slovakia were action packed with fun and adventure; opening ceremonies, cultural evenings, friendship relays, hiking through mountains, cross country skiing and of course the racing itself. Around the lake course with the snowy back drop, the students ran hard at altitude to represent the School and Country extremely well. The boys finished a well earned 7th place over all with Alex F (16th), Theo C (28th), Ben H (39th) and Joe H (55th). The girls



just ran the perfect race in a very competitive field and far exceeded all expectations. Elsa F (42nd), Grace D (27th), Carla B (10th), Amelie L (6th), Emily G (4th) and Rebecca (2nd) which meant that they were crowned ISF World Schools' Cross Country Champions. A truly fantastic achievement and experience for all involved. I would like to finish by thanking Mrs S Barennes and Mrs S Flaherty for their support and commitment throughout the season to help give their athletes the opportunity to run.



Cricket

Girls' Cricket

Girls' Cricket at BGS continues to flourish and we enjoyed our most successful season thus far.

We won more than half of our games and more than 50 girls represented the school. We played mostly soft ball pairs format but the U15s played a hard ball game and managed to enjoy success over Horsforth.

Three girls represented their respective counties and Lizzie P, Erin G and Venus W look to have bright futures in the sport.

Next season will have more hard ball fixtures for each age group and the winter training will be targeting getting the players ready for the added challenge.

Special thanks to the coaching team of Mr Birch, Miss Newman and Miss Williamson who made the sessions fun and inspired the girls to enjoy the greatest game.

We look forward to next season with great anticipation.

U12

What a pleasure it's been to be involved with such a talented group of young cricketers this year at U12 level. It's always interesting to see the new crop of players in the first year of Senior School and this group did not disappoint.

It's been pleasing to see the advances of multi-gender cricket being played superbly with both sexes competing for positions towards the end of the year in the super sixes at Hymers to wrap up a very successful season of challenge and development.

Captain Billy T led the team well with an outstanding all-round game and knowledge base well above his years. The U12 bowling attack included many variations across the squad which offered opportunities to constantly change the picture for opposition batsmen. The variety of pace and swing by Anish M, Max H, Lizzie P, Harry D, Billy T backed up by spinners including Venus W, Freddie B, and Ayaan A in particular impressed throughout the season.

Aarez A offered an assured barrier behind the stumps, but had several warnings for being 'too keen' in taking the bails off! There were strong batting averages including Aarez A, Anish M, Billy T, Harry D, Lizzie P, Freddie B; one highlight of the season was watching Yorkshire pathway all-rounder Billy T reach 52 after entering the crease batting at number 10, wholly supported by Aarez A after an early batting order collapse against Hymers.

The first win at Woodhouse Grove by eight wickets set the tone with Billy T and Anish M notably posting bowling figures of 4-4-15 and 3-2-9 respectively. After a second week loss to GSAL, week three saw a win by 10 wickets against QEGS, this time on the strength of a strong batting attack with three retirees (Venus T 32*(23), Billy T 32*(27), Lizzie P 31*(16).

There were some excellent results and learning moments throughout the season and great squad participation with 46 pupils coming to co-curricular sessions, 24 playing A team cricket and many others developing their skills well throughout the year. Edward A, Yashvir G, Neelan T, Alex M, Ben T progressed well and rotated into the squad and the strength of the group was recognised with a number of players being promoted by Mr Kellett to represent school in older age groups, including Venus W, Billy T, Anish and Aarez. Harry D also made a short cameo role, fielding for the 1st XI at GSAL. Lizzie P and Venus also represented Bradford Grammar in their respective counties and a number of others firmly involved in Taverners and other representative teams. I look forward to watching this squad with interest as they move through the school.

U13

The squad started the season slowly with three losses but, as the season progressed, the training ramped up and as a result the wins started to come. We had many individual contributions, but notable seasons were had by Toby A, Hari S, Austin H and Jacob H. The squad was boosted by the class of our Yorkshire player Erin G who proved a valuable asset to the team. This year group is very keen and enthusiastic and enjoy cricket. The future appears bright and a special mention must be made to the captain Samuel S who led with great maturity and contributed to the victories posted. The off season will be spent honing the players on better shot selection and bowling less extras which in turn will make us more competitive.

U14

The summer of 2022 was both enjoyable and successful. More than 20 boys represented the school at some point during the season; winning six out of eight fixtures played. It was disappointing that we exited the cup at such an early stage, but the boys bounced back with a rare and comprehensive victory over GSAL two days later. The side was led well by Raman A, who along with George L, thoroughly deserved their selection to the 1st XI post half term. Gurdaas S and Will E deputised in Raman's absence; both did a great job. The side have a good mix of capable batters and bowlers and all contributed to the side's success at one or more points in the season.

Congratulations to Gurdass S, Will E, George L, Charlie W, Paddy R and Baryaal K for all making it onto the 2022 honours board. The season concluded with many of the boys representing the school in a two-day tournament in St Helen's, which was a super trip organised by Mr S Kellett. Thanks go to all the players too numerous to mention individually here; the parents, who have supported the team loyally and occasionally supplied Haribos; Mr S Kellett for his valuable coaching, insight and sense of humour and to Mr J Marsh and his team who continue to produce schoolboy pitches of the highest quality, in often testing conditions.

U15

The 2022 season started on Saturday May 7 at 9.15 on a very damp and cold GSAL pitch. Unfortunately, we lost the toss and were invited to bowl and given the conditions early on, this proved decisive in the game's final outcome. The ball had to be dried after each delivery and bowling with it and handling it in the field (particularly catching it) was difficult. GSAL took full advantage and amassed 182-2 in their 20 overs. Undaunted, our batsman had a good go in response but improving conditions for the fielding team saw us reach 130-4, 52 shy of the target. Our batting was excellent though and captain Jesse P's 94n.o. was a joy to watch.

In our next match against QEGS, the weather was beautiful, and we won handsomely by 68 runs. We batted first and scored 194-2 whereas QEGS could only muster 126-6. The highlight of the 68-run victory was a superb maiden century of 103n.o. from Archie A and equally superb figures of 4-18 from Jesse P and 2-6 from Alex M. The win was a welcome confidence boost after the result the week before.

Hymers was our next opponent and after losing the toss their team batted first, scoring a very good 134-4. It felt like a tricky total, but the boys played superbly and won the game by six wickets with Hugo K top-scoring with 60.

Another win came the following week against Stonyhurst, but this time, it was a low-scoring game. We achieved 114-4 and then bowled the opposition out for 97. Our regular fixtures concluded with a very one-sided game against St Peter's. We batted first and were dismissed for just 58 runs, a total that Peter's got easily. There were positives though, as four members of the team were from the U13 and U14 ranks and learned much from the experience.

Outside our normal fixtures, we had a very creditable run in the National Cup winning four matches before being beaten by GSAL in the semi-final. The boys also enjoyed a successful tour to Liverpool over the final three days of the term when they competed in the Mersey

Cup organised by Pro-Cricket Academies. Touring is always a great experience, and the boys loved the opportunity.

The season was a positive one. Everyone contributed, no games were lost to bad weather and the team played with smiles on their faces. Most of all I was impressed with the camaraderie, how the team all wanted to learn and improve and how they maintained their enthusiasm. Jesse P performed superbly as Captain, and I imagine he will be a candidate for captaincy of the First XI when the time comes.

First XI

The cricket season was hugely successful in terms of participation. The congested fixture list of 15 resulted in four victories, although that does not tell the real story as four games were lost by the closest of margins.

The preparation for this season started in February with great numbers attending the winter net sessions. The squad was a fairly young one with only three Year 13 cricketers in the team. Aryan S led the batting with 500 runs in all competitions, while Retford H and Seamus N led the bowling attack with the number of wickets. The season produced a number of highlights but the end of term trip to the competitive Mersey Cup was the icing on the cake. The team played against hugely competitive teams and managed to claim two victories which left the squad desperate for the next season to begin.

Ben G was an outstanding Captain and contributed with bat and ball. A special mention must be made to the outstanding work of Jacob R, the wicket keeper, who was a reliable glove man. AG Smith worked his magic over the winter in honing the skills of the keeper and thanks to AG for adding his knowledge to the squad. We move on to next year now with real hope and anticipation of what this squad can achieve.



Rugby

An interesting and challenging year for Bradford Grammar rugby, as we began to make the long overdue return to normality in sport post COVID.

Highlights this year included:

The seniors' turnaround of a slow start to the season after a hard-fought win against Durham on weekend seven of the season. One parent who attended most of the opening fixtures stated: 'I watched the boys play at Stonyhurst (week 2) and this team is unrecognisable to the team that played that day.'

The U16s going unbeaten in the regular 15-a-side season led by the illustrious Thom S.

The U15s making the final of the BGS 'Storm Sevens' tournament, following a tough season navigated with a very small squad.

The U14s' trip to Rosslyn Park following two years of no competition at the national event.

The U13s' strength in numbers and general development across the squad to finish the 15 and 7s season very strongly. The group made three 7s finals and Harry S was awarded player of the tournament at the huge King's Macclesfield event.

The U12 boys learning the game with many playing rugby for the first time and their first big away trip to Barnard Castle.



U12 A and Bs

The U12s this year bought in superbly well to the training and fixtures on offer. We've had great numbers to training and the commitment in the sessions has been easy for all to see. Every student wanting to represent the school has been given opportunities to play against other schools and gain valuable experience on the field. With the good size squad, we were able to mix the boys between teams to ensure all would have fun with the fixtures.

We had some great days out at Hymer's College, Barnard Castle (wins against Yarm, Darlington and Newcastle School for Boys) where multiple games were played across the day. During the season the boys were set different targets to help them develop their skills. Against Giggleswick, the players managed to make 127 passes and 116 tackles across the game. An impressive target that helped them score lots of tries.

The season finished strongly with wins against Ashville and an exciting evening of rugby under the lights at Keighley RFC against local schools. The boys scored lots of tries and showed plenty of promise for the future.

There were many players new to rugby this year in the 12Bs, however with a good sized squad they were able to be mixed with the more experienced in the year group, who helped bring them along. The highlights of the year were the impressive wins against Birkdale (50-20) and Durham (40-15). Against Birkdale the side scored ten tries by eight different players, including two each for Alex M and Archie S. It was a game played in the right way, with strong running and movement of the ball. Against Durham Milo D was too much to handle, scoring a hat-trick, with his direct running. It was still a team performance though, with a number of others adding to the score sheet. Against Ashville we were able to include a session of touch rugby for those on both sides who had experienced very limited contact time. This was a great experience for those players relatively new to the game and was played in the correct spirit with encouragement and support from both teams.



U13s

Mr Coyle took charge of an exciting group of players who were exposed to rugby fixtures at BGS for the first time, a full 12 months after their arrival due to COVID. A highly skilful and athletic group, they were somewhat shy of contact development yet the promise and potential were clear to see with an impressive win away to Harrogate Grammar to kick-start the season. Daniel O stood out with several tries to his name, a theme which would dominate the rest of the season.

Thereafter, results were tough to come by with heavy defeats to Hymers, Birkdale and GSAL though some great passages of play showed glimmers of the possibilities of this group. A real turning point in the season came on the team's away trip to Durham. Every excuse was at the ready to explain the slow start to the game, be it the delay in travel, meaning the team couldn't complete a warm-up, in addition to the several late injury withdrawals, the result of which saw the team trail by seven tries to two at halftime. The boys responded well to this and scored five tries in the second half with a dominant 20 minute display, which highlighted the resilience and character within the group to fight when their backs were against the wall, in addition to shedding a light on the quality of depth within the group. This a testament to them all as young men, not just rugby players. We came away with a moral victory, knowing that we had scratched the surface of what we were capable of, and this got the momentum rolling as we then embarked on a mid-season tour to North Wales, where relationships were forged and developed within training sessions and team bonding activities.

We saw some individual success through representative rugby also for the powerful Lewis B playing for the U18 Northern Independent School Lambs, Yorkshire U17 county representation for Will O and Sam B and numerous boys representing BGS in the England Rugby Developing Player Programme.

It was unfortunate that the South Africa and Namibia tour for this year's Year 13 leavers couldn't go ahead alongside the annual Colfe's fixture at Blackheath which normally caps off 15-a-side season. We did, however, once again manage to play the annual Staff v Pupils' fixture, which sadly saw the staff beaten by five tries to three – though Mr Crabtree (Maths) was overjoyed to receive the Player of the Match award with some superb breaks down the wing!

It was an absolute pleasure to award this year's Moffat Award for an outstanding contribution to BGS rugby to Reuben T, who throughout his time at school committed to supporting the rugby programme both on and off the field, in particular giving up his time to work with younger year groups.

The 15s season finished with spirited performances against Ashville and Hill House with several players showing clear signs of huge development throughout the season, Jacob H, Tom H, Theo M, Hari S and Isaac S to name but a few.

The group's hard work and commitment to training paid dividends during the 7s season with the squad reaching the final of two 7s festivals, Kings Macc, where Hari S was awarded Player of the Tournament, and our very own BGS 7s festival, with a particular highlight being our performance against and victory over Woodhouse Grove in the group stages. The pace of our players, including Hartley E proved to be a real point of difference between us and our competitors. However, on both occasions we narrowly lost out in the final. The boys finished off the 7s season with an impressive 3rd place finish at the Woodhouse Grove festival. The disappointment felt by the boys on this day highlights how far the group has come in the space of a year, with reflections and observations relating to the progress of the team being echoed by parents during our end of year trip to the AJ Bell stadium to watch Sale Sharks vs Saracens. Clear cohesive improvements have been observed and with the group now being passed over to the care of Mr Wilde for the 2022/23 season, there is a lot of excitement around the potential growth of the group, as they enter the midway stage of their time at BGS. Mr Coyle would like to thank all of the players for their efforts during the season, in addition to the support of their parents, who have been a source of encouragement and positivity throughout.



U14s

This season a total of ten games were played at A team level with the boys winning seven, losing two and drawing one. Over the course of the season, I've been pleased with the development of the squad's individual skills, but moreover, they've responded positively to my expectations, both on and off the field, matured significantly and consequently we enjoyed a great trip to RPNS 7s at the conclusion of the season.

It was fantastic to see the maroon and white quarters back on a rugby field when the season kicked off with a win against Ampleforth College, after the enforced fixture break due to COVID. Victories followed against Stonyhurst College, Hymers College and Birkdale School, which set up our clash with local rivals GSAL nicely. It was a very physical encounter against a much bigger side, and we were a little overwhelmed in the first ten minutes, unfortunately, conceding three tries in the process. However, after that we settled into the demands of the game and caused GSAL problems. Our ability to give them the ball back cheaply meant we were never going to recover the score line from the early deficit despite competing heroically at the breakdown and scoring three tries of our own. I was extremely proud of the resilience the boys demonstrated which would become a hallmark of our best performances, albeit in defeat.

After the half term holiday, we secured a good win at a very wet Giggleswick School followed by a herculean effort from the lads against a very physical, well-organised and talented QEGS outfit. Competitive for 20 minutes, we certainly shocked them by replying immediately to their opening score. However, the volume of defensive work took its toll and we began to lose our defensive shape which QEGS ruthlessly exposed. We bounced back the week after sharing the spoils with Ashville College and followed that up with victories against Hill House and Keighley RUFC.

... my thanks to ...the dedicated group of parents who support both the team and the rugby club so loyally and, of course, all the boys, too numerous to mention individually here, who work so hard and give up so much time in representing our great school.



Finally, my thanks to Mr D Scarbrough, Mr G Morrison and Mr D Coyle for their valuable coaching input, Mr J Marsh and his staff for the provision of the excellent playing facilities we enjoy at BGS, the dedicated group of parents who support both the team and the rugby club so loyally and, of course, all the boys, too numerous to mention individually here, who work so hard and give up so much time in representing our great school.

U15s

The U15s had a frustrating season due to lack of numbers, therefore resulting in minimal fixtures. However, good commitment and effort to improve their rugby tactical and technical skills was apparent throughout the year.

The boys had a good little run in the National Cup, reaching Round 3. The highlights being impressive wins against Ermysteds (45-10) and Ilkley Grammar School (33-14). Against Ermysteds some expansive rugby and great off-loading was shown which resulted in Yuvraj G and Arul M getting braces. The match against Ilkley Grammar School was a similar type of match in which the boys had to deal with an Ilkley player who possessed real speed and strength and cope with the adversity of losing a key player Alexander M early in the match with a broken finger. Noticeable mentions: Dominic B for his strong running and Yuvraj G bulldozing over for a hat-trick of tries.

Only one fixture took place alongside the cup fixtures, and this was away at Birkdale (21-21). On a positive note, even with the lack of fixtures, various BGS students got some good game time and first rugby experience for a few years, the likes of Charlie W, Alfie W, Sulaimaan I and Emaan A.

The U15s sevens only entered two tournaments, the first being at Ampleforth with just nine players. The boys made the school proud by winning two out of three games against Denstone and Scarborough College respectively, just losing out to Woodhouse Grove. The quarter final saw a fixture against a strong Birkdale side that resulted in defeat. It was a great tournament for a small, committed group with Alex W and Zach R being key players. The last tournament

saw the boys reach the final against a strong GSAL squad at the BGS hosted event after playing matches against Hymers, Ampleforth, St Peters York. With the lively home support, this gave the boys a lift which resulted in finishing the rugby season well.

U16s

Before a ball was kicked this season there was talk from the squad that an unbeaten season was a possibility. Everyone made a promise to work hard, learn as much as possible and play for each other. There was also an opportunity for three of the stronger U15s to profit from some regular U16 experience, namely Alexander M, Alexander W, Arul M, who really added to the squad.

The first test of the season was at Ampleforth and Bradford knew they had to start strong against this big, physical side. Bradford started well, quickly winning a penalty and kicking to touch. Hooker Luca M scored the opening try of the season off the back of a well worked maul with Beau M converting from the touch line.

This was followed by three tries in quick succession. Beau M and our two wingers Alexander M and Ed W both scored out wide from some well worked plays down the blind side. There was an early 'try of the season' contender with an offload from Thom S to Fergus who broke the line and showed great pace to run around the last two defenders to score.

Fergus R then repaid Thom S by offloading to him to cross under the sticks for Bradford's final try. Ampleforth scored a well-deserved try on the final whistle and the game finished 40-7 in Bradford's favour.

After building confidence in the first match, the boys travelled to Stonyhurst College. The team knew they were in for a tough game as the opposition had won both their opening games convincingly.

The game started evenly with both team's defences holding firm until BGS profited from some good pressure in defence from Beau M who forced the error and kicked forward twice for Ed W to dot down for the first try of the game. Turnovers again were won in key positions on the pitch by Ben H and U15 representative Arul M, both putting in stellar performances.

It was 5-0 at half time with the game in the balance, yet Bradford started the second half the stronger of the two teams in the second half with Beau M scoring an excellent try off a training ground move. Bradford continued to pile on the pressure with Thom S running an excellent line to slice through the defence, Fergus R the provider with a great short ball, to score Bradford's third of the day.

The performance was capped off, with U15s' player Alexander M scoring for a second game in a row. The resilience shone through, as they defended for long periods and began to build true character.

Bradford then pushed aside Hymers College after an uncharacteristic slow start. After an early score from Hymers, Bradford responded with two tries from Thom S and Ed W's outstanding individual try. Bradford continued to grow into the game with another score from Thom S who scored after Luca M broke off the back of a well worked maul. Burhaan H scored off a well worked set piece just after the second half started which was matched by Hymers' scoring through



their big physical forward pack. Fergus R got the final say in the game though, with an outrageous dummy which put him over for a well-deserved try. Rory K played an outstanding game starting at 9 for the first time.

Birkdale were next on a wet blustery day in Sheffield. The team, full of confidence, ran away with the game with a hat trick of tries from Yusuf Z, a double from Beau M and further tries from Fergus R, Ed W and Will B. With everyone getting plenty of game time it gave the team a great platform to build on for the last two games of the season against GSAL and QEGS, both at home.

Unfortunately, after a massive week preparing for GSAL the game was cancelled due to another COVID outbreak at the opposition school. This left one more game for the season and the last push for an undefeated season against one of our oldest rivals QEGS.

The QEGS game started as expected as a hugely physical encounter, yet there were plenty of early line breaks and end-to-end rugby. Eventually, one of the line breaks down the shoreside led to Charlie H scoring with Beau M converting to give Bradford a 7-0 lead. It looked like 7-0 was going to be the score going into half time, however the QEGS fullback collected an ordinary clearance kick from Bradford and raced away from halfway to score under the posts, right on the half time whistle making it 7-5. The QEGS goal kicker somehow missed the conversion from under the posts leaving Bradford with a two-point advantage at half time.

The second half continued like the first with both forward packs trying to gain momentum, Ben H and Luca M in particular competing hard for turnovers in the ruck. Both sides held strong as the game became an arm wrestle with QEGS looking the most likely to score only for a superb try saving and match winning tackle from Burhan H, pulling the QEGS attacker down inches short of the line and causing him to knock on.

The next phase of play saw Bradford attack using lovely skills and the ball was finally worked out to George W who dived over in the corner to seal the victory 12-5.

1st XV

The COVID hangover was always going to mean a slow start to the 2021, 15-a-side season. The lack of pre-season activity and the law variations preceding it meant any large group training, contact, scrummaging, line-outs, etc. had to be reintroduced safely using the RFU's phased return to play. The group set some early achievable goals and took a group of committed young men to the King's Macclesfield pre-season rugby festival, where agreements were made that no scores would be kept, offering a softer introduction to competitive rugby. Not knowing what to fully expect, the boys handled themselves well against some very strong schools, including the hosts themselves. Blessed with good overall squad numbers, the group set a realistic six-week goal encompassing a team framework which the boys could work towards.

This goal was achieved with a fantastic performance and win against the historic Durham School. It followed some difficult matches with positive valuable learning experiences where the group showed true resilience and a grit only found in Yorkshire! Sadly, it came at a cost with some notable injuries along the way.

The 2021/22 campaign looked like it was starting well with Will B slotting in at fly half and producing a solid first half against Ampleforth at home in the Yorkshire Cup. The boys put early pressure on the opposition, creating some superb turnovers and looked to be in full control of the match. Ammar S, Will O and Will W got on the end of some fantastic team tries during that period with Joe F converting two from three. Sadly, inexperience and an early, season-ending injury to George H, other more minor ones to Will W, Ammar S, Will O proved costly as a shift in momentum went in favour of the men in Red and Black as the 19-12 lead began to slip away. Two late scores for Ampleforth produced a heavy defeat on the scoreboard and a disappointed gaggle of geese regrouped with captain Ed B who stated: "It really was a game that got away, though many lessons were learned and the boys will become stronger from the defeat!"

The following week saw a very strong Stonyhurst pull apart our injury-ravaged boys. The team was well beaten, and it was agreed the performance was not a true reflection of the team's capabilities and they looked forward to putting it right with a friendly against Harrogate. A mixture of 1st and 2nd XV players took to the field against Harrogate and there were some superb moments during the match which gave the team some much needed confidence and belief in the process.

Week four saw a block against a strong Hymers team and, although the scoreline didn't suggest it, the group was beginning to bond and understand each other better. There were some strong defensive displays with Kai D being a rock on the right wing, who kept a strong and lively opposite number under wraps very well,

with some thunderous tackling. Scoring opportunities were being produced but sadly not always finished off after some bullocking runs by Captain Ed B and fellow Year 13s Nick M and Lewis B.

The movement of Morgan H from flanker to scrum-half was an interesting one which gave the team a whole new dimension for the season. There was a deeper understanding of the importance of speed to the breakdown to keep hold of the ball for longer periods. This, in reaction to the introduction of this season's new law variances, alongside the introduction of some new playing frameworks, which enhanced go forward in attack, helped produce the match highlight - a well worked blind side which led to a multi-phase team try five minutes from time, in which the ball passed and was offloaded through 13 pairs of hands – Kai D eventually diving over in the corner, to be converted from the touchline by Will B.

The following match was cancelled as COVID once again raised its ugly head until week six which produced a great performance against a strong GSAL team. This proved to be a closely contested and highly competitive fixture with the return of Will O back from injury giving the squad a boost.

The lads started well with good defensive intensity. GSAL scored first and BGS began to adjust their attack, with a greater focus on simple plays off scrum half Morgan H, in response to the wet conditions. The returning Will O profited from a superb blitz defence with a kick chase to score the following try, which meant Bradford were ahead at half time. The boys began the second half well, yet sadly a length of the field intercept try shifted the momentum back in favour of GSAL, who eventually won the game. A special mention went to the three U16s Thom S, Beau M and Fergus R who made their senior debuts.

There was confidence building and a feeling that a win wasn't far away. That win came in week seven in the Daily Mail Trophy against Durham School. The momentum swung both ways during the game with the BGS boys triumphant in the end 15-7 which proved to be the turning point in the season. The confidence built through that game helped them to further wins against

Giggleswick and Hill House pushing them through to the end of the season very positively. Sadly, Joe F suffered a long-term shoulder injury which put an end to his BGS career just as he was starting to find his form with a move to the wing.

Further fixture cancellations affected the run into Christmas and the much anticipated Year 13 annual Colfe's fixture had to be cancelled, putting a swift end to the Autumn term.

Lewis B, Morgan H, Ismaeel A, Reuben T, Rahul M played in all 15 senior matches.

Senior Awards were as follows:

Players' Player Lewis B

Coaches' 1st XV Player Ed B (Captain)

Most Improved 1st XV Player Joe H

Coaches' 2nd XV Player Will W

Most Improved 2nd XV Player Seamus N

2nd XV

The 2nd XV had a great start to the season with a much deserved 15-10 win against Ampleforth at home. Ben H showed great footwork and Charlie M added physicality yet it was Tom D who potentially sealed the victory when he put his body on the line to stop a certain try with a fantastic cover tackle. Innes M was busy all game at scrum half and Captain Jacob O'C led the side well, scoring all three tries - a true captain's performance! This positive performance set the tone for the rest of the season!

Stonyhurst, however, had plans to spoil the party and had racked up three tries very quickly. The boys regrouped and managed to out score the opposition in the second half - Milan S and Arjun B in particular performed brilliantly helps clean up the ruck area with Zachy profiting with a well worked try. Nikhil G captained the side well, leading from the front throughout. Hymers then GSAL proved to be further tough fixtures yet improvement was shown and there were reasons to remain positive as building blocks were put in place.

The hard work paid off when the BGS boys took on Giggleswick School, coming away with victory and the scoreline ending 26-12.

The U16 boys who stepped up really helped make a difference with Luca M scoring a brace of tries, Seamus N and Ben H picking up one a piece and Ben G returning to the oval ball game after some time out converting.

Then came the big one - the historic fixture against QEGS Wakefield 2nd team on Saturday November 13. There was an air of fear after a disappointing turn out on Friday training, however BGS struck first with a try from Richard C. QEGS' physicality showed and they answered back with two tries in quick succession. The lineouts functioned well and Hassan Q profited when he spotted space down the blind side and dived over for our second try. Alex G powered through multiple opposition players to score a third and final try. Will Baker hit all three conversions to nudge us ahead. Hugo S stated: 'I'm very proud to be part of the 2nd XV as in our toughest challenge of the season, we had our greatest win!'

A final match ensued with a repeat fixture against Ampleforth and a good opportunity to check the measuring sticks having already played them at the start of the year. The result was the same with BGS taking the win. Year 11s Harry L and Ben H instrumented the win with tries after Ampleforth started the match 5-0 up after an early defensive blip. But the boys came back stronger ending the half 7-5.

Notable contributions came from Seamus M who stepped in at fly half when Ben G left the field with an injury. Overall, a very strong performance from BGS ending the game 21-5 and the season!

Won 5, Lost 4, Cancelled 2

Sport Tours



Cricket Tour 2022

The Senior and U15 squads made the one-hour journey to Liverpool to play in the inaugural Mersey cup.

We were up against tough opposition in Wellington School and two local cricket academies. The tournament was played over three days with a t20 match each day and on two days the boys played two games.

We performed admirably in all the games, winning four games over the whole week.

We had many excellent individual contributions but Aryan S was the leading run scorer of the whole tournament, a remarkable achievement when you consider the strength of the opposition.

The boys received master classes in power hitting, spin bowling and seam bowling from professional coaches and it was an enlightening experience for all including the team managers.

We plan to go again next summer with the same age groups as it was such a fantastic experience and a fabulous end to what has been a hugely successful season.

We now set our sights on winter training to prepare for the next season with both boys and girls numbers increasing and a competitive fixture schedule organised. Cricket continues to flourish at BGS.

Rugby Tour 2022

By Dan Scarborough, Specialist Sports
Coach, Rugby

From July 10 to 24, 2022, 30 Year 11 and 12 boys flew out to South Africa accompanied by five staff for a two-week development tour. This was the first long haul rugby tour since the COVID pandemic and eight years since the last trip to South Africa.

During an initial four-day preparation camp based at the Stellenbosch High Performance Centre and home of Paul Roo's school, the boys had the privilege of training alongside the South African international sevens teams. Then we had the physical preparation phase with Mr Nabozny's 'Gym Golf' and an inter-team triathlon. A huge effort from all set the tone with winners 'Team Springboks' and 'Team Lions' respectively taking rewards for their performances in the opening events.

Once the preparation phase was over, four fixtures followed against three South African schools who were already 12 games into their regular season.

The first fixture was against Knysna Secondary school, while travelling down the fabulous Garden Route, which proved to be a superb experience thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, against a team with great passion and appreciation for the game of rugby and its values. The match itself was played as a curtain raiser before a senior match at Knysna Rugby Club in front of a noisy and enthusiastic crowd full of energetic supporters cheering for both teams. The atmosphere will be remembered by all with a mixture of tribal dancing and singing in the stands as the boys ran out through a human tunnel of local supporters. There was a chance also to offer donations of kit to the opposition team, which was gratefully received.

The following two matches were played in a much more competitive spirit against some of the best schools in South Africa. The uncompromising Hoer Landbouskool Boland, based in Paarl proved to be a hugely physical battle in which the BGS boys performed incredibly well, just losing out by two tries. A match which really showed a strong bond was growing within the team.

The final match against Wynberg High School saw an A and B team fixture, with both BGS teams scraping wins in two highly competitive matches, both were won with a penalty kick. Most notably newly appointed captain, Will B, converted a penalty to win the A team match and set the boys up for a positive season ahead.

Alongside and in between the rugby, the boys travelled on a private coach driven by an adopted South African member of the squad who quickly and affectionately became known as '36' (his number on the daily roll call!)

There were trips to see Robben Island, the imposing Table Mountain, penguins at Boulders beach, the Featherbed Nature Reserve, the coastal route along the scenic Chapman's Peak to Cape Point and Cape of Good Hope, and activities including surfing lessons at Muizenberg beach, ziplining on the Cape Canopy Tour and some boys even dived with sharks at Simon's Town. Seeing four of the 'big five' on Safari was said to be an incredible experience and joining in with the African drumming tradition in Gold's restaurant in Cape Town was a magical moment also for everyone.

To say the boys were busy is an understatement and the daily voting for the 'Duck of the Day' outfit kept them on track and enabled the group to set their own standards and culture within the squad in which to build on throughout the school year.

The trip itself was filled with life experiences, sporting opportunities and certainly lots of rugby learning and development on the pitch. Above all, making memories and forging lifetime friendships through rugby is what the boys will remember most. It is said that 'good people make good rugby players' and if that's the case, these boys are in for a good year!

I personally would like to thank the boys for being incredibly respectful and true to their word, and the team of staff Mr Nabozny, Mr Pullen, Mr Morrison and Mr Marsh for giving up their holiday time and supporting the boys in their journey, the supportive parents and the RPA for fundraising and backing the trip, Living with the Lions for their part in the trip, all sponsors for providing kit, sponsoring activities and personal sponsors and finally the powers that be within school for letting it happen – particularly at such a difficult time for world travel!

We begin our planning for Summer 2024.



Thank you ...

To all pupils, parents and staff members for helping to make this year at BGS truly remarkable, yet again.





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