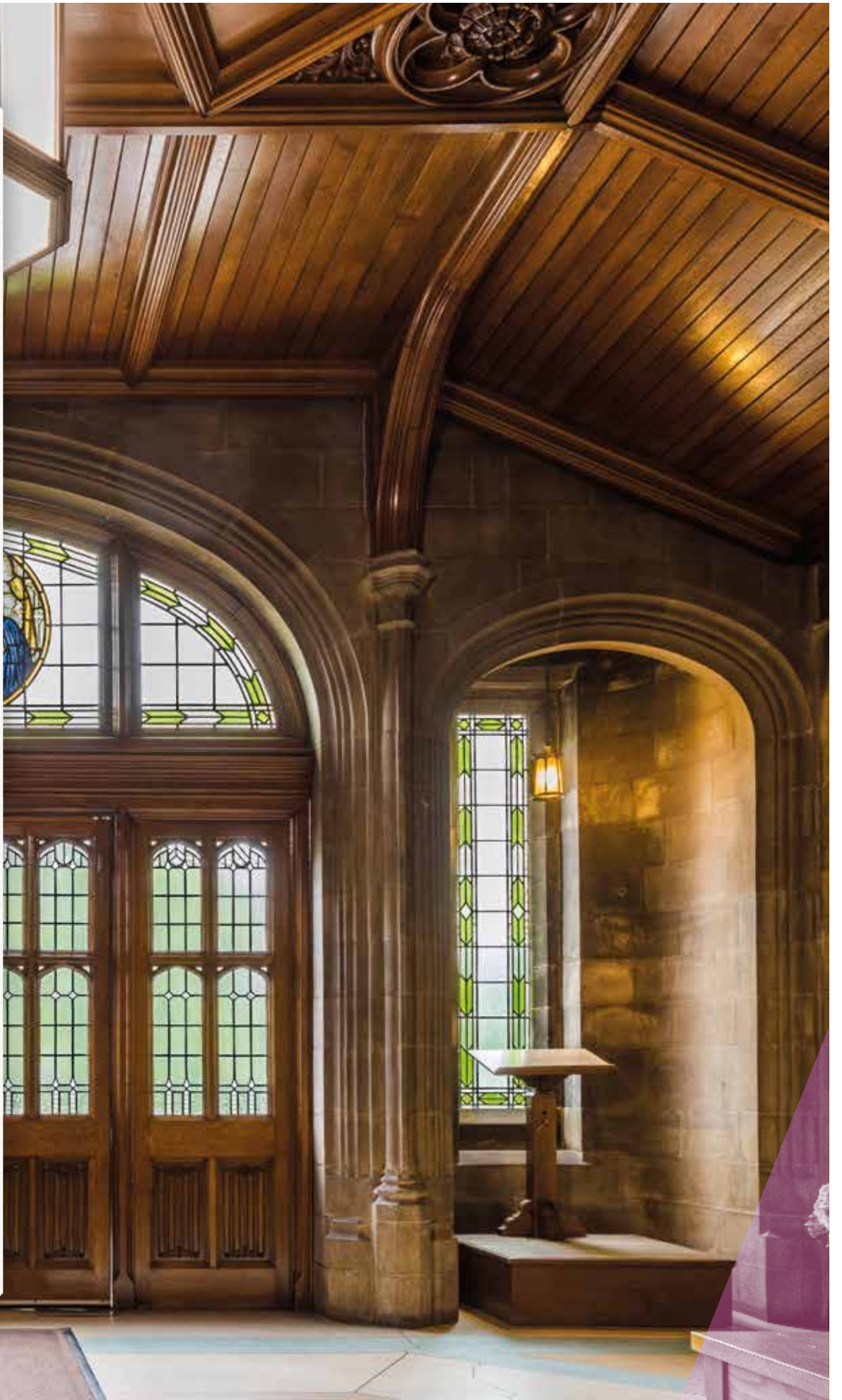




Bradford
Grammar
School

Issue 357 | Autumn 2023

The Bradfordian



Dr Simon Hinchliffe

Headmaster

Extract from Speech Day 2023

For the full speech
please turn to page 07

...synergy between learning and leadership.

Both represent opportunities for
challenge, personal growth, fulfilment
and fun, and to make a positive
difference in this world.

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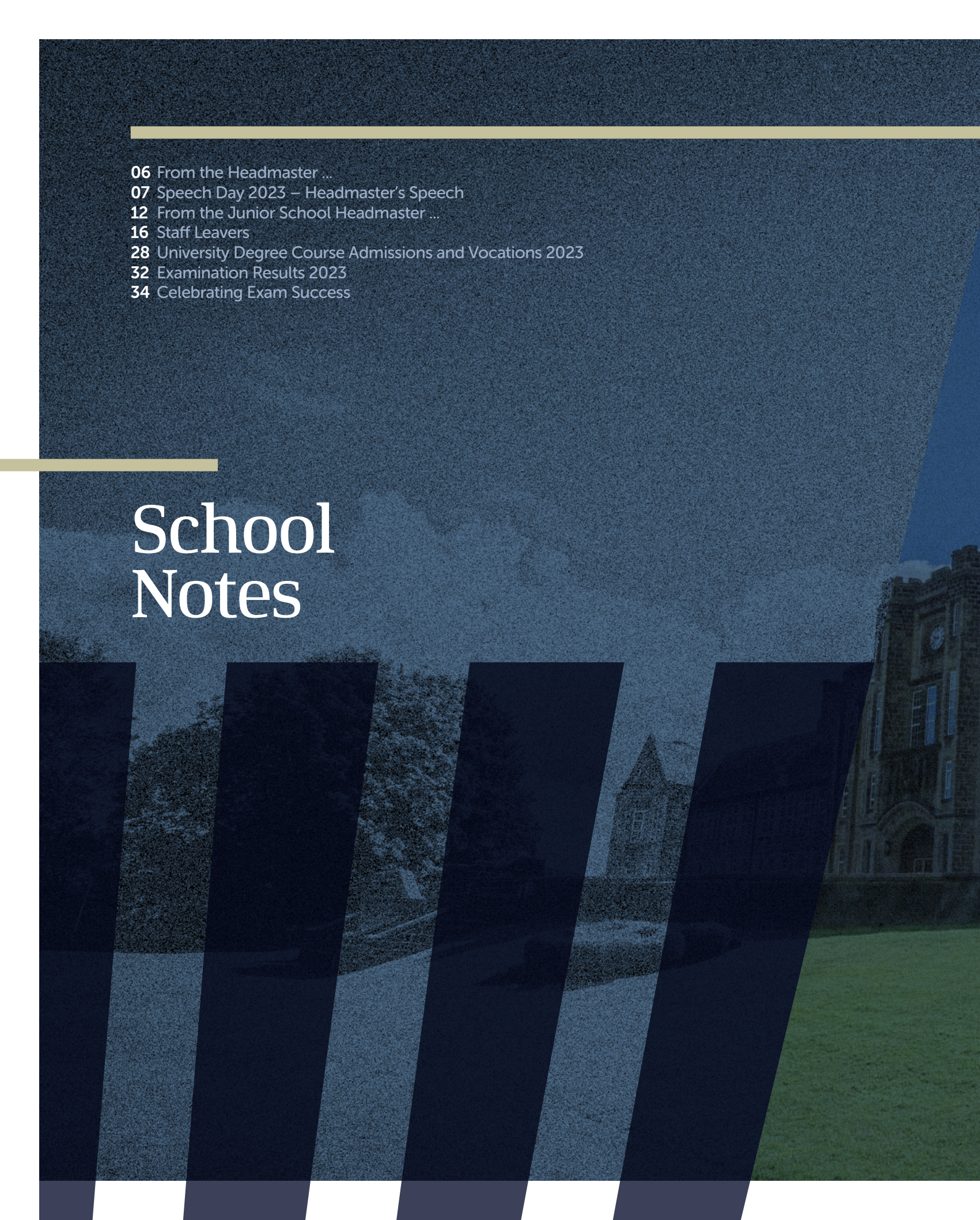
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School Notes



From the Headmaster ...

Welcome to the 2023 edition of our whole school digest, 'The Bradfordian'.

Excellence, Opportunity and Happiness - these are the words that groups of students, existing and prospective BGS families, and staff most strongly associated with BGS when a survey was conducted a few years ago.

And these three words keep rising to the surface in our everyday BGS conversations and when inspectors dig a little deeper.

Our motto, 'Hoc Age' or 'do it', describes how we behave, our daily routine - get cracking, no nonsense, a very Yorkshire existence. Excellence, Opportunity and Happiness speak to school identity and character, the things we notice when we elevate ourselves above the daily rhythm and take in a wider perspective, a longer time frame.

I'm a straightforward sort of chap and intuitively understand Excellence and Opportunity, and also 'Hoc Age'. For me, it goes something like this: make the most of your opportunities by working hard and thus give yourself a shot at achieving excellence - bish, bash, bosh. Happiness, however, is, for me, a more elusive quality.

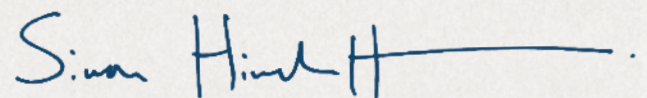
BGS is not perfect of course, how could it be? But fundamentally, our School knows what it's about. We put our shoulder to the wheel, play fair, look after each other and try to do some good in the world. I believe there's a recipe for happiness in this simple list of BGS ingredients, but it's up to the individual to bake the cake. This latest edition of our long running annual digest, 'The Bradfordian', attests to the busy and happy lives lived at our School, and it's because of these qualities that our young people achieve so richly and highly, not the other way round.

Not for the first time, The Sunday Times named Bradford Grammar as one of the top three independent schools in the North of England and also 80th nationally. The rankings reflect exams results from summer 2022 when 92% of A Level grades were at A*-B and 80% of GCSE grades were at 9-7. Naturally we were delighted that Bradford Grammar School, and the young people of our home city and region, were recognised in this way. But league tables must be regarded cautiously, the devil can sometimes be in the detail, and they never tell the whole story. The premium we place on pastoral care, partnerships, volunteering and wider public benefit work, the arts, sport, clubs and societies - the list goes on - are sources of equal pride and speak volumes about the modern day BGS. There is synergy between our educational, commercial and public benefit activities and this has been reflected in recent recognition:

- Sunday Times: Independent Secondary School of the Year, North in 2018 and top 3 in the North 2019, 2021 and 2022.
- The Daily Telegraph: Best Value Independent Schools in the UK 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.
- Independent Schools Council / Schools Together: 'Celebrating Partnerships' 2021 and 2022.
- Independent Parent Magazine: Independent School of the Year 2021 for Social Mobility.
- Times Educational Supplement - Independent School Awards, Wellbeing Initiative of the Year 2020.
- The Education Business Awards, Commended 2023.

But we never get complacent. When things go awry, we are open about it and look to learn and do better. Moreover, we model a kind of professional restlessness, fine tuning the strategy and sweating the details to keep moving forwards. To that end we are excited about our refurbished Sixth Form Centre, green initiatives and Junior School campus redevelopment and expanded age range to include Reception and Year 1 (opening September 2024), the benefits of which will be far reaching for the whole of Clock House.

The countless goings-on that characterise life at Bradford Grammar School are celebrated in the pages that follow. This is not an exhaustive summary by any means, but a representative impression of our wonderful School and a testament to the spirit and endeavour of our young people and staff. Read on and enjoy!



Dr Simon Hinchliffe
BA, MEd, PhD, FRSA
Headmaster





Shine
aspire

Speech Day 2023

Headmaster's Speech

Vice Lord-Lieutenant, High Sheriff, Lord Mayor, Steve, honoured guests, Governors, ladies and gentlemen and members of the School, allow me to add my words of welcome to those of Professor Mellors. It is wonderful to be able to welcome you all to the Price Hall for our 2023 Prize Giving and Speech Day ceremony and thank you Professor Mellors – Colin – for those warm words of introduction.

We are looking forward to celebrating the spirit and accomplishments of our young people, listening to some wonderful music and hearing from our speaker and Old Bradfordian, Mr Steve Bagshaw CBE – and Steve we are sincerely grateful to you for joining us this afternoon.

The focus today, quite rightly, is on our young people. But it is also our tradition to say thank you, to say goodbye to those colleagues who have made a substantial contribution to BGS and have left or are leaving this year. Unusually perhaps, this is where I would like to start, not at the end of my address, but rather at the beginning to set the tone.

Speech Day 2023

Headmaster's Speech

I will begin with our hardworking support teams who make a vital contribution to the life of our School. I would like to thank Phil Craven our former Estates Services Supervisor who worked here for almost 14 years helping to ensure that our buildings and grounds remain in such fine fettle. Phil left us for a promotion at another school, at Woodhouse Grove - I've never heard of them... but I gather they're an alright bunch once you get to know them!

Ken Wharton, Caretaker, also in our Estates Department, worked here for over 25 years. In conversations we shared our love of loud rock music, Iron Maiden, Def Leppard and such like. Ken was dedicated to BGS, and I hope he enjoys a long and happy retirement. We wish the same for our school nurses, Sally Martindale, who has tended to our physical and mental health for 13 years, and Maggi Ashurst who has patched us up for the past 11 years. We extend our grateful thanks to them both.

Luke Jones, Database Officer in the Old Bradfordians & Development team, Donna Reynolds, of the same department, and Lindsay Shackleton, Library Manager, have departed this year. So has Farzana Kauser, BGS Cleaner of 9 years, and her close colleague Georgina Steward. Victoria Heslop moves on from her role as Biology Technician. Cat Macdonald, our Human Resources Consultant and member of the Senior Leadership Team also departs to focus on her own business. Cat has done much unseen work to help shape policy and business practice, and support leadership and governance processes, at BGS. Today we thank our excellent support colleagues, leavers and stayers alike, for all they have committed and continue to give to our School. Let's give them a deserved round of applause.

There is one more support staff name to mention. Craig Milner died suddenly and unexpectedly earlier this year. Craig, who worked in our excellent Estates Department, is sadly missed. The school flag was lowered, and we will gather to plant a tree as a lasting memorial to our former colleague. Rest in peace, Craig.

We turn now to our teaching colleagues. Oliver Rogers, Director of Sport, departed in the autumn to lead physical education at a boarding school in the home counties. Emma Griggs bids farewell to our Modern Languages Department for a promotion as the Head of French. Louise Dixon, Head of SEND and Learning Strategies, moves to a school closer to home after 11 years at BGS. Deborah Crawford, Louise's SEND and Learning Strategies colleague, also departs this year for similar reasons. Jade Richards, Teacher of Design and Technology, worked at BGS for over 11 years and left for a Head of Department position and house move to North Yorkshire.

I am struck by the length of service that many have given, and the loyalty shown, to our School. Lesley Leach is one such colleague. Teacher of Physics and, amongst other things, supporter of BGS hockey over the years, Lesley retires after 12 years with us. Karin Murach, Head of German and Teacher of Modern Languages joined BGS in 1987. Her 36 years of generous service represents an extraordinary commitment, one we won't forget or fail to honour. Retirement now beckons. Thank you, Karin for your expert teaching and pastoral care, your sense of proportion and warmth of personality these many years.

Joe Driscoll (Teacher of Mathematics), Ruby Hendry (Music Graduate Assistant, Old Bradfordian and all round BGS enthusiast), Lyndon Lemos (Graduate Sports Assistant, Hockey), Nicholas Honey (former Sports Graduate Assistant and, more recently, Teacher of Sport) also depart BGS. We are grateful to them all, and also to those whose time here was shorter but who will be acknowledged in the next edition of the Bradfordian magazine. And to my teaching colleagues who continue to serve our young people with professionalism, enthusiasm and a great deal of heart, you also have my deep respect and sincere thanks.

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

People matter. That's the point I wish to make at the start of my speech. They matter to me. Sometimes we might not feel like we do. Such is the disposition of busy human beings. We can miss the signals, miss a smile given, a kind word expressed, an interest shown, time devoted to a conversation. But these things show that we do care about each other, and it's the everyday interactions that speak most deeply and powerfully about life at our School for children and adults alike.

It remains a privilege to lead our School community as your Headmaster, but it's time for a little candour: I never wanted to be a Headmaster. I now see the Governors shuffling uneasily in their front row seats, possibly because I didn't use that exact phrase at interview! I freely admit that I still have to pinch myself when I remember that I am in fact the 29th Headmaster of this great institution, The Free School of King Charles II in Bradford, one of the iconic schools of the north, of the nation, with a heritage unrivalled by many that dates back to before 1548.

I don't stand here by virtue of a professional game plan or particular ambition. Neither teaching or headship featured in my thinking as a younger man or as a lad at school. But it was at school where I received the only careers advice I've ever had. I was in Year 10, the fourth form in old money, and the advice came from a very basic BBC microcomputer. Murky grey screen, green text, the computer was the size of a fridge and as heavy as one. To be honest, by today's standards, there was nothing 'micro' about this metal machine. But me and my friends, for one time only, were let loose on the thing and we tapped our information into it - academic subjects, extra-curricular interests - and waited for wisdom to be calculated.

Given the miracles of BBC microcomputer technology, the innovation of the 1980s, it was only a mere hour or two before the data was crunched and a nearby dot matrix printer chattered into life offering its faintly printed prophesy about what I was going to do with the rest of my life.

Eagerly looking for the words 'fighter pilot' or 'David Hasselhoff body double' - it was the 1980s after all - I read the name of the career to which the computer said I was best suited. Top of the list, I kid you not, was the word Zookeeper! And here I stand, as the 29th Zookeeper of the Free School of King Charles II in Bradford. Perhaps the machine had some foresight after all?

So, no great 'headmagisterial' ambition? But I have always applied myself wholeheartedly and without complaint to the task at hand. I have always been keen to embrace a challenge, to risk failure, to seize opportunity. I work hard, not for reward, but because the work I seek is meaningful and fulfilling in its own right. The thornier challenges are often the most satisfying ones, and I am grateful for them. My CV, my page on LinkedIn, does not chart deliberate preparation for the next office, but rather a seeking out of new experiences, an appetite to be busy and a disposition, perhaps, if you read between the lines, to have a laugh along the way.

Young people in the room, if you are listening, this is a different kind of careers advice to the printout I received in the 1980s. I am encouraging you, our students, to keep an open mind about what you might do in life. I am also extolling the virtue of industrious and meaningful work and reassuring you of the lasting benefits and abiding sense of achievement that comes naturally when a job is done well. We gather today to celebrate learning. To my mind, and given all I've just said, there is a clear synergy between learning and leadership. Both represent opportunities for challenge, personal growth, fulfilment and fun, and to make a positive difference in this world.

Speech Day 2023

Headmaster's Speech

Learning and leadership can create the conditions for others to thrive. This is the legacy of both, if enacted wisely. Choose to do the right thing, then work hard. It's a simple but potentially far-reaching message, and not a million miles away from our age-old school motto of 'Hoc Age'. Those who align most closely with this ethos, students, staff, parents, Old Bradfordians and wider stakeholders alike, will inevitably get the most out of their association with our historic school.

And we do achieve great things together.

This year The Sunday Times once again rated Bradford Grammar amongst the top three independent schools in the North of England and 80th nationally. Our students achieve highly year on year and it's the consistency that counts. This of course is a wonderful reflection on the ambition, spirit and honest graft, including during the lockdowns of recent times, of our students.

Academic league tables must however be regarded cautiously, the devil can be in the detail and they never tell the whole story. At BGS we place a premium on our pastoral care, partnership, volunteering and wider public benefit work. The arts, sport, clubs and societies, the list goes on, are thriving too. Our children also enjoy school and that means a great deal to us.

The Daily Telegraph said we were one of the Best (Top 10) Value Independent Schools in the UK. The Independent Schools Council and Department for Education held up our public benefit partnerships with Future Transformation, a technology charity, and most recently Skipton Tennis Centre, as examples for others to follow. The Independent Parent Magazine named us as the Independent School of the Year for Social Mobility. The Times Educational Supplement awarded BGS with the title of Independent School of the Year for a Wellbeing Initiative. But we never get complacent and keep looking to improve, for example with respect to our Junior School campus development and expanded age range to include Reception and Year 1, opening September 2024.

This is the stuff of BGS life. Our young people, our supportive families, my colleagues and Governors, our OBs and wider circle of friends deserve the plaudits as we walk the talk of our whole school values of Excellence, Opportunity, Determination, Compassion and Service. Our School delivers an extraordinary education within a prudent commercial envelope. If a job's worth doing, all aspects of it are worth doing well. Back to 'Hoc Age' again!

There is however a counterpoint. As we strive for excellence and increments of improvement, the ideological and economic climate in which we operate represents a deepening challenge.

Schools of all kinds continue to do great work on behalf of their young people and are far more diverse in character than any binary – maintained versus independent / state versus private - caricature.

The European Convention on Human Rights was established in the aftermath of the Second World War, the first protocol of which protects a parent's free choice in the education of their children reflecting religious and philosophical convictions. The convention explicitly protects plurality in education in the UK and across Europe and was initially conceived to limit the reach of the state. Let's hope that such plurality and freedom can be protected in years to come.

Our School, our BGS, is in fine shape, and it needs to be. The capacity and propensity of future generations of parents to choose independent education for their children is of national interest. It's a good job that BGS is in a strong position. However, as alluded to previously, we cannot afford to take our foot off the gas. We will not become complacent. Our School has changed and adapted over the years to maintain a robust position. We are doing so again in increments to ensure that a first-class BGS education is available to the widest possible cross section of families. Enhancing our provision, controlling costs, attending to income streams, raising funds for means-tested Assisted Places and enacting a wider public benefit, these things are essential if our School is going to thrive in the future. Such is the stuff of modern-day, independent school leadership and life.

I am proud of our young people, proud of our School, proud of our home city and region. I am proud of our resilience and adaptability to meet challenges and make the most of our opportunities. Our steady commitment to high academic and ethical standards, to providing a rich variety of experiences, is a recipe for success and happiness. Moreover, we are generous and seek to share our time and resources as a good neighbour in our community. This is BGS, this is our bedrock and our future.

When a characterful crowd of OBs, an undefeated First XV from the early 1970s, met recently in the 'Mucky Duck' and then, black tie on, in the DH Room, they said the following about BGS. They said that our School had inspired, and I quote:

'Pride in ourselves and in our shared spirit of community... [inspired] learning and leadership... [inspired] our shared vision of a desired future... [inspired] determination to grow and achieve, no matter at what age. The community in this room, [they said] the memories herein, the sadness and triumphs, the togetherness, it's all built on that magical foundation stone inside every boy and girl at Bradford Grammar School ... this is not a school, gentlemen, this is a force of nature.'

And on that note... thank you for listening to me and I hope you enjoy all that follows.



Dr Simon Hinchliffe
BA, MEd, PhD, FRSA
Headmaster



From the Junior School Headmaster ...

Junior School Prize Giving 2023

Junior School Headmaster's Speech

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

A special welcome today to Emile Cairess (2016). We appreciate you taking the time to be here with us today to present the prizes, Emile, and are very much looking forward to hearing about your career to date.

Today represents an opportunity to celebrate achievements over the course of the whole year and also a chance to wish our Year 6 leavers well, as they round off their Junior School education.

What a year we have had in the Junior School. It seems like only yesterday since the first assembly of the year back in September when I welcomed the children to school, but so much has happened since then.

During that first assembly, we considered the five BGS values. Service, Compassion, Excellence, Determination and Opportunity. Values which run from Year 2 to Year 13. We distilled them into three simple messages; Be kind, try your best and have a go! These simple values and attitudes will get you quite far in life and you may see them reflected in someone sitting not too far from me today!

During our assembly this week, we reflected on our progress, had we been kind, had we tried our best and had we made the most of our opportunities? None of us are perfect, as Mrs Reilly regularly reminds me, but we do 'try our best' and that is the important part.

Kindness was evident from the start as 46 new children joined Clock House back in September and six more children in January. So, a large number of you sitting here today have just about completed your first year at BGS. We have enjoyed getting to know each and every one of you and I hope you've enjoyed it too!



School Notes

From the Junior School Headmaster ...



So, a lot has happened this year ...

A successful science week took place in the spring term run in large part by our STEM ambassadors, with 'design a lab coat' competitions, create your own ophthalmoscope and the Medical Mavericks arrived to share their practical (and somewhat gory!) activities with Year 6. We have had three STEM ambassador days this year and last week, certificates were awarded for their European Space Agency project where they used the Python coding language to send a message to 'cheer up' the astronauts on the International Space Station.

Links with the library continue to strengthen, with the SPARK reading club introduced this year. The children read four books over a term on Mondays after school; activities included the 'describe a book in a minute' challenge - which I'm told really was quite a challenge and very humorous - and the juice and biscuits on offer each week were also quite popular!

Our Eco Council ran a thought-provoking Eco Week and an assembly on World Environment Day at the start of June. Beforehand they had taken time to meet with our Estates Manager to clarify exactly what can and can't be recycled in the class recycle bins and shared this with the School.

They finished their Eco assembly with a quote from Desmond Tutu: 'Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.'

Maths support and enrichment groups have been taking place. A Year 6 maths enrichment club was set up by Mr Crabtree (from the Senior School) and his team of A Level students.

We've had many highlights on the sports field, with games, PE and swimming an integral part of school life. Netball goes from strength to strength with several of our older pupils representing West Yorkshire. A small group of girls have also recently returned from the English Schools Gymnastics National Finals. Mrs Parkinson told me they had been practising for weeks, coming in on mornings before school, during lunchtimes, practising at home and going above and beyond to make sure their routines were perfect. Table tennis is ever popular, and we entered our first ever team into the Prep School Championships in April. We launched our new tennis programme with pupils in Year 4 and above enjoying specialist one-to-one coaching and taking part in the first ever Clock House tennis fixture against St Peter's, York.

Junior School Speech Day 2023

Junior School Headmaster's Speech

My thanks go to Mrs Jones and her team of PE teachers and sports coaches who offer such a comprehensive programme to the pupils in the Junior School.

There has been much activity also with music and the arts with the ever-popular House Music Competition and wonderful Spring Concert. I hear on the grapevine that Year 4 are forming a rock band! Perhaps you will be up here performing in a year's time? The nativity play and recent Year 6 production in the Hockney Theatre had confident performances on the big stage!

Each year group has been on at least one day trip, Eden Camp, West Yorkshire Wildlife Park and Nell Bank to name a few, and who can forget the whole school excursion to see Jack and the Beanstalk at the Alhambra Theatre in December - some even got to travel on a double decker bus!

You have all taken part in a number of clubs during lunchtimes and after school. An opportunity to make new friends often in different year groups. This year Mrs Tatham introduced the Junior Dukes for Year 6 pupils, a bit like the Duke of Edinburgh Awards but without the camping. The children tell me they had to complete a number of tasks over the year ranging from learning CPR for the first aid module to cookery - one pupil made a three-course meal for her grandmother, finished with homemade churros! There is also trip planning - another pupil said she had planned a family trip to London - and a caring for one another activity - two pupils conducted a litter pick at Cliffe Castle. There was also an 'averting disaster' module, where they had to speak to mums and dads about shutting off the water and electricity supply in the home. All good practical life skills. They will be collecting their platinum certificates this afternoon and we do thank the parents too!

During our school assembly this week the pupils shared some of their highlights, which included maths, making rock guitars in DT, new pupils' day, residentials - Year 2 sitting on the jetty and going on the kayaks, Year 3 caving and the scared teachers and Year 4 and the piranha pool. One new Year 5 pupil said residentials and hockey were their highlight because they had never done these things before. Rugby, clubs, table tennis, cricket, gymnastics competition, cross country, computer coding - the list goes on! One pupil also said they liked finishing homework, so the weekend is free!

There are a lot of opportunities at BGS, and it is fair to say in summary that you have had a go and tried your best in true 'Hoc Age' style.

I thank the staff team for their efforts in supporting you and providing the opportunities for you to be the 'best versions of yourselves'.

With the staff team in mind, this year we have some farewells to say:

Mrs Alderson has taught music at BGS for over 10 years and will be taking up a music position a little closer to home. Mrs Alderson was also a form teacher and teacher of RS and computing and has always been approachable, patient, knowledgeable and kind. We are grateful for Mrs Alderson's significant contributions during her time at BGS and wish her well.

We are also saying farewell to Mrs Yates and Mrs Ahmed at the end of this term. Mrs Yates joined the team last year to cover maternity leave in Year 5 and Mrs Ahmed joined to support in Year 6. We thank both teachers for stepping in and wish them well in their future endeavours.

I would like to thank our Friends of Clock House representatives and team who have once again provided extra sparkle in the Junior School year: Secret Santa, garden party, disco with DJ Shuffles and costumes for productions - it makes a huge difference.

With the future in mind, we look forward to growing the BGS family and welcoming pupils into Reception and Year 1 in September 2024. Initial meetings with the contractors are taking place, with initial building works planned to commence during the summer. By completion the project will realise a fantastic purpose-built early years facility and also enhanced grounds which will benefit all of the Junior School pupils.

We've had a busy year and an exciting future ahead for the Junior School but bringing the focus back to 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 have each played your part.

So, all that's left to be said is enjoy this afternoon, be proud of Clock House and be proud of yourselves.



Mr Richard Ribeiro
Junior School Headmaster

...be proud
of Clock House
and be proud
of yourselves.

Mr Richard Ribeiro
Junior School
Headmaster

Staff Leavers



Cat Macdonald

By S Hinchliffe, Headmaster

Catriona (Cat) Macdonald began working for Bradford Grammar School in December 2016 as a consultant to our Human Resources Department and de facto office manager.

I don't think that Cat, who has been steadily building her own business, True HR, outside of BGS, anticipated enjoying such a long-lasting association with our School. But there is something about the place that draws you in. In her time at BGS, Cat has provided invaluable support to me, as Headmaster, during a period when faces have changed on the Senior Leadership Team, and we have made both subtle and significant changes in key areas of operation. There is no question that Cat has helped to incrementally improve business practice at our School and played a full role reporting to and supporting the oversight of the Board of Governors. Much of this has gone unseen, but it has been vital and leaves BGS in better shape.

Cat soon joined the Senior Leadership Team, once again in a consultative capacity, to provide specialist insight and guidance. She also offered objective comment and feedback on many things beyond the optics of HR. Cat's role as a Chair of Governors at a local state school has, for example, been useful at a time when BGS public benefit and outreach activities have grown. Whilst much of her focus has been on whole school strategy, operations and policy, she has never lost sight of individual colleagues in need of a listening ear and steadying hand. Cat's work to improve our recruitment, induction and training programmes speaks volumes about her values and commitment to develop colleagues and help them prosper. Could this be why, after quietly announcing her intention to leave, colleagues have been spotted giving Cat a hug or sharing a discreet word of thanks? Not something you see every day in Human Resources land!

The contribution that Cat has made is wide in scope. We are grateful for all she has brought to BGS, including her husband's tasty home baking, and wish her well for future adventures.



Debbie Yates

By the Junior Leadership Team

We say a fond farewell to Debbie Yates, who we were delighted to have with us this academic year, after first joining Clock House in 2011 to 2017.

We will miss Debbie's ever cheerful smile and good humour and wish her all the very best for her future endeavours and her time between Yorkshire and Cornwall. We hope she has a wonderful time of relaxing ahead. With our fondest wishes, from all at Clock House.



Deborah Crawford

By L Dixon, Head of Learning Strategies

Deborah joined as Learning Strategies Teacher in September 2019 and has had a resounding positive influence on all the students she has come into contact with.

Having degrees in both Mathematics and English, Deborah makes a great Learning Strategies Teacher. This, coupled with an outstanding level of emotional intelligence, has ensured that Deborah is able to encourage students to do their best and make them realise they can achieve great things. I have tried on many occasions to gain just a small glimmer of this expertise but cannot compete. Her positive attitude towards everything is infectious and she has been a pleasure to work with.

Deborah leaves for pastures new which may (or may not) include gardening, painting, playing piano, tutoring, walking, travelling and relaxing!



Donna Reynolds

By K Hewitt, Head of Admissions & Marketing

Donna joined the Development Team as Events Coordinator in March 2020 during the pandemic – making the start of her BGS career a little different!

When 'normal life' resumed, Donna's friendly personality and ability to coordinate school and Old Bradfordian events contributed much to the success of the department. Her willingness to help wherever needed during busy times, always with a smile, is something we missed when Donna decided on a career change. Donna left us in October 2022 to take up a post as School Office Administration Assistant at Blakehill Primary School and we all wish her every success in her new role.



Emma Griggs

By E Kingsley, Head of Modern Languages

Emma Griggs joined BGS in September 2019 and immediately impressed with her slick lesson planning and efficient time-management.

Not a minute was wasted during the school day and Emma soon implemented high standards and routines which left her pupils in no doubt that they were in safe and competent hands. Unfortunately, COVID disrupted her next two years, but Emma took the technical obstacles of remote teaching in her stride. She made a significant contribution to co-curricular activities, through squash and badminton, and she was soon rewarded with a promotion to her current role as a Teaching & Learning Champion. Her quiet efficiency and reliability will be missed, but we wish her all the very best as she returns to be nearer family in Cambridgeshire and takes up her well-deserved post as Head of French at Kimbolton School.



Farzana Kauser

By S Cuffy, Cleaning Manager

Farzana Kauser was a highly regarded member of the cleaning staff who worked at the school for nine years.

She was a loyal member of the team and had very good organisational skills, which I will certainly miss. Farzana would happily step into a supervising role as and when required, which I was appreciative of. I knew things would run smoothly with Farzana at the helm! Unfortunately, due to ill health, Farzana had to leave her post at BGS. We wish her well and she is certainly missed.

Georgina Steward

By S Cuffy, Cleaning Manager

Georgina Steward worked at Bradford Grammar School for two years.

Ambitious and hardworking, Georgina was extremely kind and helpful to all her work colleagues. She has a young daughter and leaves BGS to further her career. We wish her all the best.



Harry Whitaker

By M Leite, Finance Manager

Harry joined the Finance Team as Finance Officer in October 2021 with the enthusiasm and eagerness that is always great to see in a new starter.

There were new systems to tackle (ParentMail), processes to understand, and the myriad of activities, clubs and societies to decipher. That did not deter him. Harry quickly picked up where his predecessor left off and faced all challenges with determination and grit. The Finance Officer role has some very high workload days, yet Harry knows the value of forward planning and when those days came, he was ready for them. All he needed was an extra strong coffee in the morning (always Nescafé Original though, never the Gold Blend!). I thank him for all his hard work, his hyperbolic one-liners, and his sense of humour. We wish him all the best.



Jade Richards



By S Hinchliffe, Headmaster

Jade Richards joined Bradford Grammar School in September 2011 and, following a relocation to the Yorkshire Dales, moved to her new job at Aysgarth School starting in January 2023.

We are grateful to Jade for her excellent teaching of Design and Technology, contributing to this department for over 10 years. In that time, through her extensive subject knowledge, skill and careful attention to detail, she developed high quality schemes of work and resources that inspired countless students to opt for the subject at GCSE and A Level and go on to achieve commendable results. Beyond the classroom and workshop, Jade organised and led educational visits to manufacturers close to home and further afield, including memorable overseas trips to the Lamborghini Factory, the Ferrari Museum and the Ducati Museum in Italy. She also played a full and caring role as a Year 8 form tutor and contributed to the co-curricular life of the School, designing and constructing sets for BGS plays and musicals for example. We wish Jade every happiness and success leading the DT Department at Aysgarth and in the new chapter of her life a little to the north of Bradford.



Karin Murach

By E Kingsley, Head of Modern Languages

After 36 years at BGS, the indomitable Karin Murach is finally hanging up her gown.

Generations of Old Bradfordians (OBs) have benefited from her first-rate academic credentials and her humorous yet exacting teaching style. One of only a handful of women on the staff when she joined BGS in 1987, and the only German native speaker for most of her career, every OB remembers the legendary 'Frau Murach', whether they were taught by her or not. It's amusing to witness grown professional OBs, now in their 40s, bringing their own children to open events and reverting to their 12-year-old reverential selves on meeting Frau Murach again!

Although some pupils may have felt intimidated in her presence at first, once in Karin's care they soon learnt that by working hard they could earn her approval and pupils universally respected - or eventually submitted to - Frau Murach's rigorous standards. The result of this is the impressive number of successful linguists who have progressed to German-related university courses and careers, all of whom speak of Karin with affection. On oral exam days, nervous candidates were often suitably distracted by Frau Murach's German tradition of 'spitting' over their shoulder and incanting 'Toi, Toi Toi!' for good luck.

The luckiest pupils were those who went on school trips with Karin, especially to her native Berlin. Having grown up in the East before the fall of the Berlin Wall, Karin shared invaluable memories of GDR times, providing an inestimably rich experience for her pupils. Karin remembers taking one group around the former Stasi HQ Museum, only to realise that it was the very building in which she had herself been interviewed in a sound-proofed cellar as part of the process of marrying a foreigner and leaving East Germany in 1985.

Karin was always keen to promote the love of language learning and gamely dressed up in her dirndl and hat on Open Days and European Day of Languages, memorably showcasing her dance moves one year in BGS' Eurovision Song Contest video.

Those fortunate enough to be in Frau Murach's form knew the great care and attention she put into getting to know her tutees and her gentle empathy with those who were more naturally reticent. Her written reports and university references succinctly and sensitively reflected the essence of each pupil, in prose more eloquent than many English-speakers!

To her colleagues, Karin was one of the warmest and most caring people you could hope to work with. She took great interest in others, especially if they were going through a difficult time, and her kind gifts and thoughtful touches were always a tonic.

The Languages Department will be the poorer without Karin. She really has been the backbone of the team, especially in recent years, and we will miss her cheerful morning round of conversation and acerbic comment. It feels like the end of an era; it is no coincidence that the word which pops up most regularly in remembering her is simply a 'legend'.

Auf Wiedersehen, Frau Murach.



Ken Wharton

By I Clint, Estates Manager

Ken Wharton started as a caretaker in 1997 and continued in this role until he left for pastures new in 2015.

BGS was to Ken as Ken was to BGS - in other words, not one without the other- and he returned to us later that year, joining the cleaning team. It wasn't long however before he was back in post as a caretaker, and in that role, he remained until his much-deserved retirement in April this year. Ken had a work ethic and dedication that put most of us to shame, occasionally having to be 'told off' for arriving at 4am for his 6am shift start! He became very close to his shift partner, Tom, and they would get up to mischief daily without ever compromising on effort or results. Ken is a much-missed member of the team, but we all hope he is enjoying his retirement with his wife, Syl, and having a well-earned rest.

Laura Alderson



By the Junior Leadership Team

We are very sorry to be saying goodbye to Mrs Alderson, after being fortunate enough to benefit from her musical expertise, organisation and teaching for the past eleven years.

She has worked tirelessly and enthusiastically for every Clock House event over the years, and we have very fond memories of her wonderful choirs who sang at our various concerts. Thanks to Mrs Alderson, the Young Voices event has become a regular and popular fixture on our annual calendar. How she managed to organise and prepare for this event each year is nothing short of a miracle! She has that rare gift of managing to make sure that our children always raise their game, give their best and have fun doing so. Her vital part in providing the music for our various performances and Nativities is testament to that as well as being an exemplary music teacher, during her career at Clock House, Mrs Alderson was also a form teacher and teacher of RS and computing. She took the time to get to know her pupils and was always approachable, patient, knowledgeable and kind. She often extended that kindness to her colleagues and could always be relied upon for her support, respected by the whole school community, colleagues, parents and pupils alike, she will be much missed. We would like to take this opportunity to wish Mrs Alderson all the very best for the future. We send our fondest wishes to you and your family, from all your friends and colleagues at Clock House. We will miss you enormously but, of course, wish you the best of luck! Please do come and visit us from time to time.

Lesley Leach



By O Theaker, Acting Head of Physics

Lesley joined BGS from Thornton in September 2011.

As the first female physicist joining a department of larger-than-life characters, Lesley carved out a niche for herself, became a firm favourite among the students and helped break the stereotype that 'physicists are all males'.

Lesley spent her career building an amazing bank of specialised resources and with a quick flick through a folder would find a sheet to help any student with any topic. Never content with this; every lesson was carefully planned to make sure individual students in front of her got the best experiences and opportunities - the results for Lesley's classes speak for themselves. Lesley claims to be resistant to change, asking for a roller whiteboard she can push high enough for students to read, rather than an interactive display board. But once she adopted a new system she would innovate and adapt it to deliver something meaningful for her students. Even our former Head of Department and current Deputy Head, Jed Boardman, would shamelessly pinch ideas. It must be said, Lesley's reluctance to do away with paper copies of the schemes-of-work certainly made her the most popular teacher during network outages!

Over a varied career, encompassing Head of Physics and teaching in a wide variety of establishments, there is little Lesley had not come across before, although leading the department into the first few months of the COVID lockdown was certainly new. Lesley was generous with her time and would gladly share her expertise with new teachers and more experienced hands. It is an unwise Head of Department who ignores apparently innocent but probing questions from this well informed, practical educationalist.

Lesley tutored forms in Year 12, seeing students through the complicated UCAS process with a calm and guiding hand and more recently has overseen a series of delightful Year 9 forms. Lesley got to know every child personally and helped a large number through difficult times in their lives. Lesley was particularly pleased to see one of her first Year 9 forms go on to great success in 2022-23 with many being voted as prefects. Being a member of 9LCL is something pupils will carry with them, influencing their actions in small, positive ways. This is testament to Lesley's time and care for each of them.

Never stuck in the classroom, Lesley threw herself into co-curricular events. In 2019 she followed her 2016 Holland hockey tour with a tour of South Africa where her presence was invaluable; her face on the ziplines is something never to be forgotten! Lesley is known as the type of colleague you need when running a trip, whether as a speck of pink trousers zipping down ski slopes in Tignes or marching over hills on Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. Trips have run smoothly, and students had more experiences thanks to Lesley's selfless 'Hoc Age' spirit.

I personally could not ask for a better friend and colleague than Lesley. Welcoming me to the department on my first day and being there and supporting me through the highs and lows of the subsequent years. She will be missed at BGS by many people. I wish her the best on her retirement, and look forward to catching up in the future.



Lindsey Shackleton

By A Park, T Lord, D Reynolds and S Jones, Library Department

Lindsey joined BGS as Library Manager in September 2021, having previously worked as an English teacher in secondary schools in West Yorkshire.

Whilst teaching at Bradford Girls Grammar School, Lindsey ran the school library and successfully completed a master's qualification in librarianship. After pandemic restrictions were lifted, Lindsey and the library team, got back to business in delivering a full library service at BGS. Although Lindsey's natural ability with young people and phenomenal knowledge of literature will be greatly missed in the library, we're happy that she is returning to her first love of teaching English and wish her well.



Louise Dixon

By J Chapman, Assistant Head (Pastoral)

In 2007, Louise spent a year at BGS as a maternity cover in the ICT Department, returning in 2012 to a full-time role teaching IT, then moving to teach Computer Science a year later.

In 2014, she moved again to become a Learning Support Teacher and teach Business Studies and Personal Development (PD). Five years later, she was appointed Head of Learning Strategies, in which she has continued for the past four years.

Completing a master's degree in SEND in 2021, Louise worked proactively with her colleague Deborah Crawford to develop the School's provision. Her staff training has equipped her colleagues with a richer understanding of neurodiversity and students' needs. Highly organised, friendly and approachable, sensitive to the needs of others and always calm, reassuring and supportive of students and their families, Louise has enriched the school experience for the young people she has worked with. Testimonies from students and families are full of affection for her and gratitude for the difference she has made. The young people she has supported have been proud to stand up and share their experiences with the whole school in her SEND assemblies and to lend their voices to her staff training sessions.

Her co-curricular contributions have been extensive. As a BGS parent she has served on the Rugby and Cricket Parents' Associations. She has sung in Senior Choir, taken part annually in the Year 7 residential and helped on school trips ranging from the Belgian Battlefields to local visits to Lister Park and Heaton Woods. She is proudest of her six-year involvement with Barnardo's Young Carers, organising Sixth Form mentors to support local young carers after school on a Thursday; this gained national recognition in 2015, winning a Diana Champion Volunteer Award, which Louise took her mentors down to London to receive. Active involvement in caring for others defines her; Louise trained as a Samaritan in 2022, and has been a valued member of the BGS pastoral team.

Her varied BGS career shows just how versatile Louise is, and characteristic of every role she has undertaken are her professional competence, warm collegiality and dedicated commitment to her students. She moves now to take up the SENDCo role at St John Fisher, Harrogate, where she will enjoy a 20-minute walk to work rather than the long daily drive to Bradford. She will be greatly missed and we wish her every success at her new school.

Luke Jones

By R Sharp, Director of Development

Luke Jones left BGS in late May to join Leeds Trinity University as a Systems Support Analyst – Student Systems.

This career progression allows him to be a part of an Information Systems team supporting and maintaining staff and student IT systems. He will assist in the support and guidance to students and academic and support staff.

Luke's contribution to the Development Office and two successful fundraising campaigns for the 1662 Fund are greatly appreciated. Our Old Bradfordians always enjoyed speaking with Luke. His kind manner and warm smile will be sorely missed by the entirety of the BGS community. We are extremely grateful for his contribution to the Assisted Places effort and to making the Development Office a welcoming place to visit.



Oliver Rogers

By P Merckx, Assistant Head (Development)

Ollie Rogers joined BGS from Rossall School in September 2017 at a time of significant change in the PE department resulting from the School's decision to employ specialist coaches for every School sport and an imminent building programme focused on sport.

Defined by the redevelopment he walked into, Ollie's tenure as Director of Sport was not an easy ride but he never compromised on the culture he was aiming to instil, welcoming allcomers to BGS Sport and encouraging staff and pupils alike to support every sport, not just their own. By the time Ollie moved on in October 2022, BGS Sport was much enhanced, earning its place as a jewel in the BGS crown.

Always energetic and enthusiastic, usually absorbed with planning the next big thing (Wattbikes, triathlon and a tennis bubble spring to mind), Ollie constantly looked for ways in which BGS Sport could evolve to include every pupil and improve their experience and that of their families. He'll be doing the same now at his new school, Cumnor House in Sussex, and we wish him every success down there.



Maggi Ashurst

By J Chapman, Assistant Head (Pastoral)

Maggi Ashurst joined the BGS nursing team in 2017.

Prior to this she had worked as an Emergency Nurse Practitioner at St James' Hospital in Leeds, but 'semi-retired' from full-time NHS work in 2013. As her children, Tom and Becky, were making their way through the School, Maggi was recruited for pitch side duty at Saturday rugby fixtures. She was wonderful in this role, providing sports injury expertise and emergency support for injured players, and on one occasion even invading the pitch to break up a fight!

From 2014, she worked at BGS on weekdays too, when cover was needed, then joined the nursing team formally in 2017. Maggi has worked alongside five different nursing colleagues over the years and every one of them has greatly valued her support. Ever ready to step in and help when needed, she has been a vital part of the BGS nursing provision over the past six years, holding the fort in our medical room when her colleagues were teaching, training or off sick.

Maggi's cheerful, capable, no-nonsense approach to nursing and her professional expertise and judgement will be greatly missed by her colleagues. She is looking forward to retirement, but we hope she will still come back from time to time to stand in when needed!



Phil Craven

By I Clint, Estates Manager

Phil Craven began life at BGS as a caretaker over 14 years ago.

He first heard about the vacancy through his wife Sharon, who has worked at the School for a record 36 years. He came to us from SLI Lighting in Shipley where he worked as a lamp setter, but he was, and still is, a skilled plumber by trade. This proved invaluable to his caretaking role, with Phil receiving a promotion to Maintenance Assistant – Plumbing in 2014, and shortly after that, a further promotion to Estates Services Supervisor. He performed this role with enthusiasm and dedication throughout the nearly nine years that he held the post and was fondly described by some as ‘the nicest man at BGS’. When he announced his resignation in February of this year, it was clear that it would be a great loss not only to the department, but to the whole school. He is now working at Woodhouse Grove as Caretaking and Maintenance Supervisor, where I am sure he will be excelling and making as positive an impact as he did at BGS. I shall always be grateful to Phil for sharing his skills and knowledge with us and making continuous improvements to both the department and the School. It was a pleasure to work with him. .



Ruby Hendry

By E White, Director of Music

Old Bradfordian Ruby Hendry (2017) re-joined the school as our Graduate Music Assistant in September 2021.

Since then, Ruby has contributed much to the smooth running of the Music Department and the wider life of the school. Assisting with the school musical, ‘My Fair Lady’, stage managing all concerts, sorting admin for music lessons and running our successful Friday lunchtime recital series, Ruby has been an inspirational role model to our musicians.

We wish Ruby all the best as she returns to the Royal Northern College of Music to study for a Master of Music in Vocal Studies and Opera.



Sally Martindale

By J Chapman, Assistant Head (Pastoral)

Sally joined BGS as our School Nurse in April 2010. She had come to nursing after an earlier career in Australia and the UK as a computer operator and consultant, and had worked as a NHS School Nurse, before applying for the job at BGS where she stayed for the next 13 years.

Sally recalls her interview with Nick Smith and being asked, without any prior warning, to deliver a talk on testicular cancer to an audience of 40 Year 10 boys. Undaunted, she took this in her stride with characteristic competence and was offered the job on the spot. Since then, she has delivered countless lessons to students, from puberty to cancer education as well as important RSHE content throughout our PD programme.

Working with four different partner nurses over the years, Sally provided guidance and mentoring for each of them. She delivered whole staff training at INSET events and provided support for colleagues running educational visits or teaching pupils who have medical needs. She also accompanied a number of school trips in person, attending to injuries on residentials and ski trips and accompanying the 2012 World Challenge expedition to India, where she found herself nursing a colleague taken ill with septicaemia on the flight home.

Sally has developed the role of School Nurse to meet the needs of the modern educational safeguarding landscape, training as a DSL and developing the School's understanding of and provision for mental health and emotional wellbeing, going well beyond the traditional School Nurse role of dealing with physical illness and injuries.

Sally possesses every quality a School Nurse needs. Professional knowledge, rich experience, patience and a kindness combined with no nonsense firmness when required. She built valuable relationships with the students which made all the difference to their coping with school life, and she is highly respected and much loved by her colleagues too.

She will not be a stranger to the School in the years to come. Her swimming business, which she runs with her twin sister, will continue to teach swimming in the BGS pool. This enterprise has grown over the years and Sally is rightly proud of its value to the local community, particularly her ladies-only groups. Matthew, her patient husband, has been waiting for her to join him in retirement for almost twenty years, so she is looking forward to travelling with him (particularly to Switzerland and Spain) and spending more time with her family.



Victoria Heslop

By Z Thornton, Head of Biology

Victoria (Tori) joined the Biology Department in September 2021 as a Technician.

She is also a qualified teacher and brought her classroom expertise to the role. During her tenure she also achieved her master's degree. Tori was exceptionally organised and thorough. As well as being outstanding in her role, she also brought humour and laughter to the department. Tori left BGS in February 2023 to live closer to her partner and to further her career. It was a pleasure to have worked with her and I would like to personally thank her for all her hard work and dedication. As a department we wish her luck with all her future aspirations, she is missed.

Thank you ...

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

Aiden Hargitt

Teacher of Classics

Charu Vallabhbhai

Bursar's Secretary

Joe Driscoll

Teacher of Mathematics

Jonathan Evans

Associate Director of Development

Lina Eastwood

Finance Administrator

Lyndon Lemos

Graduate Sports Assistant - Hockey

Nichola Charmbury

Events Co-ordinator and Outreach Assistant

Nick Honey

Teacher of PE

Richard Marlow

Junior School Teacher

Richard Wanless

Chef





A special mention ...

Craig Milner

By S Hinchliffe, Headmaster

Craig Milner joined the Estates Department at Bradford Grammar School on 30 January 2006 but sadly passed away, unexpectedly on 15 April 2023.

As a mark of respect, the School flag was lowered at half-mast and colleagues gathered to plant a tree on our campus in his memory. Our sincerest condolences were shared with Craig's family.

The magnificent BGS estate, buildings and grounds, that we are fortunate to enjoy, reflect in part Craig's work and attention to detail over the years. He took pride in his job and I fondly remember him describing to me some of the various projects he had completed on our grounds. Craig valued his privacy and folk respected that, but he became a firm 'walking buddy' for some colleagues with whom he shared a love of natural spaces, bird watching and local geology. The car park conversations I enjoyed with Craig (whilst we were both on duty) revolved around these passions and it was clear that he had a deep knowledge of and affinity for the living world. It was also nice to be able to talk with a fellow geologist - we tend to gravitate towards each other.

All that is left to be said is that we are fortunate to have known Craig - a softly spoken, kind and private man - and benefited from his dedication to our School. He is missed and will be remembered fondly at BGS.



University Degree Course Admissions and Vocations 2023

A

Hannah Abdul-Halim	University of Leeds, Medicine
Ismaeel Mohammad Abdullah	University of Leeds, Medicine
Sienna Afsar	University of Manchester, Film Studies and English Language
Amirfarhang Aghabeigi	King's College London, University of London, Computer Science
Bilal Ahmed	University of Leeds, Computer Science
Muhammad Adam Akhtar	Queen Mary University of London, English and European Law
Adil Akhtar	University of Leeds, Pharmacology
Mohammad Ali	University of Bradford, Foundation in Clinical Sciences and Medicine leading to BSc Clinical Sciences
Amina Ali	Lancaster University, Medicine and Surgery
Aliya Noor Ali	Keele University, Biochemistry and Neuroscience
Zeba Amjid	University of Manchester, Medicine

B

Molly Barnes	Loughborough University, Art and Design Foundation
Benjamin Barton	Lancaster University, Business Management (Industry)
Elise Beevers	Manchester Metropolitan University, Illustration with Animation
Olivia Isabelle Benson	UCL (University College London), Economics
William Bentley	Lindenwood University, USA, Liberal Arts
Arjun Bhatti	University of Leeds, Economics
Lucy Bingham	Teesside University, Middlesbrough, Paramedic Practice
Edward Bolland	University of Oxford, Economics and Management
Tara Bracegirdle	Northumbria University, Newcastle, Economics and Finance
Sarah Bradley	Newcastle University, Modern Languages, Translation and Interpreting
Samuel Bryan	Cardiff Metropolitan University, Business and Management (with foundation)
Thomas Matthew Robert Bryan	University of Leeds, Mechanical Engineering
Zak Benjamin Buck	University of Nottingham, Physics
James Burke	Lancaster University, Economics
John Burke	University of Sheffield, Japanese Studies

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

C

Ana Isabela Campean
Richard Chadwick
Adhitya Esh Chandramohan
Alasdair James Clarke
Theo James Clay
Grace Cogan
Amelia Jane Craske
William Crookes

The University of Edinburgh, Medicine
University of Kent, Spatial and Interior Design
Lancaster University, Economics
University of Glasgow, Medicine
University of Bristol, Medicine - MBChB Standard entry
University of Glasgow, Veterinary Medicine
University of Liverpool, Physiotherapy
University of Warwick, Linguistics with German

D

Kai Davies
Blake Drury
Eve Alice Duffy
Anna Durkin

University of Sheffield, Mechanical Engineering (with a year in North America)
Newcastle University, Accounting and Finance
University of Bristol, Modern Languages
Northumbria University, Newcastle, Economics

E

Connor Elliott

University of York, Philosophy with Languages and Cultures (French) (with a year abroad)

F

Muhammad Faridi
Alexander Fisher
Ben Fitzpatrick

University of Bradford, Chemical Engineering
Lancaster University, Economics
Northumbria University, Newcastle, Accounting, Finance and Economics Foundation Year

G

Aldiyar Gabor
Emily Gibbins
Harjeevan Gill
Hannah Gill
Rose Gladman
Emelia Edlyn Glover
Emelia Edlyn Glover
Deanna Charlotte Gore
Scarlett Grace Grange
Alexander Greene
Nikhil Gupta

Imperial College London, Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry
Durham University, Geography
Loughborough University, Economics
UCL (University College London), Neuroscience
University of Oxford, Biomedical Sciences
Leeds Arts University, Art Foundation (2023)
York St John University, Interior Design (2024)
Northern School Contemporary Dance, Dance
Durham University, Theology and Religion
Newcastle University, Mathematics
University of Liverpool, Civil Engineering

H

Zainab Habib
George Hahn
Morgan Hainsworth
Amber Lily Harrison
Emily Harrop
Elissa Hartley
Eleanor Harvey
Anamaria Heaton
Joseph Howson
Benjamin Rhys Hunt
Georgia Hunt
Georgia Hunt
Aaisha Maryam Hussain
Laiba Hussain
Saqlain Hamzah Hussain

University of Portsmouth, Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy
Loughborough University, Sport and Exercise Science (with placement year)
University of Stirling, Sport and Exercise Science
Leeds Arts University, Art Foundation
University of Manchester, Politics and International Relations
University of Sheffield, Civil Engineering
University of Sheffield, Computer Systems Engineering (with an industrial placement year)
Loughborough University, Industrial Design (with placement year)
Belmont Abbey College, USA, Liberal Arts
Newcastle University, Mechanical Engineering
Leeds Arts University, Art Foundation (2023)
University of York, English (2024)
University of Bradford, Psychology
University of Leeds, Dental Surgery / Oral Science
University of Liverpool, Computer Science

I

Eesa Imran
Maham Imran
Omar Rafique Irani
Mohammad Isa

Keele University, Medicine
University of Leeds, Economics and Finance
UCL (University College London), Chemistry with Mathematics
University of Huddersfield, Computer Science with Cyber Security

J

Ben Jackson
Ptolemy Johnson
Kamran Jones

University of St Andrews, Computer Science
University of Strathclyde, Business Enterprise
University of Sheffield, Electrical and Electronic Engineering (with a foundation year)

K

Naina Kainth
Ruben Singh Kapoor
Charlotte Kenneth
Sufyan Ahmed Khan
Ellie Koral
Tejal Kukreja
Aravind Kumar

University of Liverpool, Philosophy and Politics
Loughborough University, Natural Sciences
University of Liverpool, Geography
Hull York Medical School, Medicine
Girton College, University of Cambridge, Archaeology
University of Liverpool, Computer Science with Software Development
University of Bath, Computer Science BSc

M

William Mallik
Georgina Mathers
Rachel Saoirse McCormack
Innes Frederick McFadzean
Nick Mehrgan
Elizabeth Rose Midgley
Charles Moran
Gus Muirhead
Haris Talat Mushtaq

Lancaster University, Economics
University of Leeds, Communication and Media
University of Oxford, Medicine
Northumbria University, Newcastle, Economics and Finance
University of Bristol, Economics and Management (with study abroad)
University of Liverpool, Veterinary Science
University of Liverpool, Engineering
University of Liverpool, History
University of Sheffield, Aerospace Engineering (with an industrial placement year)

N

Syed Hamza Nabeel
Moazzam Ali Nauman
Seamus Waseem Nazir
Lorna Nelson

University of Manchester, Medicine
Queen Mary University of London, Economics
University of Bradford, Law (with placement year)
University of Warwick, Economics and Industrial Organisation

O

Tehya Evelyn O'Connor
William Ogden

Loughborough University, Sports Technology
University of Liverpool, Business Economics

P

Harry Francis Robert Palmer
Krishan Patel
Stanley Preston

University of Sheffield, Materials Science and Engineering (with an industrial placement year)
Lancaster University, Computer Science
Durham University, Mathematics

Q

Hassan Qureshi
Aisha Bushra Qureshi

Leeds Beckett University, Biomedical Science
Newcastle University, Dentistry

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

R

Caitlin Ramage

Jay Rasodha

Jumaynah Ravat

Basmah Razi

Anna Reed-Purvis

Edith Reilly

Joseph Rogers

Silvie Rutherford

Gregory Ryan

Leeds Arts University, Art Foundation

UCL (University College London), Chemistry

Newcastle University, Pharmacy

University of Sheffield, Dental Surgery

Leeds Arts University, Art Foundation

Queen Mary University of London, Film Studies and Drama

Glyndwr University, Wrexham, Aeronautical Engineering (with industry placement)

University of Liverpool, Mathematics

Durham University, Geology

S

Halimah Sadia

Hamza Sajid

Sian Beant Kaur Sandhu

Nishint Sanjay Rajpal

Mustafa Sarhan

Leah Schlosshan

Amelia Grace Shann

Ananya Shenoy

Ammar Sheraz

Milan Soman

Lara Speight

Elise Stanton-Davies

William Stephenson

Hugo Thomas William Stonelake

Yusuf Suleman

University of Birmingham, Medicine

Durham University, Natural Sciences

University of Sheffield, Medicine

Keele University, Medicine

Royal Holloway, University of London, Economics (with a year in business)

University of Nottingham, Medicine

Durham University, Economics

University of Sussex, Biomedical Science

University of Manchester, Medicine

Loughborough University, Finance and Management (with placement year)

Lancaster University, Law (placement year)

Durham University, Biological Sciences

Ernest and Young, Degree Apprenticeship

University of Sheffield, Materials Science and Engineering

Lancaster University, Economics (Industry)

T

Abdul-Rahim Tahir

Olivia Tankoua

Tzavier Thornber

Esther Tucker

Amelia Turner

Niall Franklin Turner

Georgia Turner

King's College London, University of London, Psychology (with a year abroad)

University of Leicester, Politics and International Relations

University of Cambridge, Classics

University of Leeds, Classical Civilisation

University Centre Leeds, Leeds City College, Dance

Leeds Trinity University, Sports Journalism

UCL (University College London), History

W

Olivia Wasley

Charlotte Watford

Eve Wilsmore

Alice Winkley

Tabitha Wood

SLP Garforth, Dance

Leeds Beckett University, Physiotherapy

University of Oxford, English Language and Literature

Northumbria University, Newcastle, Psychology

University of Liverpool, Veterinary Science

Examination Results 2023

General Certificate of Education (A Level) 2023

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

A

Hannah Abdul-Halim	Biology ^{A*} , Chemistry ^A , History ^{A*}
Ismaeel Abdullah	Biology ^{A*} , Chemistry ^{A*} , Politics ^A
Sienna Afsar	Drama & Theatre, English Language, English Literature ^A
Amirfarhang Aghabeigi	Computer Science ^A , Economics ^A , Mathematics ^{A*}
Bilal Ahmed	Computer Science, Mathematics ^A , Further Mathematics, Physics
Adam Akhtar	English Literature ^{A*} , History ^A , Politics
Adil Akhtar	Biology, Chemistry, Religious Studies ^A
Zeba Amjid	Biology ^{A*} , Chemistry ^{A*} , Mathematics ^A
Aliza Arshad	Art, French, Religious Studies
Saara Asif	Biology, Chemistry, Religious Studies ^A
Aamina Ayyub	Biology, Mathematics, Psychology

B

Molly Barnes	Art ^A , Biology, Psychology
Benjamin Barton	Business, Geography, Religious Studies
Elise Beevers	Art ^{A*} , Geography ^A , Psychology ^A
Olivia Benson	Economics ^{A*} , History ^{A*} , Mathematics ^{A*}
Will Bentley	History, Physical Education, Psychology
Arjun Bhatti	Biology ^A , Chemistry, Economics
Lucy Bingham	Biology, Physical Education, Psychology
Tara Bracegirdle	English Literature, History, Mathematics
Sarah Bradley	Biology ^A , Chemistry, Spanish ^A
Sam Bryan	Business, Economics, Politics
Zak Buck	Chemistry, Mathematics ^A , Physics
James Burke	Economics ^A , History ^A , Mathematics, Politics ^A

C

Ana Campean	Biology ^{A*} , Chemistry ^{A*} , French ^A , Mathematics ^{A*}
Jinaan Chaatouf	Biology ^A , Chemistry, Psychology ^A
Richard Chadwick	Business, Design Technology
Adhi Chandramohan	Chemistry, Mathematics, Religious Studies
Alasdair Clarke	Biology ^{A*} , Chemistry ^{A*} , French, Mathematics ^{A*}
Theo Clay	Biology ^{A*} , Chemistry ^A , Mathematics ^{A*} , Physics ^{A*}
Amelia Craske	Biology ^A , Chemistry ^A , Physical Education ^A
William Crookes	German ^A , Latin ^A , Mathematics ^A , Music

D

Kai Davies	Computer Science ^{A*} , Mathematics ^{A*} , Physics ^{A*}
Tom Deacon	Business, Computer Science
Blake Drury	Business, Economics ^A , Geography ^A
Eve Duffy	Biology ^A , Chemistry ^A , French ^A , German ^{A*}
Anna Durkin	Economics, Geography ^A , Mathematics

E

Connor Elliott	French, History, Religious Studies
-----------------------	------------------------------------

F

Alexander Fisher	Economics ^A , Mathematics, Physics
Ben Fitzpatrick	Business, Economics, History

G

Aldi Gabor	Chemistry ^A , Mathematics ^A , Physics ^A , Russian ^{A*}
Boris Gavrilov	Computer Science ^{A*} , Mathematics ^{A*} , Further Mathematics ^{A*} , Music ^A
Emily Gibbins	Chemistry ^A , Geography ^{A*} , History ^A
Hannah Gill	Biology ^{A*} , Chemistry ^A , French ^A
Jeeves Gill	Economics ^A , History ^{A*} , Mathematics ^{A*} , Further Mathematics ^A
Rose Gladman	Biology ^{A*} , Chemistry ^A , Mathematics ^A , Politics ^{A*}
Emelia Glover	Art ^{A*} , English Language, Geography
Deanna Gore	Art ^{A*} , Drama & Theatre
Scarlett Grange	Design Technology ^A , English Language ^A , History, Religious Studies ^A
Alexander Greene	Chemistry, Mathematics ^A , Further Mathematics
Nikhil Gupta	Biology ^A , Design Technology, Mathematics

H

Zainab Habib	Biology, Business, Chemistry
George Hahn	Economics ^A , Mathematics ^A , Physical Education ^A , Psychology ^A
Morgan Hainsworth	Chemistry, Physical Education, Physics
Amber Harrison	Art ^A , Biology ^A , Chemistry ^A
Emily Harrop	French ^A , History ^A , Politics ^{A*}
Elissa Hartley	Computer Science ^A , Mathematics ^{A*} , Further Mathematics ^A , Physics ^A
Eleanor Harvey	Computer Science ^A , Mathematics ^{A*} , Further Mathematics ^A , Physics
Bintay Hassnain	Biology, Chemistry, Psychology ^A
Anamaria Heaton	Design Technology ^A , English Language ^A , French, History ^A

Redford Holdsworth	Business, Physical Education, Psychology
Joseph Howson	Geography, Mathematics, Physics
Georgia Hunt	Art ^A , English Literature, Mathematics
Rhys Hunt	Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics
Aaisha Hussain	French, Psychology, Religious Studies
Laiba Hussain	Biology ^A , Chemistry ^A , Spanish ^A
Saqlain Hussain	Biology ^A , Chemistry, Computer Science ^A
Alice Hustler	Chemistry Politics ^A , Psychology
I	
Eesa Imran	Biology ^A , Chemistry ^A , Mathematics ^A , Further Mathematics ^A
Mohammad Isa	Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematics
J	
Ben Jackson	Computer Science ^A , German ^A , Mathematics ^A , Further Mathematics ^A
Kamran Jones	Computer Science, Design Technology, Mathematics, Physics
K	
Faiz Kader	Biology, Chemistry, French
Naina Kainth	English Literature, Politics, Religious Studies
Ruben Kapoor	Biology ^A , Chemistry ^A , Mathematics ^A
Charlotte Kenneth	French, Geography ^A , Psychology ^A
Alisha Khan	Computer Science ^A , Mathematics ^A , Spanish ^A
Ellie Koral	Biology ^A , Chemistry ^A , French ^A , History ^A
Aravind Kumar	Computer Science ^A , Mathematics ^A , Further Mathematics ^A , Physics
M	
Sumayyah Mahroof	Biology ^A , Chemistry ^A
William Mallik	Business, Economics ^A , Psychology
Joseph Marchewka	English Literature, Music Technology ^A , Psychology
Aisha Matib	Biology ^A , Chemistry, Religious Studies ^A
Rachel McCormack	Biology ^A , Chemistry ^A , Mathematics ^A
Innes McFadzean	Chemistry, Economics, Psychology
Rose Midgley	Biology ^A , Chemistry ^A , History
Jonty Mighell	Business ^A , Economics ^A , Geography ^A , Mathematics ^A
Charlie Moran	Business, Mathematics ^A , Physics ^A
Gus Muirhead	Design Technology, Economics, History
Haris Mushtaq	Chemistry ^A , Mathematics ^A , Physics ^A
N	
Hamza Nabeel	Biology ^A , Chemistry, Psychology ^A
Seamus Nazir	Business, Physical Education, Psychology
O	
Tehya O'Connor	Design Technology, Economics, French
Will Ogden	Economics ^A , History ^A , Mathematics ^A

P	
Harry Palmer	Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics ^A
Krishan Patel	Computer Science, Mathematics ^A , Further Mathematics, Physics
Stan Preston	Computer Science ^A , History ^A , Mathematics ^A , Further Mathematics ^A
Q	
Hassan Qureshi	Biology, Chemistry, Physical Education
R	
Caitlin Ramage	Art ^A , English Literature, History ^A
Ruqaiyah Rashid	Biology ^A , Chemistry ^A , Mathematics ^A
Jay Rasodha	Chemistry ^A , Mathematics ^A , Physics
Anna Reed-Purvis	Art ^A , Politics, Religious Studies ^A
Jacob Rees	Business, Physical Education, Psychology
Edie Reilly	English Literature, Geography, Politics
Lydia Robson	Business ^A , Music, Psychology
Joseph Rogers	Business, Mathematics, Physics
Silvie Rutherford	Biology ^A , Chemistry ^A , Mathematics ^A
Greg Ryan	Chemistry ^A , Geography, Music Technology ^A
S	
Halimah Sadia	Biology ^A , Chemistry ^A , Mathematics ^A
Hamza Sajid	Biology ^A , Chemistry ^A , Mathematics ^A
Mustafa Sarhan	Biology, Chemistry, Economics
Leah Schlosshan	Biology ^A , Chemistry ^A , Mathematics ^A
Amelia Shann	Chemistry ^A , Economics ^A , Mathematics ^A , Further Mathematics ^A
Ananya Shenoy	Biology, Chemistry, French ^A
Ammar Sheraz	Biology ^A , Chemistry ^A , Physical Education ^A
Milan Soman	Economics ^A , History, Mathematics
Lara Speight	Art ^A , English Literature ^A , History
Elise Stanton-Davies	Biology ^A , Chemistry ^A , English Literature ^A , Mathematics
Will Stephenson	Computer Science, Economics, Mathematics
Hugo Stonelake	Biology ^A , Chemistry ^A , Mathematics ^A
Yusuf Suleman	Computer Science, Economics ^A , History ^A
T	
Abdul Rahim Tahir	Economics ^A , Mathematics, Psychology ^A
Amin Tahlil	English Language, English Literature, Mathematics
Olivia Tankoua	Economics ^A , History, Mathematics
Tzavier Thornber	Greek (Classical) ^A , History ^A , Latin ^A , Mathematics ^A
Amelia Turner	Art ^A , Drama & Theatre, English Literature ^A
Georgia Turner	English Literature ^A , History ^A , Politics ^A
Niall Turner	Geography, History, Politics
W	
Olivia Wasley	Mathematics, Physical Education, Psychology
Eve Wilsmore	Biology ^A , Chemistry ^A , English Literature ^A , Spanish ^A
Alice Winkley	Economics, English Language, Psychology

Celebrating Exam Success

GCSE and A Level Examinations 2023

Bradford Grammar students celebrate outstanding results

Bradford Grammar School students celebrated achieving outstanding results in their A Levels on 17 August, with the vast majority looking forward to places at their first-choice universities.

More than half of the A Level grades were A*/A, with four out of five grades at A*- B.

The following week, on 24 August, the celebrations continued as GCSE grades were higher than pre-pandemic levels with almost three quarters of grades awarded being 7-9 (previously A-A*).

More than half (52 per cent) of the GCSE grades were 8-9s compared with 47 per cent in 2019, pre the COVID pandemic. Likewise, 94 per cent of the grades awarded were 5-9, compared with 92 per cent in 2019.

Headmaster, Dr Simon Hinchliffe, said:

'We're proud of our students who achieve so much academically and beyond in the realms of sport, arts, public service and a rich diversity of interests... It clearly demonstrates that with the right support, such as we have at BGS, you can thrive inside and outside of the classroom without compromise.'



Team GB swim star Leah achieves grade A success

A young Team GB swimmer who has her eye on the Paris Olympics was celebrating a different win - her fantastic A Level results.

Leah S, has had to balance her studies at BGS with being one of the country's leading young swimmers.

Her hard work paid off with an A in Maths, A in Chemistry and A* in Biology. She now plans to take a year out to focus on her Olympics bid before taking up a place at the University of Nottingham to study medicine.

Leah said: 'I'm looking forward to being able to completely focus on training and give qualifying for the Paris Olympics my best shot. I know it's going to be hard, but I have a chance. It would be a dream come true.'

Leah began swimming when she was seven and swims for City of Leeds Swimming Club. Her recent successes include winning Gold in a record-breaking time in the 200m Individual Medley at the European Junior Championships in Belgrade, in July.

It follows her amazing haul at the British Swimming Championships, in April, when Leah smashed several personal bests and gained two senior Bronze medals – in the 200m IM and 400 IM.

Leah would get up at 4am, four times a week, to train for two hours before school followed by another 2.5 hours of training after school every day.

She said: 'It has been tough to fit in training with studying for A Levels but at least I've had free periods and I'm pretty good at switching off. Many of my friends at swimming don't have access to a pool at school either!'





Teenager who missed 18 months of school celebrates top GCSE results

An inspirational teenager celebrated gaining nine top grades in his GCSEs after undergoing treatment for blood cancer and other health issues throughout most of his academic life.

Seb M, has faced ongoing health challenges since he was first diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) at just three years old.

But, in the face of chemotherapy, immunotherapy, radiotherapy, a stem cell transplant and spinal fusion surgery, the determined teen successfully managed to keep up with his studies at BGS, with support from his family and friends at the school – and during the COVID pandemic thanks to a robot on loan from Leeds General Infirmary (LGI).

His hard work and determination paid off when he received A grade equivalents across the board with one 9, five 8s and three 7s. Seb is now looking forward to starting his A Levels in Psychology, Business, History and English Literature at BGS.

Said Seb: 'I'm really pleased with my results – it's more than I expected.

'It's been a really rough journey. But the support of my family, friends, and the school has kept me strong, and I've had a lot of support and good care from the hospital. I just take everything one day at a time.'

Seb endured 3.5 years of chemotherapy after he was first diagnosed with ALL. After nearly five years in remission, Seb learned the devastating news that his leukaemia had returned in December 2017. On Boxing Day, he was admitted to the LGI to start a gruelling in-patient course of chemotherapy. Sadly, this time the chemotherapy did not work, leading to Seb having to trial a more experimental immunotherapy treatment to get him into remission. He was told he would need a stem cell transplant to be cured. None of his family members were a match, leading to a world-wide search for a suitable donor. Finally, a German donor was identified and, in April 2018, after a week of radiotherapy twice a day, Seb received his life-saving stem cell transplant.

'That was one of the worst times of my life,' he recalled. 'I had six weeks in hospital isolated from everyone because my immune system had been wiped out. My parents took alternate nights to stay with me. I was very sick and I had no energy so I was sleeping most of the time. I even had to learn how to walk again. I missed over 18 months of school during my treatment and recovery, but I was determined not to have to drop back a year, so I kept up with my studies at home.'

During his treatment and subsequent shielding during COVID, his studies were boosted by a robot on loan from the LGI which sat in lessons for him and beamed the action back to Seb's tablet at home.

'I was shielding for quite a while because of COVID and so my friends and other people in the year group would take the robot and move it around for different lessons,' said Seb. 'I'm also very grateful for the support of my teachers who did live Teams lessons for me to access at home which enabled me to keep up with my learning on the days I wasn't well enough to get into school.'

While Seb has staged an inspirational fight back, he still has health challenges. The stem cell transplant and the toxicity of the cancer treatment has unfortunately left him with some severe chronic health complications which have had an impact on his ability to access education. One complication is chronic graft versus host disease (GVHD) of the lungs which means Seb is having to function on only around a third of his normal lung capacity. It has a significant impact on his energy levels and stamina. He takes a combination of different medications on a daily basis to treat his ongoing health conditions. Most recently, after completing his GCSE exams, Seb had spinal fusion surgery at the LGI to correct scoliosis which had developed during his cancer treatment.

Despite all this, Seb successfully managed to sit all his nine GCSEs.

He added: 'I would advise anyone in a similar situation to just keep on going, keep working hard and stay positive.'

Dr Simon Hinchliffe, headmaster, said:
'Seb has shown a huge amount of courage and determination to keep up with his studies in the face of such tough health issues and gruelling treatments. We are very proud of him, he is a credit to the school, and we look forward to supporting him as he pursues his A Levels in September.'

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... the support of my
family, friends, and
the school has kept me
strong ...

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Junior School



Arts and Performance

Fantastic Mr Fox Club

– SPRING 2023

Clock House pupil Oliver M has been enjoying treading the boards with the prestigious Opera North this term.

Oliver, who is in Year 5, has been playing the part of a fox cub in the bittersweet fairytale *The Cunning Little Vixen* at venues across the country, including Leeds, Nottingham and Manchester.

Said Oliver: 'Being on stage is such an experience because you're singing next to professional singers. They all make such a big sound. I'm finding it's a lot easier to sing and project my voice because I can hear how they sing.'

As part of the production, Oliver has had to step onto stage through a trap door with the other fox cubs and sings a duet with another cub.

'When you step through the trap door it makes you nervous for a second because you don't know how big the audience is going to be, and then you get into character and imagine you're a fox. It's fun acting as you give it your all,' said Oliver.

'Before the curtain call we all stand backstage dancing to the music. We have a special 'fox cub routine' which we like to do with the Vixen and the Fox, it's become a tradition for every show!'

Oliver also loves performing knowing his father, Andrew, is in the pit as co principal clarinet in the Opera North Orchestra!

BGS pupils Poppy H-C and Emma C have also appeared in the production.



Super Samba

– SPRING TERM 2023

By Jaina K, Year 6

Clock House has a samba band! Run by Mr Stevens, we have lots of fun and get to work together to create beautiful rhythms and music.

Samba is a Brazilian musical genre with its roots in African drumming music. These are a few of the samba musical instruments: agogo (a metallic bell with two pitches played with a stick), gangza (handheld shaker), surdo (a large drum in three different sizes).

Our samba band performs at school concerts, in assemblies and for special events. Mr Stevens teaches us the rhythms and sounds by words! Believe it or not it makes the beat form in your head, the tunes sound amazing!

Mr Stevens enjoys it when 'The Band' is totally in the zone, the rhythms create a mega groove; it is like something magical happens. He started teaching this form of music 15 years ago. He also has experience playing African djun djuns and has worked with Moroccan music.

Meet Daya

– SUMMER TERM 2023

Year 5 pupil, Daya A, has been following in his sister Isha A's footsteps into the acting world. Members of the Junior Journalism Club asked him about his theatrical exploits.

How long does it take to prepare just before an audition?

It usually takes 10 minutes to go over lines and get the camera set up.

How does it feel when you get the part?

It feels amazing getting a part. I like to go to new places to film and meet new people.

What's the best role you've ever played?

It would probably be the Royal Navy short film when I played the main part.

What made you decide to become an actor?

I went to acting club outside of school – I just wanted to have fun in classes – but I got roles and I was over the moon.

When did you decide to become an actor?

When I was about four or five as I did 'Secret Life of 5 Year Olds' in London.

What do you enjoy most about acting?

I enjoy the feeling of being in front of cameras and learning lines for a big part.

What types of projects have you acted in before?

A Royal Navy advert, 'Secret Life of 5 Year Olds', a Facebook advert and the TV drama 'Ackley Bridge'.

Adventures out of school: An Interview with Emerson

– SUMMER TERM 2023

A talented Year 3 pupil recently participated in a Magic Show alongside his dad.

The show, titled 'Hey Presto! Family Magic Show' was held at Bingley Arts Centre on 29 April. It was Emerson G's first time performing to a big audience, so it was both nerve-racking and exciting. Emerson happily shared the stage with Alan Hudson, Britain's Got Talent finalist Ryland-The Kid Magician, and Craig Pery.

He performed gymnastics, linking rings and had a giant line to sit on! His friends were in the audience and Mrs Buckley his form teacher also came along to enjoy the show. The duration of the performance was around three hours and Emerson very much enjoyed the experience.

When discussing the performance with Hugo M and Hector W in Year 5, Emerson had this to say:

'The atmosphere was simply amazing. I was both nervous and excited that people in the audience knew who I was, but after a while, that made me enjoy it even more!'

Watch this space for an update on even more exciting performances in the future. We wish Emerson a magical future ahead!



Communities, Societies and Activities

Welcome Ayla

– AUTUMN TERM 2022

By Abreshmina K, Year 5

One of the differences between living in London and moving up north, which Ayla mentioned when interviewed, was that the people here speak with a different accent.

Ayla's favourite food is a Japanese pancake which has a small cylinder shape and is very fluffy and delicious.

One of Ayla's favourite places to visit in the south, is the London Eye as it is an incredibly fun experience.

Some things that Ayla has enjoyed at our school are the swimming lessons (Ayla had not learnt how to swim before she joined Clock House).

Ayla has also made a bunch of friends who are fun to hang around with. She takes part in many fixtures, and she has been enjoying herself a lot, since the move.



Welcome David

– AUTUMN TERM 2022

By Aiyla A, Year 5

David is a new pupil in Year 5. He was previously at a preparatory school in Leeds. His friend Hector moved from this school to BGS a year ago. David has now followed suit and is an excellent pupil.

He takes the train to school every day, returning home by bus with his sister in Year 7.

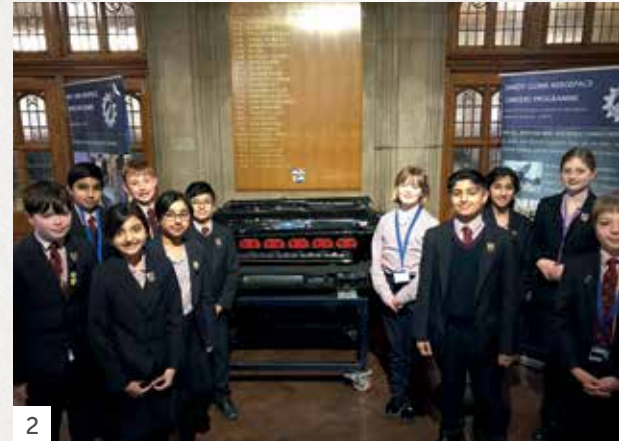
David was asked if he was enjoying his new school; his answer was: 'Yes!' He commented a lot about the quality of the food here, as he has a school dinner each day, he also mentioned that his experienced Year 5 teacher is the best teacher ever and has helped him find some amazing friends in both classes who understand him well and always help cheer him up. He also said that all the teachers were always cheerful and happy.

We hope he continues to enjoy his school life at Bradford Grammar School.

Life at Clock House

– AUTUMN TERM 2022

1. Gardening Club - Gardening is a firm favourite and a wonderful opportunity to enjoy our grounds.
2. Our Year 6 children, enjoyed a talk about the Spitfire to enhance their understanding of World War 2.
3. We were incredibly impressed by the creativity of our youngest pupils, who made these fabulous hats for their Christmas party.
4. Our outdoor classroom is a marvellous place to learn. These children have enjoyed using the fire to make hot chocolate and popcorn as part of their learning about reversible and irreversible changes.
5. DT lessons are a firm favourite each week. We benefit from the experience of specialist teachers in the Senior School DT rooms. This term, pupils have got to grips with power tools to create flashing badges.
6. Our children love sporting fixtures and these smiles say it all! We were very proud of these boys who won an award for representing the values of the RFU at the HMC (Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference) competition.



Clock House Life

– SPRING TERM 2023

Welcome to a round up of life at Clock House during the term, including visits from the High Sheriff and a gruesome medical workshop!

1. Book and Brew

Our Book and Brew events welcome families to the library lessons – Year 4 enjoyed using this time to share their own published writing.

2. Medical Mavericks

We were thrilled to welcome the Medical Mavericks back to school for their engaging but gruesome workshop.

3. Story Telling

National Story Telling Week allowed us to enjoy our strong relationship with the Senior School, one pupil offered to share a story with these Year 3 children quite unexpectedly.

4. High Sheriff

The High Sheriff Sue Baker met with the School Council. They were thrilled to meet her and had lots of excellent questions.



5

5. Children's Mental Health

Children's Mental Health Week was a great opportunity for us to discuss positive wellbeing and share strategies for managing difficulties with the children.

Sheffield Arena Song

We joined children from other schools at Sheffield Arena to create one enormous choir of more than 5,200 children, who even sang with pop star Heather Small to her song 'Proud' – we certainly were!

Play

By the end of their time in Year 6, every Clock House child takes a position of responsibility. Our play leaders run games and activities for the younger children and help form relationships across the School.

Eggs

Children were egg-cited to find out the impact of contact with a range of foods on their teeth. They swapped teeth for eggs, just to keep the tooth fairy happy!



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Welcome Daya

– SPRING TERM 2022

By Hector W, Year 5

Daya is a new Year 5 pupil who has moved from a local school to join BGS, this term.

His favourite sport is football, and his other hobbies are school projects, cooking, cricket and tennis.

I asked Daya who his best friend and role model is. His reply to his best friend was Toby (from his old school) and his role model is Marcus Rashford (a successful footballer).

After discussing his interests outside of school, Daya mentioned that he has a pet fish and a small shark. He would like a small fluffy dog as his next pet. He also enjoys eating lobster dishes and his favourite type of food is Chinese.

Finally, I enquired about why he decided to come to Clock House. He has come for a better education and to be around 'sensible' people and believes the school is a great place. He enjoys most of the lessons.

Welcome Rowan

– SPRING TERM 2023

By Abreshmina K, Year 5

In January, Rowan G joined Year 5, travelling from Rawdon, Leeds, each morning.

Rowan has settled in nicely with the help of his buddy (Jack).

Rowan is enjoying his subjects even more at Clock House because the teachers go into a lot more depth. For instance, in English he has started using a variety of figurative language in narrative writing rather than just thinking about powerful verbs and adjectives.

Rowan likes everything about his new school, especially break times with his new best friends. His favourite food is chilli con carne which is like spaghetti bolognese with kidney beans and spices. Rowan's favourite subject is DT (Design and Technology) because he likes craft work and constructing models. At present, Year 5 pupils are using cam mechanisms to create their own moving mechanical toys.

At his old school, Rowan did not have such a variety of lessons; he is also really enjoying all the extra-curricular activities Clock House offers.





Adventures out of school

– SPRING TERM 2023

Two members of the Junior Journalism Club were busy outside of school too. Hugo met his favourite Welsh rugby union player and Sebastian explored the RRS Sir David Attenborough, the new polar research ship.

By Hugo M, Year 5

In Gloucester, I visited the fabulous Kingsholm Stadium. I went there because we were meant to go to a match (Gloucester Rugby vs Worcester Warriors), but the match was cancelled as Worcester didn't have an owner, so sadly, they were relegated. Instead, they had a training day and my family and I, were given free tickets to see them in action. It was so special to me because I met my favourite rugby player, Louis Rees-Zammit.

By Sebastian R, Year 5

In Cambridge, I boarded a fabulous Antarctic research ship called the SDA (Sir David Attenborough). This was an amazing opportunity to see where my uncle is often based. Only family and people who work on the ship are allowed to explore the state-of-the art facilities (although I think everyone should be allowed on). It was a belated birthday treat!



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It was so special to me because I met my favourite rugby player ...





Junior Dukes

– SPRING TERM 2023

By Charlotte H, Year 6

Junior Dukes is a club that Year 6 pupils can join on a Monday evening. It is aimed at increasing children's independence, confidence and resilience, and to push their knowledge and skill base even further – it can also help them understand life.

You must complete a series of challenges and if you pass you are rewarded with a badge and a certificate.

- To pass you must complete at least seven of the ten challenges including:
- Community service work (caring for others)
- How to turn off the water and electricity and find the fire blanket (averting disaster)

- Find what makes you happy and calm (happiness)
- Cook a meal for your family (cookery)
- Do exercise for 12 sessions (sports and body strength)
- Create a small play to perform in front of an audience (drama)
- Help around the house (domestic challenge)
- Design a web page (computer skills)
- Plan a trip (trip planning)
- Learn how to do CPR (first aid)

Abbas has completed the 'averting disaster' challenge. He supported his efforts with a report and photographs.

Iris has found the 'computer skills' challenge, enjoyable and fun.

Terrific Travis's Hobbies

– SPRING TERM 2023

By Nicky W, Year 6

Travis Y is a multi-talented Year 6 musician and squash player, who attends Clock House..

He is an avid squash player who has competed in national championships, including the Scottish Open where he came 5th out of ten people in the Under 11 Category.

Travis started playing squash in 2018 at the age of six while he was living in Hong Kong. However, at the age of eight, he moved to England and now plays in clubs based in Pontefract and Chapel Allerton.

His favourite squash players are Nick Matthew and James Willstrop.

Travis's talents have been noted locally. He is currently a finalist for the Bradford Young Sports Person of the Year Award. However, the results will not be revealed until May.

Travis is also an incredible musician and has achieved Grade Five on the violin.

Despite being an incredible violinist, Travis began his musical career playing the flute and switched to playing the violin at the age of six. In the future, Travis aspires to become a professional squash player.

I wish him every success in being nominated as Bradford's Young Sports Person of the Year.



Clock House Life

– SUMMER TERM 2023

Welcome to a round-up of life at Clock House during the term, including an Easter egg hunt and meeting a bestselling children's author!

1. Year 2 Science

In Science, Year 2 have been studying living things. Pupils were given a caterpillar and observed them each week. Some turned into butterflies. 'It was fun having the butterflies on our hands; they were really ticklish' said one pupil.

2. World Book Day

Meeting Francesca Simon was a World Book Day highlight for Junior School children.

3. Reading Buddies

As the weather grows warmer, our team of reading buddies have enjoyed supporting younger pupils inside and out.

4. Educate the Kids

Clock House pupils were honoured to be visited by the charity 'Educate the Kids' to discuss the fantastic work they do as part of the Singing Children of Africa project. Teachers, Kombe and Maxwell visited, along with Cindy Krishna to deliver an assembly. Unfortunately, the children were not able to travel this time, but we hope they will be able to in the next academic year.



1

Eid

Children from across the Junior School work together at School Council – their carefully packed bags of Eid treats were very popular amongst their peers.

Easter Egg Hunt

The whole school Easter egg hunt was planned and prepared for by the House Captains, Treasurers and Vice Captains – just don't tell the Easter Bunny!

Year 6 Scholars

Our Year 6 Scholars were welcomed by Dr Hinchliffe to receive their certificates. We are very proud of their achievements.

House Music Competition

The House Music Competition allowed several pupils to share their talents on an impressive array of instruments.

Science Week

As part of Science Week, the children enjoyed a science fair organised by our team of STEM ambassadors.



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3



4



Whose World?

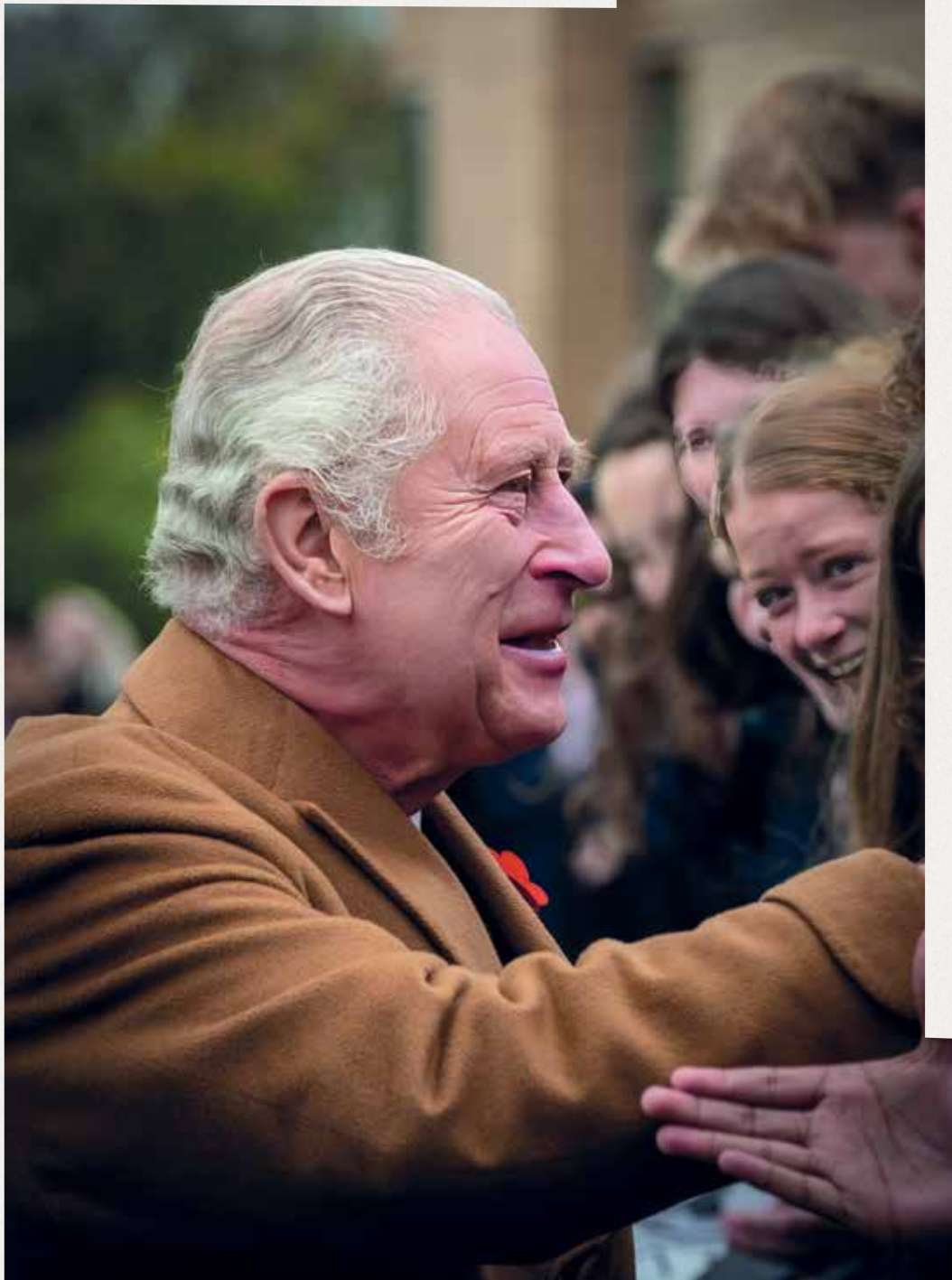
– SUMMER TERM 2023

By E Green, Junior School Teacher

The Clock House Eco Council decided to celebrate our world around us during a special week, beginning on 5 June called World Environment Day.

During the week, pupils considered our school grounds from different perspectives in their humanities lessons under the theme 'whose world?'. They also delivered a special assembly, hosted a competition to design a recycling logo, organised a second-hand book sale, and had fun in house meetings through activities based around the theme.

Trips and Events



Special visitor lands at BGS

– AUTUMN TERM 2022

By Nicky W, Year 6

On Tuesday 8 November, a very special visitor landed on the BGS rugby pitches. Excited crowds of children gathered nearby to wait in anticipation for the landing of the helicopter.

The pupils patriotically sang the national anthem as the sound of spinning blades were heard overhead. Instantly, a train of cars, led by a Rolls Royce pulled up. Security guards stepped out to greet the visitor.

Cheers roared through the audience as he stepped out, wearing his smart cashmere coat. Surprisingly, he continued forward towards the pupils to speak and shake hands with them. One excited pupil even stated: 'I will never wash my hands again!'. He had been touched by a king.

King Charles III was visiting Yorkshire for the first time as the reigning monarch. His Royal Majesty attended meetings at Morrisons headquarters to look at how the supermarket is introducing eco-friendly initiatives.

Later, he greeted people in Centenary Square.

It was an occasion BGS pupils will remember for years to come.

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I will never wash
my hands again!



Year 6 Trip to Eden Camp

– AUTUMN TERM 2022

By Florence A, Year 6

Year 6 went on a recent trip to Eden Camp to venture into the world of the Second World War.

They went through a range of huts to experience the sights, smells and sounds of life on the home front and the front line.

One of the most exciting and favoured huts was the Blitz hut; it was voted as the most realistic of them all.

Alice, in 6M, had this to say about the Blitz hut: 'Yes, I liked it because it was the scariest and thankfully, I was with my friend.'

Pupils discovered that 'Victory in Europe Day' (May 8, 1945), was a very important time in history. It was the day that marked the end of WWII in Europe. Lots of the Year 6 pupils rated it as a 10/10 trip.



Year 5 Humanities Trip

– AUTUMN TERM 2022

By Sebastian R, Year 5

On Wednesday 5 October 2022 we (Year 5) got off our coach and prepared for the excitement to come...

I looked up and saw the extremely large sign saying: 'LEEDS CITY MUSEUM.'

The trip was organised to discover more information about the Ancient Egyptians.

We entered the museum and the two Year 5 classes split up.

My class (5SM) went to the workshop first and my expectations were a bit high because I first thought we'd be taking organs out of a real mummy! When we entered the workshop, it turned out we were taking organs out of a dummy, so I was relieved. However, just before this activity, we went to see a REAL unwrapped ancient Egyptian mummy; I was both disgusted and scared, but it was fine. In the afternoon, we explored other exhibits in the museum.



Robinwood trip

– SPRING TERM 2023

By Aiyla A, Year 5

On 30 January, Year 4 went on an amazing residential to the top-quality activity centre, Robinwood.

After half an hour travelling, pupils arrived in the grounds of Dobroyd Castle ready for a half mile walk to their residential rooms where they would spend the next two nights.

The boys and girls had their own dormitories split into two, where they could have some privacy. They shared these areas with their friends.

All sorts of exciting activities lay in store for them. Pupils participated in canoeing (in a shallow lake), the zip wire (80 metres long), and the giant swings (the classes' favourite). Indoors, the converted sports hall had climbing walls and trapeze areas.

At the end of each day, the groups got together and enjoyed fun games followed by hot chocolate and biscuits.

Mrs Atkinson and Miss Weaire (Year 4 teachers) commented: 'The experience itself was great for the children.' Zoya in Year 4 declared: 'I was very nervous, but my teachers helped me overcome my fears.'



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... my teachers
helped me
overcome my
fears.



The BGS family is growing!

– SUMMER TERM 2023

We are thrilled to announce that our BGS family is growing, and from September 2024, we will be welcoming Reception and Year 1 pupils to the Junior School.

This will create a natural entry point for families, further ensuring that our young learners benefit from the outstanding BGS teaching from an early stage, laying firm foundations in terms of cognitive, physical and emotional development and enabling a consistent approach throughout their education.

Significant investment in the grounds of the Junior School is allowing us to enhance our already thriving outdoor curriculum and provide increased lesson time outside in the fresh air, benefiting the whole of the Junior School. This investment will create imaginative play spaces, accessible to the children throughout the whole academic year.

Work will commence on our state-of-the-art new building and grounds during the summer months; it will be exciting to see our natural outdoor spaces being transformed over the year, with the creation of a mud kitchen, a construction area, a woodland exploration area, a treehouse and an outdoor performance space, providing a flourishing and enormously varied range of fantastic activities.

The new development will add to all that is wonderful about BGS - our amazing libraries, music department, outstanding sports facilities and outdoor learning spaces, indoor swimming pool, smaller class sizes, specialist teaching staff and not forgetting the fabulous catering provision and wrap around care, to name but a few highlights.

To find out more, visit our dedicated webpage ...

bradfordgrammar.com/junior-school-development



A Royal Celebration

– SUMMER TERM 2023

On Friday 5 May, Clock House parents, staff and pupils enjoyed a picnic in the Sports Barn.

The picnic was for King Charles III's coronation which was on Saturday 6 May. Families were invited to bring a delicious picnic to enjoy with their children.

The picnic started with the Junior School pupils singing the national anthem, which parents and carers were welcome to join in.

Then pupils sang the coronation song with Mr Brook, their music teacher, on the piano. Following this, the children joined their families and enjoyed the rest of the picnic.

In addition, there was a range of activities to enjoy, including hula hooping, a speed bounce competition and finally a tennis lesson. Overall, it was a hugely enjoyable and memorable occasion.



... it was a hugely
enjoyable and
memorable occasion.



The Adventures of Clock House Pupils

– SUMMER TERM 2023

Each school year, Clock House pupils are lucky enough to travel away from home and school to a range of exciting locations. Read below to find out about this year's exciting visits.

Year 2

Year 2 enjoyed their trip in June, they travelled to Hawes End Centre on the shore of Derwent Water to take part in a Teddy Bear Pirate Adventure.

Year 3

Year 3 ventured to Ingleborough Hall, Clapham between 17-19 April. The children enjoyed caving, they visited and learned about the local area, conquered a big walk near Ingleborough, played on the rocks, and participated in geocaching, team building and line dancing!

'I was so proud that every child in Year 3 attended the residential and I was blown away by the comments we received from staff about their outstanding behaviour' reported Mrs Buckley.

Year 4

Back in January, the Year 4 residential took place at Robinwood Activity Centre, Todmorden.

Over the course of three days and two nights, pupils worked together in teams to complete a range of challenging activities, from archery and canoeing to zip-lining and the trapeze. Year 4 will never forget this wonderful residential, where they developed their collaborative and communication skills in problem solving and resilience building.

Year 5

On the morning of 24 April, Year 5 visited Bewerley Park, Pateley Bridge brimming with excitement. During their time away from home spanning a couple of nights, children enjoyed rock scrambling around Brimham Rocks, canoeing, walking along Trollers Ghyll and most impressively of all, leaping off a pole on the leap of faith! Some of the teachers were brave enough to join in with the latter but only the very brave ones!

Year 6

On 2 May, the Year 6 annual residential took place at the YHA, on the outskirts of Windermere near Troutbeck village. All children participated in climbing and enjoyed a substantial walk in the surrounding fells with informative talks on the local area and its inhabitants. Pupils also played team games on an evening, and braved kayaking games and catapult building in groups.



Sporting Achievements

Netball Success

– SPRING TERM 2023

By G Jones, Head of Junior School PE & Sport

Yorkshire Netball has a new structure this year and for the first time has trialled girls from across the region at U11 to be selected for development and academy squads.

Five of our Junior School netballers have been successful and selected for the squads having trialled among hundreds of girls – Jaina K, Florence A, Emma G and Charlotte H from Year 6 and Rajan D from Year 5. All the girls have been introduced to netball while at BGS and through school lessons and clubs their love of the sport has grown. They have started playing with junior clubs in the area, often representing in older age groups.

The West Yorkshire development and academy training groups are the first step on the pathway which could eventually lead to Leeds Rhinos super-league franchise. Eva Lockett, a former BGS and Clock House pupil, is currently the Leeds Rhino's U21 Performance Squad captain. We hope this current group of talented athletes will follow in her footsteps and pave the way for our future talent.

Well done girls, we are very proud of your achievements!



... through school lessons and clubs
their love of the sport has grown.



HMC Historic Netball Victory

– SUMMER TERM 2023

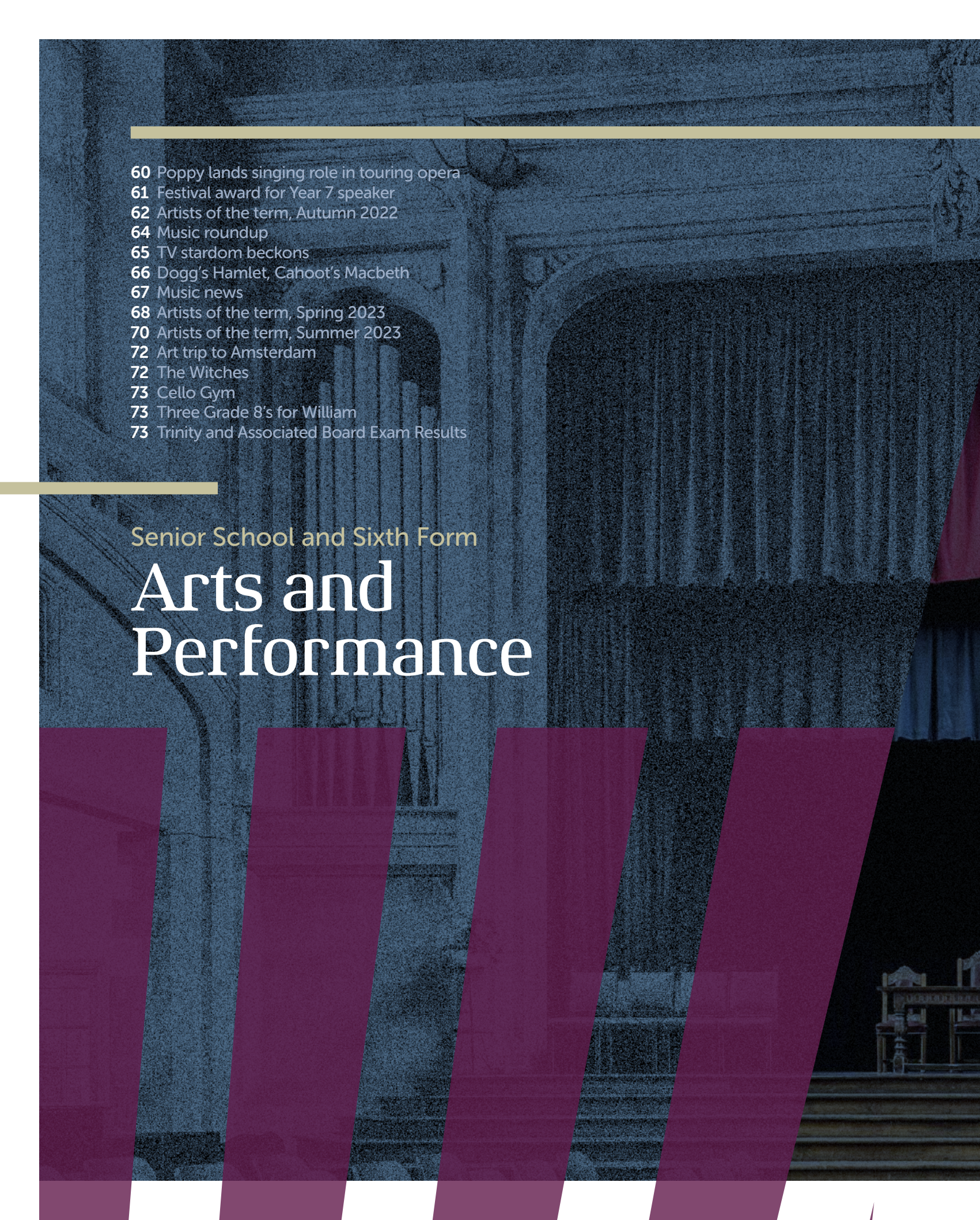
Back in March, Bradford Grammar Junior School's A team won the cup! This is the first time in history this has happened.

One of the finalists, Hadiya K said, 'My team performed exceptionally well, and we were one in a million!'

A member of the cup winning team, Aisha A stated, 'I felt like I was going to bounce through the roof! We were under a lot of pressure in the final, but we managed to pull through and win! In the semi-final we played Royal Grammar School Newcastle (RGS) in a very tough game with a score of 3-2 and in the final, we played RGS again and managed to win 10-0 in order to bring the cup home! On the way back we all were singing songs and celebrating!'

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On the way back we all were singing songs and celebrating!

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Senior School and Sixth Form

Arts and Performance





Arts and Performance

Poppy lands singing role in touring opera

– AUTUMN TERM 2022

BGS pupil Poppy H-C is undergoing months of professional opera training having landed a coveted role in a major theatre production.

Poppy, 12, who has been singing and performing since she was a young girl, successfully auditioned for Opera North's upcoming tour of The Cunning Little Vixen and secured the cover role for two principal singers.

The Year 8 pupil will juggle her schoolwork with intensive rehearsals in preparation for the two-month tour in theatres across the North next year.

Poppy, from Leeds, said: 'I was so shocked to be offered a soloist cover role, it's such an incredible opportunity. Full-time company rehearsals throughout December and January will be intense, but I feel very lucky to be gaining so much professional vocal training alongside Opera North's cast.'

Cover singers are opera's equivalent of the Broadway understudy and Poppy will train for the roles of Pepik and Frantik, to replace the principal singers should one not be able to perform due to sickness, injury or for personal reasons.


She is already receiving professional voice coaching and, from December, rehearsals will ramp up to four afternoons a week for the young performer, who will have to take time away from the classroom.

Dr Simon Hinchliffe, headmaster, said:

'We're delighted she's been offered a singing role; this is a tremendous opportunity for Poppy and we know she will be an asset to Opera North's cast.'

Poppy will tour with Leeds-based Opera North from 4 February until 1 April, taking the production to the Leeds Grand Theatre, The Lowry, the Theatre Royal in Nottingham, the Theatre Royal in Newcastle, and the Hull New Theatre.





Festival award for Year 7 speaker

– AUTUMN TERM 2022

Talented speaker and keen drama student, Danniella P, was given a personal behind-the-scenes tour at Leeds Playhouse after winning a special award. .

Danniella, a Year 7 pupil, was presented with the Edith Atkinson Award for Most Promising Verse Speaker after coming first in a verse speaking competition at the Wharfedale Festival of Performing Arts (WFPA) this summer.

As part of her prize, 11-year-old Danniella was recently given a guided tour of Leeds Playhouse and watched rehearsals for its production of *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory – The Musical*, running until January 28. She said: 'It was such a great experience, meeting with the director and watching four different Charlies rehearse the same part. It's incredible to see just how many people are involved backstage and how much equipment there is!'

Danniella, from New Farnley, has been heavily involved in drama for the last seven years, and has passed eight LAMDA examinations with distinction. She has also passed, with distinction, a further eight dance and singing exams with New Era Academy.

It was the third time Danniella had entered a verse speaking competition at the WFPA, an annual competitive festival of music and drama that runs in May and October. She came 3rd in 2017 and 2nd in 2018.

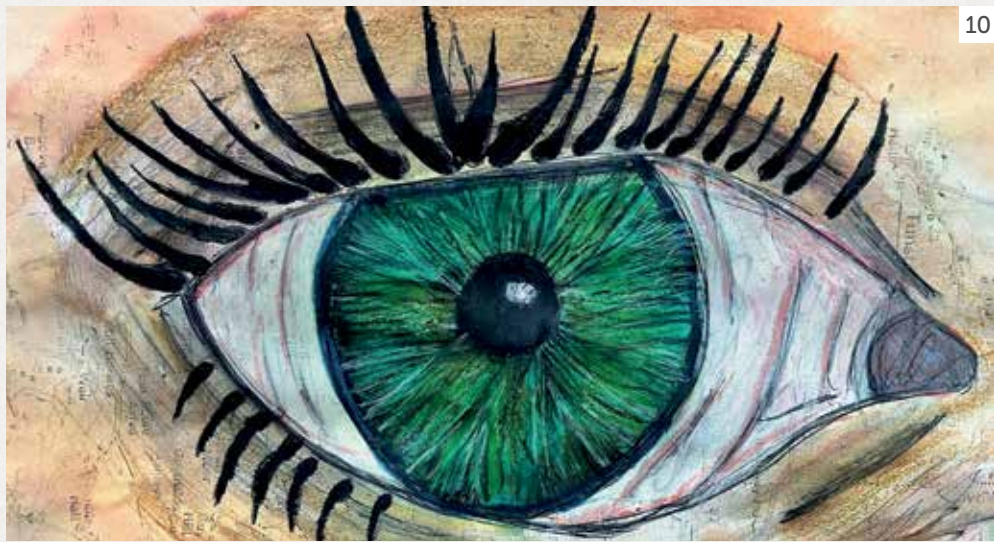
Danniella added: 'I was so happy to win the verse speaking competition this year - to then be nominated for the Edith Atkinson Award, and win, was such a brilliant surprise.'

Artists of the term

– AUTUMN TERM 2022

1. Lara F, Year 7
2. Samee K, Year 10
3. Marriam A, Year 10
4. Isla S, Year 7
5. Carla B, Year 12
6. Daniella P, Year 7
7. Joe T, Year 9
8. Olivia C, Year 12
9. Daisy N, Year 7
10. Amalia P, Year 9
11. Izzy B, Year 9,
12. Charlie H, Year 12





Music roundup

– AUTUMN TERM 2022

By E White, Director of Music

It's been another very busy term in the Music Department, both inside and outside the classroom!

Our first performance of the year was at Founders' Day in Bradford Cathedral at the end of September. Our wonderful Senior Choir performed Stanford's Te Deum in B flat and were joined at the end of the service by the Junior Choir singing Paul Mealor's stunningly simple The Lord Bless You and Keep You. The choir sounded wonderful and it's always a pleasure to sing in the beautiful surroundings of Bradford Cathedral.

This half term, more than 40 pupils have taken part in our lunchtime recital series, run by our music graduate Ruby Hendry. These informal lunchtime concerts are a great way pupils can perform to their parents, teachers and peers in a relaxed and informal setting. We've seen performances ranging from absolute beginners to Grade 8 and A Level recital run-throughs. Miss Hendry is always keen to hear from performers who would like to play in these short concerts. Please do get in touch.

The Autumn Chamber Concert was a wonderful event as we listened to performances from our small ensembles and soloists. The standard of solo playing was excellent and our ensembles played a variety of music from Ragtime to smooth jazz, Adele to Benjamin Britten! Thanks go to our team of visiting instrumental teachers for rehearsing these groups and thank you to our large, wonderfully supportive audience.



We have welcomed two new members of the peripatetic music team to the department this term - Alex Woodrow, piano and Dan Bull, cello. Mr Woodrow is Director of Music at Leeds Minster and he makes a welcome return to the department having worked here for a number of years before moving to Solihull School. He is now permanently back in Bradford and, as well as teaching the piano, will be assisting Miss White in the running of the school's four choirs. Mr Bull is delivering our cello and double bass lesson while Ms Laverick recovers from an operation. Mr Bull is the Principal Cello No 2 at Opera North and has been inspirational in imparting his knowledge to our pupils in lessons and in Junior Orchestra.

As I write, we are looking forward to two of our biggest events of the year, our Christmas Concert, on 6 December and our atmospheric Nine Lessons and Carols Service in the Cathedral in the last week of term. Year 7 pupils have been rehearsing a performance for this event and it's been a joy hearing so much singing in the department on a daily basis! The Carol Service is a more reflective event, with readers telling the Christmas story and music from the senior brass ensemble and our four school choirs. It is a real highlight in the school calendar and a wonderful way to get into the Christmas and Advent spirit.

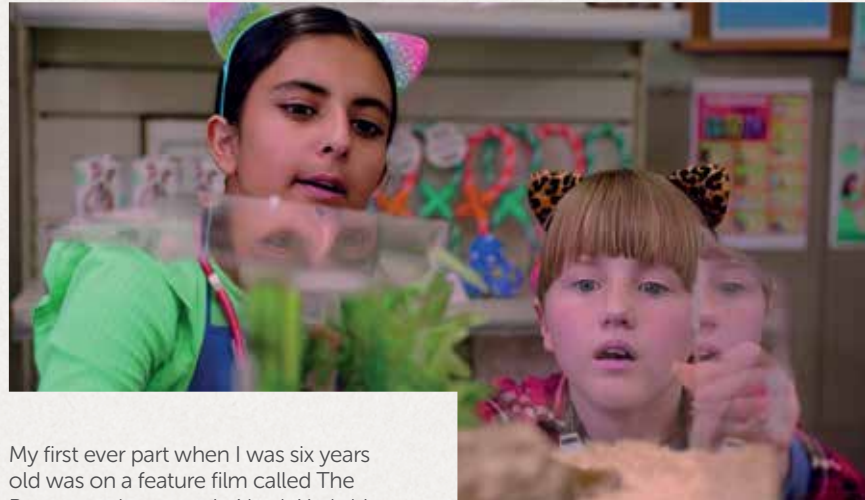


TV Stardom beckons

– SPRING TERM 2023

BGS pupil Isha A, who has been acting since she was five, has landed a part in a BBC children's television programme. Isha, who is in Year 7, plays the part of Anneena in the CBeebies' series Biff, Chip and Kipper, which began airing earlier in March.

'I started drama school when I was four. I remember leaving nursery and heading to an evening class. It just started off as a way to gain confidence and to meet different people. I really enjoyed it and got my first audition at the age of five.



My first ever part when I was six years old was on a feature film called The Runaways. It was set in North Yorkshire and featured the actors Mark Addy and Tara Fitzgerald. I had lines to learn and even got to sit on a donkey as part of the footage. Soon after, my brother, Daya, who's in Year 5 at Clock House, was in The Secret Life of five-year-olds so I appeared in that too!

My primary school friends knew I was involved in various projects, so they were always excited to know where I had been when not in school. My new friends at BGS know I have recently completed Series Two and Three of Biff, Chip & Kipper for CBeebies. I play the part of Anneena.

It was fun to film Christmas scenes during a heatwave in the summer!

So far, as well as The Runaways film, I have worked on an advert for a toy called Scruff-a-Luvs, a Children in Need advert, a Facebook Portal advert, (which was a debut for my brother and I working together) and a Morrisons advert. I also voiced Frankie the cat in the Pip and Posy animation which was aired on Channel 5 and won a British Animation Award for Best Children's Preschool Series – which was very exciting!

I love my acting and enjoy working with production teams on set. I'd love to do it all the time, but I think I should play it safe with my education too. I'd like to be a vet. Maybe I could be a vet on TV!



It was fun to film Christmas scenes during a heatwave in the summer!





Dogg's Hamlet, Cahoot's Macbeth

– SPRING TERM 2023

By Keira C, Year 12

The drama department's production this year was Dogg's Hamlet, Cahoot's Macbeth.

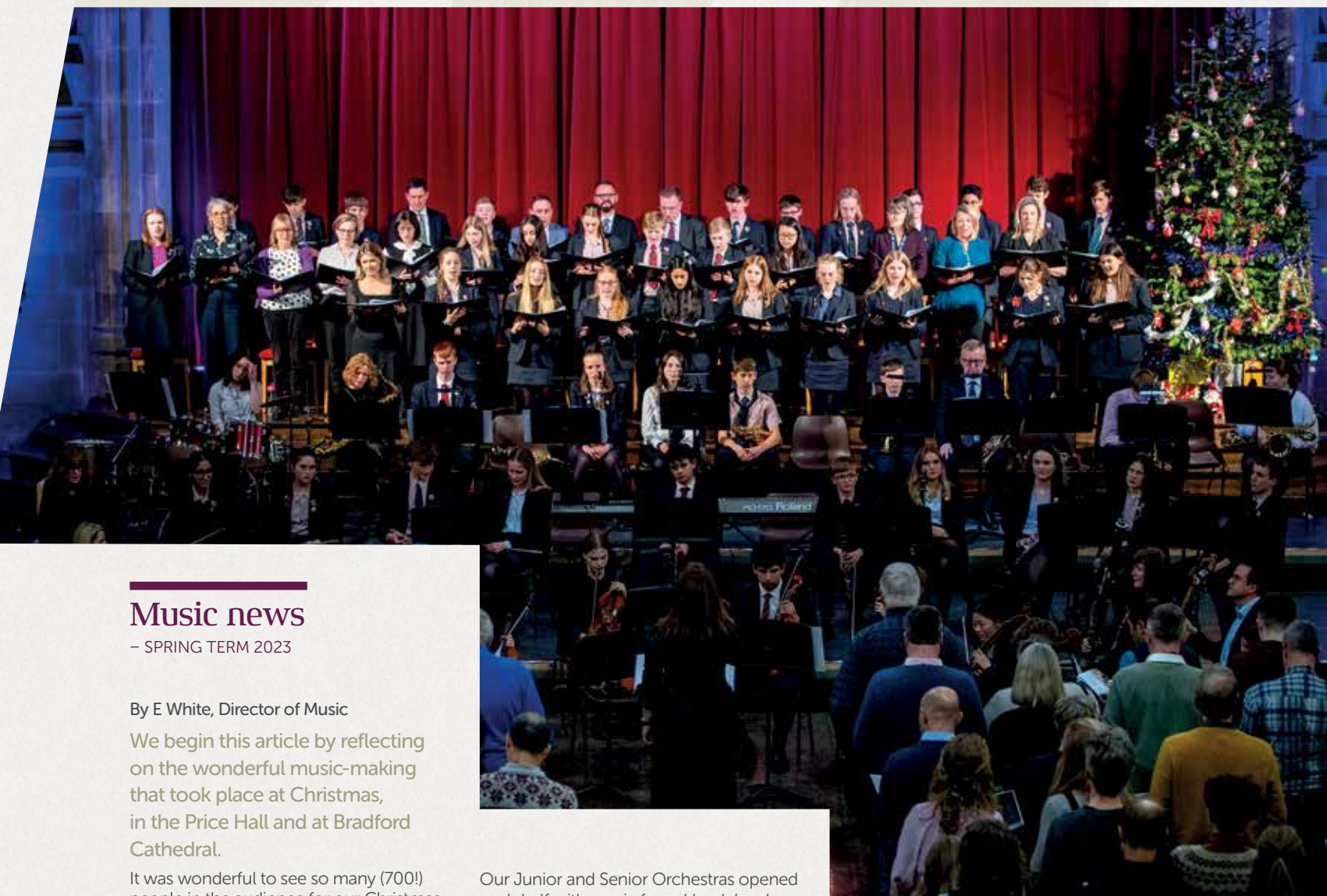
With all three performances, the cast showed spectacular pace and professionalism. It was abundantly clear how much effort went into the production from their grasp of different languages to their slapstick routines and the hard work paid off. A range of 33 students took part in the play as either actors or crew and all were expertly directed by Ms Seager.

Congratulations to the talented cast who made all the performances memorable and enjoyable. Of course, the production team, led by Mr Dutton, deserve congratulations for a fantastic job with the set and lighting and really pulled the whole play together along with the costume department. Most importantly, congratulations are in order for Ms Seager for a massive hit in her first time directing!

Read more ...

bit.ly/dhcm-review





Music news

– SPRING TERM 2023

By E White, Director of Music

We begin this article by reflecting on the wonderful music-making that took place at Christmas, in the Price Hall and at Bradford Cathedral.

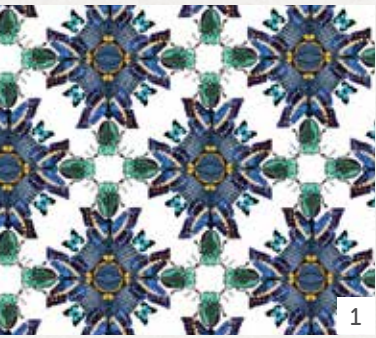
It was wonderful to see so many (700!) people in the audience for our Christmas Concert, held in school on 6 December. It was an evening of fantastic music, laughter and Christmas joy. As is now tradition, the whole of Year 7 performed an item and this year it was the 80s classic, *The Never Ending Story*. Other highlights were our four school choirs singing a variety of music, both Christmassy and non-Christmassy, and music from our large ensembles, ranging from *Hairspray* to *Queen* and the Jazz classics *Wolverine Blues*, *Birdland* and *Rockin' Robin*.

Our Junior and Senior Orchestras opened each half with music from *Handel* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

On 12 December our four school choirs and Senior Brass Group made the trip to Bradford Cathedral for our Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. The choirs sang a variety of music, both traditional and modern during the service. Highlights were Vaughan Williams' *The Truth From Above* and two Rutter carols, *Candlelight Carol* and the *Sans Day Carol*. Senior Brass group performed excellently as always and we were happy to sing a new descant this year, by Stephen Cleobury, former Director of King's College Cambridge Choir and the grandfather of two of our choristers.

This term we've had three of our smaller evening recitals; the string recital, brass recital and vocal recital. It was a real pleasure hearing so many talented pupils perform a range of music, and hear our small ensembles perform.

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 on 21 March. We look forward to saying a fond farewell to our Year 13 musicians and celebrate their time at BGS.





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Artists of the term

– SPRING TERM 2023

1. Saffiya I, Year 8
2. Summer R, Year 7
3. Roop H, Year 9
4. Alice S, Year 7
5. Shreya B-M, Year 7
6. Ava R, Year 10
7. Charlie H, Year 12
8. Hannah B, Year 7
9. Erin B, Year 9
10. Inaayah K, Year 10
11. Sophia B, Year 7
12. Shayaan K, Year 8



9



10



11



12



Artists of the term

– SUMMER TERM 2023

1. Aayat K, Yuvraj U, Esme U and Sara H, Year 8
2. Abigail H, Year 10
3. Alex W, Year 9
4. Alice S, Year 7
5. Amanda A, Year 9
6. Ava R, Year 10
7. Bismah M, Year 10
8. Holly L, Year 10
9. Mya P, Year 10
10. Roop H, Year 9
11. Sophia B, Year 7
12. Sophie L-S, Year 10



Art trip to Amsterdam

– SUMMER TERM 2023

By S Horsfield, Head of Art

We had a fantastic art trip to Amsterdam over the Easter holiday taking in the incredible work of Vincent Van Gogh where students were inspired by the application of paint and colour.

We had a very busy few days in which we travelled on the trams across town and investigated the busy waterways of the city. Students collected inspiration from the Rijksmuseum and the Stedelijk Museum for their future GCSE and A Level artwork. However, the highlight for the group was certainly the bike ride in De Hoge Veluwe National Park where we cycled on Dutch bikes in the sunshine, some admittedly a little wobblier than others! There was much fun and laughter followed by a hearty meal at the Hard Rock Café.



The Witches

– SUMMER TERM 2023

By C Bruce, Teacher of English

On Thursday 18 May, Years 7 and 8 welcomed the audience into the Hockney Theatre to watch an adaptation of Roald Dahl's classic tale, 'The Witches'.

Since February, the Friday Drama Club have been meeting to put on this production; from selecting the play, to auditions, rehearsals, and costume

preparation. For most pupils, this was their first school performance and for some it was their first time ever performing onstage.

Overall, the pupils did themselves proud. They committed themselves fully to the performance, throwing themselves off the stage onto crash mats, wearing wigs over bald-caps and interacting with the audience – all impressive feats in the world of drama.

They brought the story to life with the right amount of humour thrown in.

A stand-out performance from Georgie H as the menacing Grand High Witch kept the audience hooked throughout, and the ensemble worked well as a whole to pull the story together. A special mention must also go to the student tech team and backstage crew, whose input was invaluable.

Well done all.



Cello Gym

– SUMMER TERM 2023

By E White, Director of Music

On 24 May, Bradford Grammar School hosted Birmingham Conservatoire's famous Cello Gym.

This event was organised by our inspirational cello teacher, Sam Laverick, and saw three members of the cello department at Birmingham Conservatoire come into school to deliver an evening of inspirational music. Forty cellists signed up to the event, from Bradford Grammar School and other local schools, with participants coming from as far afield as

Manchester to take part. The Birmingham Conservatoire Cello Gym is a high-energy, fast-paced and exciting opportunity for any cellist from Grade 2 up to Diploma level to participate in a unique cello workout with a massed cello ensemble and has been touring the country. On the evening, the cellists performed specially created arrangements from Bach to Coldplay and listened to performances from multi award-winning professional cellists. It was an inspirational evening and one to remember for many years to come!



Three grade 8s for William!

– SUMMER TERM 2023

By E White, Director of Music

A Level Music student, William C set himself the challenge of taking three grade 8 exams over Christmas and at the beginning of the spring term.

William, who learns drums and the viola in school with Mr Stevens and Mrs Davis and piano out of school, achieved three merits in his exams, a brilliant achievement. William, who plays in numerous school ensembles, including the Wickermen, Concert Band, Senior Orchestra and Senior Strings is leaving school this year and hopes to study linguistics at university. Congratulations, William!

Trinity and Associated Board Exam Results

– SUMMER TERM 2023

By E White, Director of Music

At the end of the spring term, all students taking Associated Board and Trinity instrumental exams were awarded either a merit or distinction.

This is a fantastic achievement by all students and a special thank you must go to our wonderful team of visiting music teachers for their teaching. Over 400 music lessons are taught each week in school on all orchestral and band instruments, voice, theory, and organ. Get in touch with Miss White in the first instance if your child is a budding musician and would like to start lessons: emw@bradfordgrammar.com

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Senior School and Sixth Form

Communities, Societies and Activities





Communities, Societies and Activities



Talented linguists!

– AUTUMN TERM 2022

By L Kingsley, Head of Modern Languages

Six talented Year 9 linguists sat a GCSE Language exam two years early and amazingly every one of them achieved the highest grade possible, Level 9.

Two pupils took Mandarin Chinese, three took French and one sat German. The pupils showed exceptional maturity and discipline to study the language in their own time with minimal teacher input. Although some of them already

understand and can speak the language to a certain extent, they all had to work hard on their reading and writing skills to achieve the required standard. Some have never lived in a French, German or Chinese speaking country so their success and dedication was particularly impressive.

Yashvi (now in Year 10) said: 'I thoroughly enjoyed the course and I'm so grateful to the entire Languages department (but especially Mrs Kingsley) for all their support. I'm very pleased with achieving my grade 9. I would urge all students to get involved with Languages as it's great fun!'

We are really proud of them and their achievements – bravo!





Welcome new Director of Development

– AUTUMN TERM 2022

The Development Department welcomed Robin Sharp as BGS's new director in June.

Robin has worked for more than 20 years leading programmes for philanthropic investment at educational institutions, not only in Britain and the US, but also Australia.

She led fundraising and alumni engagement programmes at Brasenose College Oxford and Trinity College Cambridge. She worked in a similar capacity at the University of Southampton, the University of Aberdeen and QMUL. She also consulted on various projects including the Kennedy Memorial Trust, which funds academic scholarships for graduate level study at Harvard and MIT.

Robin said she was thrilled to be back in a school environment as BGS continues on its journey to secure significant philanthropic investment and grow its constituency of donors for the 1662 Campaign for Assisted Places. She derives a great deal of energy and inspiration from participating in the academic and student communities.

She said: 'Bradford Grammar School's focus on excellence, opportunity and happiness was what inspired me to apply for the role. The opportunity to work with the headmaster, Simon Hinchliffe, and the esteemed Board of Governors sealed the deal for me. I interviewed for the role on the day of the 1940s and 1950s Old Bradfordian Reunion and had the opportunity to have lunch with a number of OBs. The depth of the feelings that these OBs had for their school was inspirational.'

Robin is now looking forward to helping the school's leadership strengthen its relationships with Old Bradfordians, and the wider BGS community, and contribute her expertise to expand the already successful 1662 Campaign for Assisted Places.



'Outstanding student of the Year' award for Faiz

– AUTUMN TERM 2022

A compassionate student whose 'selfless efforts' helped support families affected by domestic violence has won an award which recognises Bradford's unsung heroes.

Faiz K, an aspiring medic in Year 13, won the 'Outstanding Student of the Year' category at Bradford's 12th annual Community Star Awards, organised by the Telegraph & Argus newspaper and Bradford Council.

The Outstanding Student award celebrates those who go above and beyond to help others and inspire change across the district.

Faiz helped raise money and gather resources to support ten families impacted by domestic violence.

His nominator, Noreen Khan the founder of the charity Neesie, said: 'Through his tireless and selfless efforts, Faiz truly has become a pillar of support for so many people.'

Dr Simon Hinchliffe, headmaster at BGS, said: **'We're very proud of Faiz. He's a credit to the school, and, like so many young people here, willing to give his time to make others' lives better. Well done.'**

‘Launching rockets across the school hall is another fun experiment ...’

– SPRING TERM 2023

BGS’s Head of Chemistry, Rob Moody, has been teaching chemistry for 15 years, in the state, FE and independent sectors. He explains why he loves to share his passion for ‘blowing things up’ with the wider community through his chemistry outreach roadshow.

‘I’ve loved science for as long as I can remember. A great thing about chemistry, and one of the things I enjoy doing, is showing off! I’m so lucky as a chemistry teacher because when it comes to it, we can always start blowing things up! I say this as a joke, but it’s true! At Christmas for example, instead of watching a film in lessons as a treat, I like to set fire to things – I love doing the exciting stuff.

As I’ve trundled through my career, I’ve built up a repertoire of demonstrations that me and my students love doing, and over the last 20 years I’ve also been lucky enough to go to demonstration lectures, where experts do exciting things with various combinations of chemicals. With these in my arsenal, my love of science keen to be shared, and a chat with the headmaster, we agreed to celebrate our strengths and share this passion with others. It was from here that the chemistry outreach roadshow was born.



... when it comes to it,
we can always start
blowing things up!



My first chemistry outreach activity was just before the pandemic. I trialled it at my daughters’ school, The Wharton’s Primary School in Otley for Years 5 and 6 (with the addition of my daughters who were lower down the school but insisted they wanted to see it!). And it was a great success – I loved it, the staff loved it but most importantly, the children loved it. I did a spontaneous combustion experiment which culminated in a burst of flames! I also did some simple, large scale colour changes which is great for interaction and participation. Launching rockets across the school hall is also another fun experiment which the children thoroughly enjoy.

The roadshows are also about being hands-on. It’s not about just knowing a load of stuff. It’s about doing and being able to do. And science is for everyone. It’s doing. It’s not about sitting and passively learning new facts. It’s fun, interactive, and engaging. It’s all well and good watching an experiment on YouTube, which many children like to do, but if we take something like the elephant’s toothpaste experiment for example and show it to a group of primary school children, it’s better seeing loads of foam squirting everywhere and hitting the ceiling live and in person, than it is seeing it on a screen. It really makes a difference in how science is experienced.

My latest roadshow was last year for Year 5 and 6 pupils at Lindley Junior School in Huddersfield, and I’m hoping to go back again this year as they’ve invited me back to deliver my ‘show’ to the latest cohort of Year 5 children. I’d love to take my little chemistry roadshow to more schools – it’s just finding the time to fit it all in!

Alongside the outreach programme, I have also been involved with the Otley Science Festival. During my first visit, I blew up some hydrogen and people loved it. So, I did it again last autumn, but this time I had a larger space, enabling more visitors to do more hands-on chemistry. We made pH rainbows which most of the younger children hadn’t experienced before. Younger and older children, plus adults all took part and a great time was had by all.

I also share my love of science via TikTok where I share demonstrations, experiments, science facts and jokes on a platform that older students engage in. My GCSE students particularly love it. They love that I’m occupying a space in their world – in an educational and non-invasive way. It’s on their terms if they want to watch my content and they find it rather amusing. I like the idea of a bit of chemistry sneaking in between the likes of Taylor Swift and Justin Bieber (or whoever is famous nowadays)! If I can make chemistry fun in a short and snappy way or remind someone that they have a piece of homework or revision to do, then it’s all worth it.

I know it sounds daft, but I just want children to like chemistry. I want students to turn up in my room on the first day of Year 7 and be so excited about chemistry – I want them to know it’s going to be great and interesting.’



French at Frizinghall

– SPRING TERM 2023

By K Whyte, Head of French

In February, nine willing A Level French students in Year 12 took up the challenge to plan and deliver a French lesson to all pupils in Years 3 and 4 at a local primary school.

With guidance from their teacher and French assistant, Muriel, they made some excellent resources and thought up games and fun ideas. Topics included numbers, ages and family.

BGS students were delighted with the warm and enthusiastic reception from the pupils and staff at Frizinghall Primary, and the success of their lessons, even though this was their first experience of teaching. Some admitted to feeling a little nervous beforehand, but by the end they had enjoyed it so much we may well have inspired the next generation of language teachers! It was agreed by both sides that this was a really valuable experience, and it's fast-becoming an annual tradition for us.

Action for Sport

– SPRING TERM 2023

By E Tomlinson, Head of Year

For the past two years, Year 7 have supported the local Bradford-based charity Action for Sport.

We have collected and donated unwanted sports kit to help those in our local community for whom a lack of kit prohibits them from participating in sporting activities. We were delighted to open up our support of this charity to the whole school earlier this term and welcomed Andrew Kenure and Clive Michallat, the co-founders, into school. They delivered an insightful assembly outlining their vision SPECK (Sport – Poverty – Environment – Community – Kindness). Collections have been flooding in and both Clive and Andrew are delighted to receive them. Year 7 support this charity through their fundraising too, raising money by running a Christmas Café in December and with our infamous sponsored Ilkley Walk. We are thrilled that Andrew and Clive will be joining us for the walk in May this year and look forward to continuing to support this worthy cause.





Born in Bradford

– SPRING TERM 2023

Pupils at BGS have been excited to be involved in a major NHS research project designed to capture the adolescent journey.

Years 8, 9 and 10 are taking part in the data collection project Born in Bradford – The Age of Wonder, along with other young people from various secondary schools in the Bradford area.

Pupils will give their views in four surveys which ask about their outlook on life, their feelings on the pandemic, and their thoughts on the use of technology in the modern world. They will also provide physical data about their height, weight, cognitive and motor skills and blood samples.

As part of the project, Winifrid Robinson, who presents BBC Radio 4's You and Yours programme, visited the school in January to interview pupils about young people's mental and physical health and the effects of the pandemic on their teenage years. The programme aired in February.

Jane Chapman, Assistant Head (Pastoral) said: **'Our students were terrific. I felt so proud as I sat in on the interviews and heard them talk. What incredibly articulate and thoughtful young people we have at our school. The Radio 4 team was hugely impressed by them.'**



Wellbeing Week

– SPRING TERM 2023

By D Chalashika,
Head of Personal Development

The assembly led by the Pastoral Prefects on 10 February was a fitting finale to the fourth BGS Wellbeing Week of the year.

After considering the positive effects to wellbeing of connecting to others, taking notice and to keep learning, the theme of this Wellbeing Week was giving, doing something for the benefit

of someone else without the expectation of receiving anything in return. Giving in this way leaves a positive feeling and a sense of purpose and self-worth, as well as improving self-esteem and emotional health. Pupils and staff embraced the BGS Wellbeing Week Challenge to offer random acts of kindness with flowers, chocolates and good wishes being shared in school. In the assembly, the Pastoral Prefects contributed a valuable message of giving, as well as details of the charity benefiting from the proceeds of the non-uniform day, which is Leeds Hospitals Charity's bear hunt, hence the reason for Dr Hinchliffe carrying a bear cub into assembly!

Pastoral prefects

– SPRING TERM 2023

Kai D and Laiba H are two of 20 pastoral prefects at BGS. They talk about their roles and how they help their younger peers navigate school life.

What made you want to become a pastoral prefect?

Kai: I liked the sound of the 'pastoral prefect' role rather than being on the 'school prefect' team because it gives you the opportunity to help others. I knew it would lead to more training, so if people came to me asking for help, I would be able to support them. I also thought I'd learn skills which would be useful in life.

Laiba: I joined BGS in Year 9 and I was really shy. It took a while to make friends and settle in. It was a difficult time. One thing that really helped was Mrs Wilde introducing me to a Year 12 who had come to BGS from London. She spoke to me about how difficult it was for her to move. I really liked that idea of having other people in a similar situation to talk to. Being a pastoral prefect means I can help younger students in the same way.

What was the application process like?

Kai: We had to write a short piece on why we wanted to be a pastoral prefect. I was really happy when I was selected.

Laiba: We had to apply for the role of prefect and then all the teachers and students voted for the applicants they thought would be good. I was shocked and delighted when I found I was going to be one.

What training did you undertake?

Kai: We did a Mental Health First Aid course at the start of the year which talked about the importance of listening, gave training on how to give advice and how best to help someone who's having a problem, such as by signposting them to the right support.

Laiba: It was really good because it taught you how to deal with specific situations and how to act without making someone feel nervous so they would be comfortable to speak. Jo, the School Counsellor, also did some training with us to give us confidence about mentoring younger students.

What does your role involve and what do you enjoy about it?

Kai: We have meetings every other Friday to plan what we will be doing with the younger year groups and discuss assemblies and activities. We can also meet with the counsellor whenever we need to so, if we have any problems or anyone who needs referring, we can ask her for advice. At lunchtimes we run a regular boardgames club and invite students to come along. It's a far better way for kids to come and talk to us, especially if they're shy. It brings them out of their shell. The games club is also fun for us!

Laiba: I love games club too – everyone does! It's the same people who come most days and we encourage pupils who might not find it easy to socialise at lunchtime to come along and join in too. We also lead assemblies as part of our role and are delivering these to the whole school in each of the Wellbeing Weeks this year. I'm a Year 8 prefect and I'll be taking an active role in speaking about wellbeing in Year 8 assemblies, covering topics such as healthy eating and the importance of students looking after themselves. We also help with things like Anti-Bullying Week and Safer Internet Week.

What kind of issues do students need to talk about?

Kai: Bullying – online or in real life – advice about exams and life post lockdown are common things.

Laiba: For many of them it's friendship issues or loneliness, they may not have a lot of friends and be a bit shy. We can offer a listening ear for that and encourage them to meet new people through the games club.

What are the benefits of having pastoral prefects?

Kai: It's nice for students to be able to talk to someone who's close to their own age. Everyone is studying different subjects so they're there to give advice on what they're good at. I think it's easier to come to a Sixth Former and have a chat rather than speak to a teacher sometimes.

Laiba: When you speak to a teacher it feels more official and much more formal. It's a lot less pressure to be able to speak to a peer, particularly if they've gone through similar things. We have a good variety of people and we've all got different interests which is good. We all work together well.



LEGO® Challenge success

– SUMMER TERM 2023

BGS pupils of all ages made it through to the national finals of a major LEGO® robotics competition for the first time in the School's history.

The team of ten, comprising pupils spanning Years 7 to 12, had been practising for weeks after winning the regional finals of the Institution of Engineering and Technology's (IET) FIRST® LEGO® League challenge.

Pupils had designed and built a robot to carry out a series of challenges. Although they suffered a nail-biting robot malfunction on the day of the finals (22 April) at Harrogate Convention Centre, the team battled through to seventh place with their back-up robot.

In addition, they won the Bechtel Award for Safety for their innovation project, for promoting safety in the community. Pupils created a CO2 measuring device to be placed outside schools to encourage drivers to turn off their engines and improve air quality. They also ranked fourth in the STEM project phase.

Zaina M, in Year 8 said the team had grown together as friends over the months working on the project.

'I'm really into computing, it's fun, and there's also a lot of banter in the group which is great,' she said.

Read the full article ...
bit.ly/bgs-lego-success

Old Bradfordians & Development Office update

– SUMMER TERM 2023

By R Sharp, Director of Development

The summer term has been a very busy time for the Old Bradfordians and Development Office. Not only are we preparing to say goodbye and good luck to our Year 13 students, we are helping them stay in touch with the Old Bradfordian (OB) community through our 'Beyond Bradford' platform.

We are also preparing for our annual appeal for donations in support of the 1662 Fund for Assisted Places which launches in early July. Our Year 13 Assisted Places recipients are helping us by sharing their stories with the BGS community before they head out to 'make their mark' in the world beyond the BGS campus.

Back in April, Luke Jones from the Old Bradfordians Office helped welcome some OBs to campus to celebrate 30 years of table tennis. Mr Crabtree, one of our maths teachers, has been coaching table tennis since he joined the school in September 1993. 30 pupils across the school were involved in a coaching session as well as a fixture against the OBs, in which the OBs triumphed.

OBs are spread far and wide across the globe. On 15 May, BGS alumni from three different generations got together in Vietnam 'for beers and a chin wag' in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC). Tom Peel (2007) and Pete Oldfield (1983) - both currently teaching at The British International School of HCMC - welcomed Kevan Keegan (1974) to their local bar thanks to introductions made through the Development Office.

The latest edition of the Old Bradfordian magazine was distributed in May, a link to the digital publication can be found below. This issue features news from OBs and the wider BGS community with features written by OBs, photos from social and sporting events and sadly, obituaries remembering those we've lost.

Over the summer break, the office will be busy. We will be actively raising money in support of the 1662 Fund for Assisted Places as well as recruiting for three new roles. These roles will enable us to strengthen our connections to OBs, our parent community, the teaching and support staff as well as the many friends of BGS that help to sustain the school and the surrounding communities.

View the latest issue of The Old Bradfordian here ...
bit.ly/OBmag2022





Year 7 sponsored walk to Ilkley

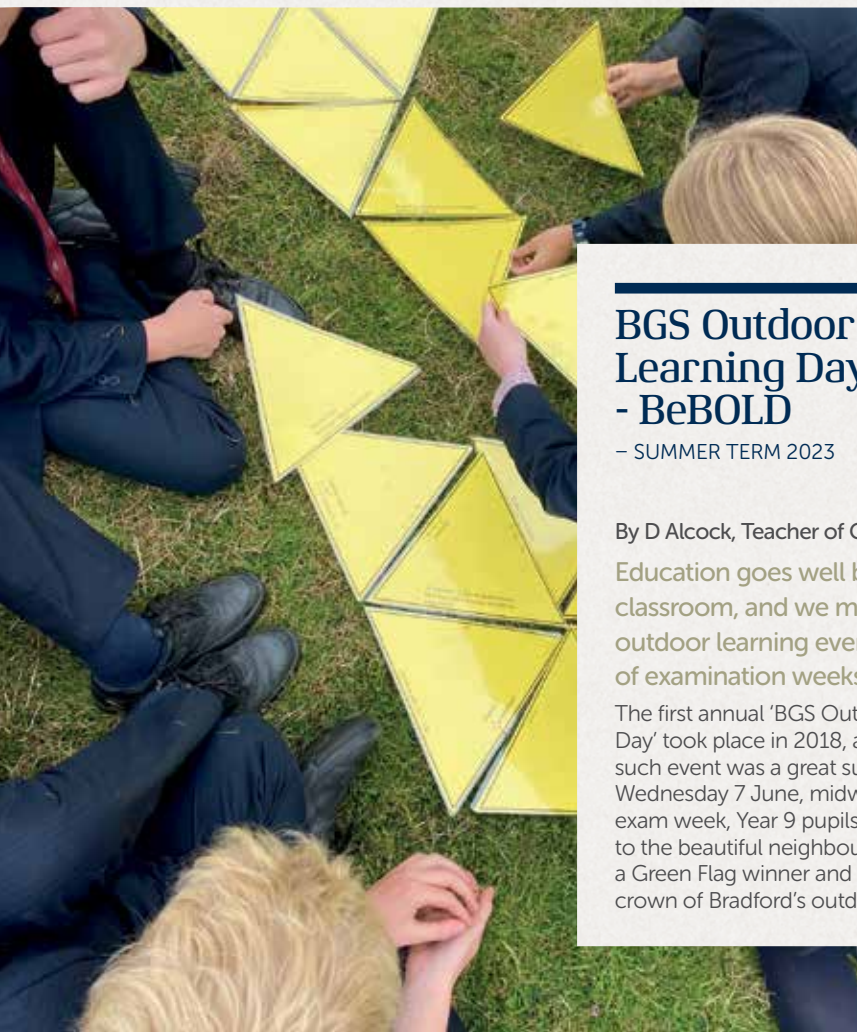
– SUMMER TERM 2023

By E Tomlinson, Head of Year 7

What better way to end Year 7 exam week than with a stroll to Ilkley.

This year, Friday 26 May was a gloriously sunny day and Year 7 pupils enjoyed the challenge of walking from school over the moors to Ilkley. Despite the high temperatures, the pace was quick (helped by Mr Merckx leading from the front) and we enjoyed our picnic lunch at the Twelve Apostles. Donations of preloved sports kit have been gratefully received by Action for Sport, our Year 7 charity this year, and we look forward to presenting them with the money we have raised through this sponsored event which will help them continue their amazing work in our local community. Well done, Year 7!

Find out more about Action for Sport ...
[actionforsport.com](https://www.actionforsport.com)



BGS Outdoor Learning Day - BeBOLD

– SUMMER TERM 2023

By D Alcock, Teacher of Geography

Education goes well beyond the classroom, and we make space for outdoor learning even in the midst of examination weeks.

The first annual 'BGS Outdoor Learning Day' took place in 2018, and the sixth such event was a great success. On Wednesday 7 June, midway through their exam week, Year 9 pupils made their way to the beautiful neighbouring Lister Park: a Green Flag winner and the jewel in the crown of Bradford's outdoor spaces.

Four departments chose to accept the challenge of using the great outdoors to both engage and re-energise our pupils. Classics used the dramatic statue of Diana in front of Cartwright Hall to open young minds to the power of myths, and History revisited the Anne Frank Tree to encourage discussions around memorialisation.

Meanwhile, Maths used the area around the bandstand to encourage hands-on learning of complex concepts, whilst Religious Studies made the most of the peaceful sensory gardens to introduce pupils to the Japanese practice of 'shinrin-yoku' ('forest bathing') – a kind of walking meditation which was a world away from the examination hall. The event followed World Orienteering Day, which took place in the same park and involved all members of Year 7 and 8 during their examination week.



The Combined Cadet Force at BGS

– SUMMER TERM 2023

By Major J Greenlee, BGS Contingent Commander

The Combined Cadet Force (CCF) at BGS has been actively engaging its Army and RAF Section Cadets in a variety of exciting activities, enabling them to develop their potential and grow as future leaders..

Army Section Achievements

Recently, we sent four cadets to the Army Cadet Force 4-Star Senior Cadet Cadre, a remarkable opportunity for them to develop their leadership skills. This programme not only provided them with the ability to lead but also equipped them with the knowledge to create and deliver lessons effectively. Notably, Cadet Staff Sergeant Matthew M went above and beyond by attending the Tri-service Master Cadet Course, an exclusive event held at the Cadets National Training Centre during the Easter period. Out of 50 participants, Matthew was one of only two CCF cadets to be awarded the prestigious qualification of Master Cadet, highlighting the emphasis on leadership development within the course.

RAF Section Achievements

The RAF Section of the BGS CCF has also been making remarkable progress. Cadets in this section were provided with gliding and powered flight experiences at RAF Leeming and RAF Topcliffe, with more to follow. These not only expanded their horizons but also paved the way for them to obtain flying qualifications. In addition to these practical experiences, the RAF Section engaged in theory lessons on aviation to complement their skills.

The BGS CCF continues to serve as a testament to the institution's dedication to providing a comprehensive education and preparing students for the future. Through engaging activities, rigorous training and opportunities for leadership development, the CCF equips students with valuable skills that will serve them well throughout their journey in life.

The CCF meet every Tuesday after school and is open to pupils aged 12+.
Interested in joining?
jgreenlee@bradfordgrammar.com

Year 13 Leavers

– SUMMER TERM 2023

By R McOwen, Head of Year 13

Friday 12 May saw the culmination of happy and successful BGS careers as Year 13 spent their last day in school.

Following the traditional breakfast meet at the Brownlee Pavilion, Year 13 gathered in the Hockney Theatre for their final BGS assembly joined by their teachers and form tutors. Spirits ran high and much laughter prevailed at the outset as pupils enjoyed a 'past and present' photo montage. Mr McOwen offered some words of reflection and invited students to take heart and confidence from their individual BGS journeys and friendships they have forged along the way.

Next came what has got to be the most incredible performance ever to grace a BGS stage; an expert rendition of acapella Mongolian throat singing by Kamran J. Easily the most poignant moment of the assembly followed as William C gave a moving piano and vocal performance of Queen's 'Bohemian Rhapsody' during which the whole theatre sang along, phone lights aloft! To close, Mr McOwen invited the BGS staff band 'Roc Age' to the stage to perform some songs including Neil Diamond's 'Sweet Caroline', featuring none other than Elise S-D who performed with flair and panache on the drums.



With the sounds of Mr Hanson's guitar ringing in their ears, Year 13 then enjoyed a fine barbecue lunch before making their way onto the Governors' Lawn, ice cream van waiting, for the annual leavers' tug-of-war competition, expertly adjudicated by Mr Pullen, as parents enjoyed lunch with a glass or two of Pimms alongside on the Terrace.



Meet Nida

– SUMMER TERM 2023

Nida B joined the BGS Sixth Form in September 2022 'due to the school's incredibly appealing academic achievements and co-curricular opportunities on offer.' She is studying A Level Maths, Politics and History, the latter being her chosen subject for university. Nida has also recently completed the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and is keen to share its benefits with other prospective EPQ students. This is what she said:

What is the EPQ and why should people take it?

In essence, the EPQ is a 6,000-word dissertation about an independently researched topic of choice. It is much more than merely word counts and academic writing though. It is an opportunity to go beyond the curriculum and study a topic of your own choosing. An EPQ is also an invaluable opportunity to learn about yourself as a student. It enables you to really consider whether your interest in a subject area is sustainable and strong enough for you to pursue it further at university, etc. An EPQ is also helpful to establish a routine for how to carry out research, which is a learning opportunity. Consequently, I also used this personalised routine for a research competition I've participated in since. I think the most appealing factor of taking an EPQ is that you gain many tangible skills, such as critical thinking and improved communication skills, something which enriches your entire academic journey, for example, in my A Level History. Another unique benefit of taking an EPQ is that many universities may lower their entrance requirements as a means of recognising and appreciating these extra skills.

What was your EPQ about?

After much consideration, I chose to investigate the following question: 'To what extent did the protests of the youth impact the civil rights movement in the USA in the 20th century?'. I chose this, although rather spontaneously, because the civil rights movement is something I've always been interested in.

What exactly did you have to do?

My EPQ started in September 2022 and ended in Spring 2023. The first assessed piece of written work I submitted was the Project Proposal Form (PPF) in which I outlined and justified my plans. Another key element of the EPQ was the activity log which had to be consistently written in throughout the EPQ journey, although, at times, this was a slight challenge to keep up with. In the end, I really enjoyed writing the log as it was a useful means of reflecting on my progress on the other written components (introduction, literature review, main body, conclusion, references, evaluation and abstract, the latter not being included in the 6,000-word limit). I analysed lots of academic journal articles and books. Organising and referencing these was a bit difficult at first but it quickly became second nature. The final part of the EPQ is the presentation which is performed in front of an audience including family and friends, as well as the assessors. To my surprise, although I was very nervous, the presentation was the most fun part of the entire EPQ. As the evening commenced, and I presented my findings to various groups of people, my nervousness was replaced with calmness, and I enjoyed talking about my work, including to family and friends.



How did it feel to lead your own project?

Leading my own project was a unique and valuable experience. As well as developing my own critical thinking and problem-solving skills, I strengthened my sense of self-responsibility, whether this was through using my study periods productively or implementing my tutor's advice. However, the idea that you must do everything yourself when doing an EPQ is a slight exaggeration, help is always on hand. Throughout the EPQ I had regular 1-1 meetings with my EPQ tutors enabling me to control my own timetable and test my ability to stick to deadlines.

As well as these meetings, teachers provided a lot of support through resources, whether it be a hard copy of an academic phrase bank or pre-recorded guidance on referencing. Teachers were always there to help.

What piece of advice would you give to someone thinking about taking an EPQ?

Do not overcomplicate things. I think the key difference between getting an exceptional grade or not comes down to listening to your teacher's advice and implementing it. This can only be effectively done if you communicate your worries clearly, so don't be afraid to admit your weaknesses or request help when needed. Another thing is to leave sufficient time at the end to edit your work properly – so don't procrastinate at the start. Overall, I think the most important thing is to enjoy your topic.

A few words from A McOwen, Head of Sixth Form Enrichment & EPQ:

'Nida engaged deeply with the existing literature within the field, synthesised her findings into arguments that addressed a range of factors and perspectives, before reaching a clear conclusion that recognised the implications of her final judgement and recommendations for further research. Nida delivered an engaging presentation, which revealed a genuine interest in the topic and meaningfully reflected on her EPQ experience. For these reasons, Nida was amongst the highest-achieving EPQ students this year. I thank her for sharing her reflections on the EPQ experience with a wider audience. It was a pleasure to supervise her throughout the process.'



Farewell Frau Murach

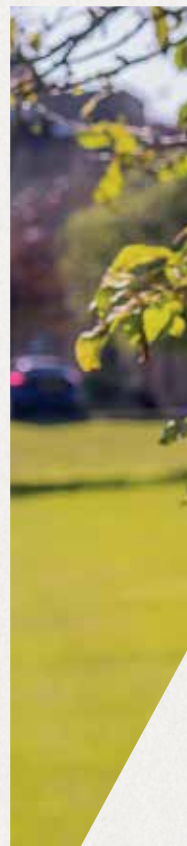
– SUMMER TERM 2023

By L Kingsley, Head of Modern Languages

The legendary Frau Murach retires after a whopping 36 years at BGS.

Her past pupils (some of them now BGS parents!) remember her lessons as exacting and inspiring, many going on to study and work in Germany. Karin always sets high standards in the classroom and is a wealth of knowledge on all things German, sharing cultural and grammatical expertise which is second-to-none. Over the years she has led many trips to Germany, enriching pupils' experiences with her first-hand knowledge, particularly of Berlin and its history.

The Modern Languages Department will take a while to adjust to life without Frau Murach, but we wish her a long, healthy and very happy retirement. She is a real team player whose warmth and crisp humour will be missed enormously. Auf Wiedersehen, Frau Murach!



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Senior School and Sixth Form

Trips



Trips



New York study and enrichment trip

– AUTUMN TERM 2022

By L Hanson, Head of English

During October half term, the English department took 20 A Level students on a trip to Long Island and New York to enrich their understanding of American literature and culture to support their A Level studies.

The five-day tour commenced on Long Island with a visit to the Walt Whitman Birthplace where there was a guided tour and poetry workshop. Following this, the students travelled to the Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site where they learned about the wealth and influence of the Vanderbilt family and enjoyed a spectacular planetarium show.

The remainder of the trip was spent in Manhattan where students walked the Brooklyn Bridge and the High Line, visited Ground Zero, The Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Grand Central Station, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Central Park, and the Imagine Garden, Times Square, went to the Top of the Rock, went shopping, saw the Broadway production of Wicked and enjoyed a cultural and literary walking tour of Greenwich Village. Everyone had a fabulous time with several students saying it was the best school trip ever!



Visit to Paris

– AUTUMN TERM 2022

By K Whyte, Head of French

The French department was delighted to take 41 Year 8 and Sixth Form pupils to Paris during the October half term holiday.

We were able to soak in the Parisian culture over five wonderful days during which we admired the Eiffel Tower, ascended the impressive 210-metre-tall Montparnasse Tower, and enjoyed a boat trip along the River Seine. The Sixth Form raved about the French lesson they had at a local language school, while the younger pupils enjoyed a visit to the Arc de Triomphe and took in the sights along the Champs-Élysées, (not forgetting the visit to the official Paris Saint-Germain football shop!).

The Sixth Form also had the opportunity to marvel at the Mona Lisa in the Louvre Museum, while Year 8 took part in an adventure quest. The trip was rounded-off by an exhilarating day spent at Parc Astérix. We had beautiful weather throughout, the food was typically French, and therefore, delicious. It was a fantastic experience enjoyed by all, and our pupils were a credit to the school.

Year 7 'epic' adventure

– AUTUMN TERM 2022

By E Tomlinson, Head of Year 7

After just two days orientation in school, Year 7 set off on an epic adventure...

Epic as they were embarking on three days and two nights away in Lincolnshire with people they didn't really know! But the purpose of the trip is to make friends, and that's exactly what they did!

We camped at PGL Caythorpe Court and enjoyed the warm September sunshine during the day while embarking on activities such as archery, fencing and Jacob's ladder. Many conquered their fear of heights on the ladder; others enjoyed a dip in the lake during raft building and, for several of our new cohort, it was not only their first time away from home but their first time in a tent. It really was a trip of firsts and the pupils were fantastic. They proved to all their teachers they have the 'Hoc Age' spirit in them to rise to a challenge and try their best. We look forward to seeing how their BGS journey continues as they progress thorough Year 7 and beyond.



Visit to El Puerto de Santa María, Cádiz, Spain

– AUTUMN TERM 2022

By B Cuesta González, Head of Spanish

The Spanish department was delighted to take a group of 30 pupils from Year 10 to Year 13 to El Puerto de Santa María.

We spent five days exploring the beautiful region of Andalucía, took a ferry to Cádiz where we visited Torre Tavira, one of the 134 towers dating back to the 18th Century, when thanks to trade with the West Indies, Cádiz was the most important port in Spain. We enjoyed the views from its impressive Camera Obscura. In the beautiful city of Sevilla, we went up the impressive Giralda tower, and marvelled at the wonderful Moorish architecture of the Alcázar.

Our pupils learnt their first steps of flamenco dancing and cooked a very tasty paella that we all enjoyed. We made the most of the sunny days and went kayaking along the nature reserve of Sancti Petri. The trip was a wonderful experience, enjoyed by everybody and our pupils were a credit to our school.



Year 8 Yorkshire Sculpture Park Workshop

– AUTUMN TERM 2022

By S Horsfield, Head of Art

In October, the whole of Year 8 embarked on the very first trip to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

The sun was shining, and our pupils enjoyed a mixture of touring the park with guides, drawing, discussing, and investigating the sculptures.

As part of the forthcoming graphics project in the Year 8 curriculum, we made a special visit to see the major retrospective exhibition by Robert Indiana. His large colourful graphic letters and numbers were popular with the pupils.

Prizes were awarded for engagement on the day, but the entire year group were excellent ambassadors for the school and engaged superbly with the activities on the day.





Year 12 – Turner Prize and Crosby Beach Day Out

– AUTUMN TERM 2022

By S Horsfield, Head of Art

Year 12 A Level Art students travelled down the M62 in the school minibus, to take a look at this year's Turner Prize nominees at the Tate Liverpool.

Having researched the artist as part of their course, students found it really insightful to then witness the art in the gallery. In contrast to this, students also took the short trip to a breezy Crosby Beach to see Antony Gormley's Another Place Sculptures. A great day to see how art can be shared in a public exhibition in such differing ways.





Years 12 and 13 ski trip

– SPRING TERM 2023

By R Miller, Acting Director of Sport

Fewer than 15 per cent of the UK has ever skied so a ski trip is a great opportunity for our students to be able to take to the slopes.

Many advanced skiers always tell beginners that skiing outdoors is totally different from indoor slopes and our beginners group could understand why. La Plagne was a beautiful place, and our students behaved impeccably and were both skilful and daring on the slopes.

Our advanced group learnt to do '180s' and how to survive when skiing in deep powder. When skiing, at any stage, it's common to find yourself on the floor. We were keen to highlight disastrous events which caused masterful crashes by awarding a 'Master of Disaster' prize to the student or staff member that caused the most carnage on a particular day. The prize was to wear a Grinch or a Santa suit on top of their ski attire! Then it was back to business where we reflected on the day's activities, including fines, and ironed out any new rules for the next day. Other than the skiing, which some students commented on being the best resort they had ever been to, highlights of the trip included bowling until 11pm, running to get the last bus

home, swimming in a freezing outdoor swimming pool, serial ping pong playing on an evening and a five Euro French Food challenge. Here, we gave every student five Euros and told them to go and buy an item of French food from the local Spar. Upon their return we had a lovely French buffet. The trip ended with a creative game of mattress dominoes which was an excellent way to end the trip after a fantastic week of six hours of ski lessons per day! Until next time, La Plagne.



Years 8 and 9 ski trip

– SPRING TERM 2023

By S Denby, Head of Higher Education & Careers

On 10 February, 39 students in Years 8 and 9 travelled to the beautiful Crest Voland in France for a week of skiing.

The students coped admirably with a long delay at Dover and we arrived on Saturday ready to hit the slopes. During six days of skiing, all students made exceptional progress and it was great to see that even the beginners were skiing from the top of the mountain by the end. Off the slopes the students were treated to table tennis competitions, quiz nights, pizza, a disco and even a mountain rollercoaster! A fantastic week was had by all in the lovely French sun.



Year 11 Religious Studies retreat to Whitby

– SUMMER TERM 2023

By R Skelton, Head of Religious Studies


What a treat! Glorious weather in Whitby and a beautiful setting to reflect as well as to study hard in preparation for the examination season ahead.

Year 11 embraced all the opportunities of the Religious Studies retreat. Our visit to Whitby Abbey was even more special given the spectacular views out to sea as we gazed on the inspiring memorial to Caedmon at the top of the 199 steps. As usual, we were overwhelmed by the generous hospitality of the Sisters of the Holy Paraclete, who discussed openly their vocations as nuns and their work in the Priory of St Hilda, Whitby and internationally too.

We were very fortunate to have a question-and-answer session with the Sisters in their new accommodation above Sneaton Castle. We were also privileged to have a tour of St Mary's Church at the top of the 199 steps and we learned about its history, architecture and the day-to-day life of the church today. Can you believe that this little church can seat 2,000 people? The local shipwrights added gallery after gallery in this building and we were stunned at the age of the original box seating too. Intensive learning and unforgettable experiences.

Well done to our Year 11!



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Senior School and Sixth Form

Events and Visiting Speakers



Events and Visiting Speakers

He very generously
spent time meeting and
greeting our excited
young students.

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The Day the King Flew in

– AUTUMN TERM 2022

The sound of sporting endeavours heard from BGS's playing fields were replaced by the whirr of helicopter blades when a special Royal visitor landed.

King Charles III disembarked onto the school sports fields before heading off on his Royal visit to Bradford and Leeds.

Excited pupils and staff had gathered in anticipation of catching a glimpse of His Majesty and were delighted when he made his way over to them to shake their hands. Dr Simon Hinchliffe, Headmaster, said: 'We were delighted His Majesty The King chose to land the Royal helicopter on our school field ahead of his visit to Bradford, as other members of his family have done before him. He very generously spent time meeting and greeting our excited young students. Today will be a day they will never forget.'

OB Career Days

– AUTUMN TERM 2022

Old Bradfordians, John Bigham (1988) and Mark Richer (1981), visited BGS this autumn to tour their school and have lunch with a group of Sixth Form students as part of the careers programme led by Mr McOwen, Head of Year 13 and Ms Denby, Head of Higher Education and Careers.

The informal and informative luncheons were heavily subscribed. Students attending not only made the Old Bradfordians welcome, they also represented the school with panache and style.

John, who works in investment banking, helped to demystify his chosen career. He shared some excellent stories, insight, and advice to those students who were interested in pursuing a career in finance and economics. John was also graciously interviewed on camera by Head Boy, George H and Head Girl, Caitlin R about his work in the banking and finance industries.

The recording of that interview can be found here:
youtu.be/mgWWsahPydI

Figen Murray visit

– AUTUMN TERM 2022

By A McOwen, Head of Sixth Form
Enrichment & EPQ

As part of the Sixth Form Enrichment programme, Figen Murray OBE visited BGS to talk with our students.

Having lost her son, Martyn Hett, in the Manchester Arena Bombing, Figen has campaigned tirelessly for changes to the law, with her goal being to place legal obligations on venues to reduce the risk to the public from acts of terrorism.

Figen also works with schools to promote messages of peace, tolerance and understanding as the antidote to hate. Our students were inspired by her determined campaigning and had their eyes opened to the philosophy of 'Ubuntu'. We were delighted to welcome Figen and thank her for her honest and thought-provoking talk.

Mark Richer, who has built a career as a highly successful tech entrepreneur, was a hit at Friday lunch. Not only did he share wisdom about entrepreneurship, he shared some very entertaining stories about his time at BGS. Thanks to Tracy Lord, Deputy Library Manager and Archive Assistant, we were able to share bits and pieces of news that BGS had collected about Mark's successes over the years - much to Mark's surprise.

Both Mark and John are major benefactors to our 1662 Campaign for Assisted Places. We're so pleased they were able to visit their school and see for themselves how their generosity helps to support a community that supports inclusivity, excellence, curiosity and, in John's case, a rather interesting sense of fashion.



Celebrating 30 years of Table Tennis at BGS

– SUMMER TERM 2023

By A Crabtree, Teacher of Mathematics
and Table Tennis Coach

On Monday 17 April over 30 pupils
and several Old Bradfordians (OBs),
former parents and grandparents
gathered to celebrate 30 years of
table tennis with Mr Crabtree at
Bradford Grammar School.



Two of the OBs had knocked on Mr Crabtree's door back in 1995 to persuade him to run table tennis for Clock House. The boys were David White (2003) and Alex Runham (2003) who formed part of successful teams in the next few years alongside Stephen Denny (2005), former National Under 16 Boys Champion, and Andrew Woodhead (2004). Many other players have also shared success in table tennis over the years with the school reaching the ESTTA Team Finals an impressive 12 times.

These former students along with recent leavers, James Bowmer (2021) and Josh Poulsen (2020), played against the school alongside Mike Nixon (1983), Chris Nixon (1986) and Stephen Bailey (1983) who played table tennis at the school in the 1980s. The OBs won convincingly, but Innes M in Year 13 and Shishir S in Year 11 managed to win a couple of matches each.



Pupils also enjoyed the coaching and prizes were presented to those who had won school competitions. Anees K defeated Laith G in the Under 11 competition, with Henry A receiving the improved player award. Aarez A won the Under 13 competition and Samuel F received the improver award.

Tea was enjoyed by pupils in the Dining Hall, followed by cupcakes and the presentation in the DH Room, allowing pupils and parents to see numerous newspaper reports and photographs from the last 30 years. The OBs and families enjoyed the buffet and shared stories of their table tennis exploits over the years.

From classroom to courtroom

– SUMMER TERM 2023

By J Reeson, Head of Classics

'Mr Joe Brook, a student at Bradford University, appeared at the Lady Hale Court in the city on 24 May charged with assault as a result of a prank gone wrong.

The court heard how Brook, 20, had been loitering in Richmond Street playground in December last year with his friends, one of whom, Ms Nat Knight, sustained significant injuries after Brook pushed her so hard on a park swing that she was propelled high into the air. The case focused on whether Knight, a known thrill-seeker, had in fact consented to the dangerous stunt, or whether Brook's recklessness amounted to guilt.'

The case was fictitious, but the surroundings (courtroom, Crown court judge, and witnesses) were all real in the

final of the Bradford University Mock Trial competition. The BGS team had previously won cases involving shoplifting and criminal damage to progress to the final, in which they defended Joe Brook against a prosecution team from Woodhouse Grove. Leyla I and Pollyanna G-W, acting as barristers, supported by solicitors Tayjus B-M and Oliver T, won the final and the competition, making BGS competition winners for the fourth time running. Joe Brook, on the other hand, was remanded in custody for sentencing.



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Sporting Achievements



Sports roundup

– AUTUMN TERM 2022

By R Miller, Acting Director of Sport

It's been a busy start to the year with many successes and lots of students fully engaged in our autumn term sport offering.

Hockey returned with a huge number of fixtures being played. There were some outstanding performances with girls' teams coming from behind to win with ease. The indoor format was welcomed and, at the time of going to press, we had entered our first U16 boys, national indoor competition. The introduction of boys' hockey has been a huge success and I'm sure, in time, the fixture list will grow to inspire the next generation of hockey players.

Netball saw more than 250 girls wear the navy and maroon vest this term. There is always plenty of opportunity to represent the school in friendly fixtures, national competitions and in the local Bradford Schools' League. The autumn term saw the return of the National Schools' County Round where the U14, U16 and Senior teams took to the court. Excellent performances and teamwork were shown throughout with the U14 team qualifying through to the next phase. The Netball Parents' Association, Annual Christmas Fair was a formidable success with more than £3,000 raised for future tours and for the charity Young Minds.

Rugby saw an excellent turnaround this year with some competitive fixtures across all age groups. The U12 squad started BGS incredibly well considering the majority of the squads had never played rugby before. A particular highlight was defeating GSAL with a clean sheet for our boys at Senior Level. This had never happened before. We're grateful to have such supportive parents at all fixtures and the Annual Christmas Rugby Ball was, once again, a huge success.

The **tennis** programme has been going from strength to strength and has now been opened to Clock House students. It's testament to both staff and students that the Independent Schools Council highlighted our work with Skipton Tennis Club. BGS tennis teams at every age group earned themselves spots in the regional finals with two Regional Schools' titles and two second places. Well done to the Y7/8 Girls' team who found themselves Champions of the North!

The **rowers** spent much of the term training hard at the river and travelled to Northwich Head Race in November. The J15s had a particularly good day with the quad finishing in second place and the girls only being beaten by excellent club crews. Another highlight was the number of students who attended the capsized drill. Better never does stop.

There was a huge take up at **table tennis** clubs and we had students representing the school in a wealth of West Yorkshire Schools fixtures. 42 boys and girls represented BGS, which is a testament to Mr Crabtree, considering table tennis is not part of the curriculum.

The **swimming** programme continues to grow. In October, a small contingent travelled to Durham for the English Secondary Schools Relay Championships. Faced with some formidable competition, it was the U15 Boys who shone, beating most of our local rivals, but still a touch out of the medals. We had water polo competitions with St Bede's and St Joseph's with both offering hefty learning curves, as our neighbours, who specialise in water polo, often shone through with game experience. U18s and U15s will be going into the ESSA competition.

We're proud of all students who have contributed to the sports programmes this term and we hope this continues in to the next.





Orienteering is thriving at BGS

– AUTUMN TERM 2022

By D Alcock, Geography Teacher and Orienteering Coach

Orienteering is thriving at BGS, and numbers have continued to grow. We take over 20 students to fortnightly lunchtime sessions in nearby parks and forested areas.

We achieved our best ever result in October's British Schools Score Championships, in Derbyshire, winning Year 10-13 boys' team gold, and gaining four individual podium finishes: Imogen (Year 7) finished 2nd, Henry (Year 9) finished 1st, Joseph (Year 9) finished 3rd, and Tom (Year 12) finished 3rd.

In the main British Schools Championships, which was held in Sheffield in November, and which attracted more than 500 students, we finished fifth in the large secondary school competition. At the same competition, the Year 10 boys team won team silver, and we enjoyed two podium finishes: Joseph in Year 9 and Emily in Year 13. In December, we also hosted an indoor race at BGS.

A handful of our athletes are in the Yorkshire and Humberside Junior Squad, and over the summer, Henry and Emily took part in British Junior training camps in Scotland and Sweden respectively. Well done to all involved!



Sixth Form girls represent GB in Thailand

– AUTUMN TERM 2022

By R Miller, Acting Director of Sport

Following a gruelling selection race in Moffat, Scotland, Rebecca (16) and Emily (17) were chosen to run for the U20 Great Britain team in the World Mountain and Trail Running Championships, in Thailand, on 6 November.

Both girls spent 10 days in the South Asian country, training, acclimatising and sight-seeing with the GB team. The race itself was 6.4km in distance, 240m in elevation and the girls were competing in approximately 30-degree heat.

Both girls had excellent races with Rebecca, finishing in second place overall, still smiling, while Emily somehow found the strength and determination to outspurt another athlete on the line to finish in 18th place. The U20 Women's team took the team gold medal, meaning the girls finished as world champions!

Not many people can say they are world champions, but, following their success in the World Schools' Cross Country Championships in Slovakia earlier in the year, both girls already have two world titles to their names. The future is bright for these girls, and we at BGS are proud of the athletes, people and role models they have become.



BGS are proud of the athletes,
people and role models
they have become.



National League debuts for talented trio

– AUTUMN TERM 2022

Ben P (Year 10), Elizabeth G (Year 11) and Tom T (Year 12) have made National League Hockey debuts this year.

National league is the second tier in the hockey system, which is just two leagues below the National Premiership (the best in the game). The students should be very proud of their achievements, and we're excited to see them develop as a result of playing at such a high standard.

Equestrian success for Matilda

– AUTUMN TERM 2022

Keen equestrian Matilda H was celebrating after being placed in every class she rode in at the prestigious Horse of the Year Show (HOYS).

'I've met most of my friends through horse riding and I like competing at shows because we all see each other and can talk about the classes afterwards and who we think should have been placed. I get nervous competing at the HOYS but if I find I've got a friend there then it turns to excitement.

Mostly you have to be calm, or the horse won't be calm. Benny has a lot of adrenaline before a class so I usually have to give him a packet of extra strong mints to keep his mind off things! I would love to win a class at the Horse of the Year Show. The highest placing I've had is second, so we'll keep working towards next year!'

Matilda was delighted to qualify for the event initially, one of the biggest in the equine calendar. She was then overjoyed to be rewarded with a 4th and 6th place in the part-bred Arab and ridden show pony classes respectively on her eight-year-old bay gelding, Benny.

The Year 7 pupil has been riding since she was six months old, sitting up in a basket on horseback, and has been competing at HOYS every year since she was four. She's previously won classes at the Great Yorkshire Show (13.2hh show pony class) and the Royal International Horse Show (12.2hh show pony).

Said Matilda: 'I love horse riding. I just lose myself when I'm riding, galloping across the moors.'





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There's lots of banter
at school because I play for
Lancashire and not
Yorkshire ...

Venus follows in Dad's cricketing footsteps

– AUTUMN TERM 2022

Student Venus W, whose dad played first class cricket in Sri Lanka, has landed a coveted place on a cricket talent programme.

Venus, 13, plays cricket for Lancashire Women's U15s and has now been signed to North West Thunder's Emerging Player Programme, comprising female cricketers from Lancashire, Cheshire and Cumbria.

The 13-year-old, from Baildon, only started playing cricket just before her ninth birthday and was accepted into Lancashire Cricket Club Girls' team just a year later having started out playing for Esholt's Under 11 Boys' team. She was recently named Lancashire Women's Player of the Month after scoring a maiden century against Warwickshire.

Her talents have been honed, in part, by Dad Ajantha, known as AJ, a spin bowler who played first-class cricket for Sri Lanka and was a member of the country's National Academy. He also played semi-professionally for different clubs across the world until a hand injury cut his career short in his mid 20s. AJ and family settled in England before Venus was born and he is now a full-time cricket coach with his own business, AVD Cricket Coaching Academy. He said: 'Venus had a big interest in cricket but didn't show signs of wanting to play until much later. It's wonderful to see how much she's progressed and how much she loves it.'

Venus describes herself as a 'genuine all-rounder' though she has a talent for spin bowling like her dad. She balances her studies at BGS with practising at the nets five to six times a week.

She said: 'I used to watch my Dad coaching in the holidays and I wanted to try it. I was the only girl there at the time but there's quite a few girls today. There's lots of banter at school because I play for Lancashire and not Yorkshire but it's all good fun.'

As well as her Lancashire commitment, Venus plays cricket for BGS in both mixed and girls' teams.

BGS has been offering cricket to girls for several years with mixed teams and separate girls' teams. Year 8 pupil Lizzie P and Year 9 pupil Erin G both play for Yorkshire.

Dr Simon Hinchliffe, headmaster at BGS, said:

'Venus has excelled in her cricket at BGS and it's wonderful to see her hard work paying off as she joins the North Thunder's performance programme. It's very well deserved. She follows a long line of talented cricketers at BGS.'



U14s make national netball finals

– SPRING TERM 2023

By R Miller, Acting Director of Sport

Having made it through the county round of the England Netball National Schools' tournament in October, the regional round took place in January. We already knew this was a strong team that had a good chance of qualifying, but anything can happen in tournament netball.

The first half of each game could have gone either way, but strong second half performances, and adapting to the opposition's game play, allowed them to turn over the ball at vital moments. The team drew 10-10 against our local rivals, Woodhouse Grove, but ended every other game as victors with a minimum seven goals difference. The girls qualified as Regional Champions and are the first BGS U14 team to make the National Finals in more than 10 years! It goes without saying the U14 squad, consisting of Year 9 and three Year 8 players, were phenomenal from start to finish. Captain: Jessica B. Vice-captain: Olivia G.

Rebecca represents Team GB in Oz

– SPRING TERM 2023

Rebecca came 23rd, leading her Under 20s women's squad to 6th place overall at the championships in Bathurst.

The event was Rebecca's third GB vest after she made her debut at the World Mountain Running Championships, in Thailand, in November, where she came second and helped secure team gold. She also represented GB at the European Cross Country Championships in Turin, where she was the second GB teammate to finish.

The 17-year-old, who runs with Bingley Harriers, was also part of the BGS team who won gold after competing in the ISF World School Cross Country Championships, in Slovakia, last April.

'Representing Great Britain at such a prestigious world championship was a dream come true and one I hadn't truly considered I could achieve at the start of the season,' said Rebecca.

'I was so excited I got to travel in a team with Olympians, such as Alex Bell, as well as watch and race alongside the best runners from all over the world.'





It's always been a dream of mine to go to the US and rugby created that opportunity.

Coming to America

– SPRING TERM 2023

1st XV Rugby Captain and Year 13 student, Will B, will be heading off to America in August after securing two scholarships to study abroad.

Will has been offered both an academic scholarship and a scholarship to play rugby at Lindenwood University in St Charles in Missouri.

Said Will: 'It's always been a dream of mine to go to the US and rugby created that opportunity.'

Will hopes to major in Psychology and minor in Criminology while at university.

Dan Scarbrough, Specialist Sports Coach at BGS, said: 'Will is a talented athlete, a highly skilled rugby player, and a fine example to the younger years of what can be achieved at BGS.'

'This is an opportunity for him to develop further in an incredible environment overseas, in one of the top sporting universities in America. It's an exciting one and we'll be watching and supporting from across the pond here in Yorkshire.'

Sports roundup

– SPRING TERM 2023

By R Miller, Acting Director of Sport

The spring term followed on in a similar manner to the autumn term. It has been busy and jam-packed with continued progress being shown by all our athletes in all sports. Success has continued and we are proud of the turnout at training and fixtures, and of performances both on and off the field.

Hockey has thrived with both boys and girls representing the School with drive and enthusiasm. As ever, performances have been excellent and conduct even in defeat has been admirable and inspirational. All teams have shown progress, with particular highlights being the U18 boys indoor team and the U14 girls outfield team narrowly missing out on National Finals where they performed with grit and determination. A special mention to Zak B, Archie N and Ben P who have been selected for the England Hockey Talent Academy. All boys should be proud of their achievements - well done.

The cross country running squads have been continuing their successes. 20 BGS athletes qualified for the West Yorkshire round of the Cross Country Championships, with a further seven going on to represent West Yorkshire in the English Schools' Finals. At the prestigious King Henry VII relays, the Senior Girls' team finished an excellent fifth and the boys gave an excellent account of themselves against strong senior opposition. It was lovely to see Emily G and Theo C run their last races in a BGS vest, and we thank them for their contribution to BGS running - in Emily's case, for seven years. We do hope that after your time at BGS you continue to keep running. In March, Rebecca F represented Great Britain in Australia in the World U20 Cross Country Championships.

She placed an excellent 23rd and came home as the first British athlete, running 6km in 23:11 (in 35-degree heat).

Netball has continued to grow with three teams often on display in each year of the lower school. The U14 netball team have continued their success and have qualified from the National Schools' Regional Round to the National Finals in March. Full block fixtures this term have shown skill with all games competitive. Special mentions go to Isobel H who has been selected to represent Loughborough Lightning in the Player Development Pathway and to Isobel T who has been selected to represent Manchester Thunder in the Player Development Pathway. The Netball Parents' Association, Annual Fashion Show, run by The Find Boutique is the pinnacle of the netball calendar for the Sixth Form who spend their school life looking forward to the event. It a fun night for all with money raised for all things netball and the charity Young Minds.

Rugby has seen an excellent end to the 15s season with the U14s beating a strong Hymers side with Toby A kicking the match-winning penalty from 40 metres and our seniors taking a trip to London to play Churcher's College. This game was unfortunately cancelled due to the frost, but they did, however, enjoy the Saracens Men and Women's games whilst they were there. The turn of the year has welcomed an extensive sevens programme with regular tournaments for all age groups. A highlight is the Senior team becoming champions of the Chester 7s event. The U14 and Senior teams are deep into their preparation for Rosalyn Park. Congratulations to William B for his scholarship to Lindenwood University in the USA, Sam B for being selected for the North of England U18 squad and to George H for being selected for the National Independent School Lambs team after 12 months on the side line having ruptured his ACL. These achievements are testament to the resilience of the boys involved and their desire to be the best they can be.

The tennis programme continues to excel, most recently receiving a 'highly commended' LTA award from Yorkshire Tennis. All players, parents and BGS staff should be proud of this achievement. It is thoroughly deserved, and it is a delight to watch how far our young tennis players have come during the pre-season. In a tight match again Lancaster Royal Grammar, the girls 1st team join the boys 1st team at the LTA Cup Regional Finals.



Also in the LTA Cup, the Year 7-8 girls and Year 9-10 boys are Regional Champions with the Year 7-8 boys and Year 9-10 girls runners up. This highlights the strength of the BGS tennis programme.

Due to the nature of the sport, the rowers have fewer fixtures than other sports. However, that doesn't mean that they don't train hard on a weekly basis to ensure that when they do compete, they give themselves as good a chance as anyone. In the meantime, Bella M and Edwin v L have trialled for Yorkshire, four crews have been to the Yorkshire trials, 36 students have represented at the National Junior Indoor Championships and in the coming weeks, many crews are heading to Eton Dorney to represent the School at the Junior Sculling Head. Four crews also head to York for the first Yorkshire Head Race the pandemic.

The U13 girls continue with their successes in Table Tennis and the team consisting of Ellie S, Jameela T, Hanaya M and Daisy N have been undefeated in three rounds. The U16s were third in the region. Emma M had two excellent wins and was supported well by Liberty P, Holly L and Melody C. Good luck to all for the National Finals in April.

With new lane ropes this term, the swimmers and water polo players have excelled. With a narrow defeat to a strong Ripon Grammar School side followed by a great win against Ashville College, there was excellent sportsmanship on display across all events. The swim team travelled to Sedburgh and competed in an extremely close affair. We edged the hosts by two points. Well done to the U15 boys who delivered a powerful display in the pool. The U18 water polo team has been in action in the ESSA Bowl. With defeat to Bedford School and success against Warwick School, they reigned successful and are through to the next round. Congratulations must go to Leah S who was selected as a finalist for this year's Young Female Sports person at the Leeds Sports Awards. We also wish Leah luck as she represents Team GB in Sweden in the coming months.

We are proud of all students that have contributed to the sports programmes this term and we hope this continues into the summer term with the sports on offer.



Round up of sport successes

– SUMMER TERM 2023

By R Miller, Acting Director of Sport

At the time of writing, the PE Department have had some phenomenal successes this term with many fixtures, competitions and events still to take place; Sports Day and the Senior Sports Ball to name just two of them.

The Boat Club competed at the National Junior Sculling Head at Eton, York, Durham and Tees regattas. Several students had successes at these events and the rowing programme is as full and popular as it has ever been. Highlights include Bella M, who represented Yorkshire in the Inter Regional Championships and won at the National Junior Sculling Regatta held at Eton Dorney, in the WJ15 singles.

As BGS is a registered Tennis Club, there have been many, formidable successes. The senior girls made it through to the regional finals and to the last round of qualifying for the finals in the national cup. This success means we will be ranked inside the top 20 schools in Britain for tennis next year. The U13A boys and girls and U15A girls teams won West Yorkshire Division 1 with the U13B boys and girls and U15B boys and girls teams winning West Yorkshire Division 2 - all are through to the regional knockouts in September. A special mention must go to Jameela T who is now ranked number one in Britain for U12 girls. Jameela and also Zack B have qualified for the Road to Wimbledon Yorkshire Finals. Additionally, BGS Tennis Club won a highly commended award at the Yorkshire Tennis Awards, highlighting the commitment and success of all tennis players and coaches at our School.

Athletics has been hit by some bad weather and state school teacher strikes. The most notable success was our junior girls' qualification for the regional round of the English Schools Competition. We have also had some outstanding individual successes with seven athletes qualifying to represent Bradford in the West Yorkshire Games.

Our cricketers have had a well-balanced season thus far. With many fixtures, both friendlies and cup, locally and across the region, there have been many highlights in team and individual performances. The U12s, U13s and U14s all found themselves victorious against strong Barnard Castle sides. Seamus N has scored 250 runs and taken 15 wickets this season, with Jonty M scoring 94 runs against Scarborough College. Gurdass S has had consistent, excellent performances at U15s. A special mention must go to Venus W who plays for Lancashire Academy and Erin G who has been selected for the U15 Yorkshire County Cricket Club team.

International success continues in running, cross country and orienteering. Amelie L has represented England in the U18 Mountain Running Cup and placed third both in the individual and team competition. Amelie L and Rebecca F competed in the World Mountain and Trail Running Championships in Innsbruck, Austria. Amelie L finished a remarkable fourth, with Rebecca winning the event and becoming World Champion. Both girls were the first two GB runners home, finding themselves in first team place. Emily G has been selected to represent Great Britain in the



European Orienteering Championships in Bulgaria. Emily also finds herself as a reserve for the biggest international junior orienteering race in the summer – the Junior World Orienteering Championships. It is phenomenal what this group continue to achieve. Many can only aspire to be as successful as this talented bunch, but they are a group of role models that inspire many of our younger athletes.



Leah smashed several personal bests and gained two senior bronze medals ...



Swim star Leah

– SUMMER TERM 2023

Year 13 student Leah S has had a fantastic few months of swimming success, culminating in a Team GB selection for the European Junior Championships in Belgrade this summer.

Leah, who began swimming at age seven, is looking forward to building on her success after winning gold in the 200m Individual Medley last year at the championships, where she was close to breaking the European Junior record.

It follows her amazing haul at the British Swimming Championships, in April, when Leah smashed several personal bests and gained two senior bronze medals – in the 200m IM and 400 IM. She qualified for the European Juniors in Serbia and Under 23 Europeans in Dublin.

Leah gets up at 4am, four times a week, to train for two hours before school followed by another 2.5 hours of training after school every day.

She said: 'It has been tough to fit in training with studying for A Levels but at least I've had free periods and I'm pretty good at switching off. Many of my friends at swimming don't have access to a pool at school either!'



Oarsome successes for Bella!

– SUMMER TERM 2023

By M Jones-Gerrard, Assistant Sports Coach - Rowing

Year 10 pupil Bella M has had a fantastic start to her summer regatta season, starting with selection to represent Yorkshire at the Junior Inter-Regional Regatta, for a second year running. Athletes are selected from 12 regions across the country – Bella raced in tough conditions and placed sixth overall.

A week later Bella went on to compete at the Junior Sculling Regatta, a 2,000m national race held on the Olympic Lake at Eton Dorney. The format of the day began with a time trial where athletes raced to compete in the final and to decide who raced in the favoured lane. Bella produced one of her best performances to date, overtaking a sculler ahead of her and placing first, giving her a spot in the A final and the middle lane. In the A final she raced a calm, composed and mature race, keeping in the main group for most of the race until the last 250m where she stormed past the sculler who had been way out in front to win her first national gold medal. What an outstanding start to the season with many more exciting races to come. Well done, Bella!

Table Tennis – Under 13 Girls Third Nationally

– SUMMER TERM 2023

By A Crabtree, Teacher of Mathematics and Table Tennis Coach

On Sunday 22 April the U13 girls team took part in the English Schools Table Tennis Association (ESTTA) Team Finals. Year 7 pupils Ellie S, Jameela T, Hanaya M and Daisy N were West Yorkshire champions in December 2022, zone winners in January 2023, and regional winners in February 2023. They were competing against three other regional winners in the finals.

They tried hard against a strong Putney High School team in the first match, but other than the one set won by Hanaya, it was a tough start. They next played the eventual winners St Marylebone CE School with all players winning at least one set and Hanaya winning one game.

In the final match, BGS secured third place defeating Acklam Grange 6-2 with Daisy and Jameela winning two matches each and Ellie and Hanaya one.



Sport Reports

Athletics

By G Morrison, Specialist Sports Coach -
Athletics & Multi Sports

It has been another successful year
for BGS athletics.

This year we saw a record 13 schools enter our BGS athletics league. We had all four teams make the finals with our junior girls team finishing second overall, only six points behind first place Woodhouse Grove. Our junior boys team finished joint first with Woodhouse Grove. Our inter girls team placed second and our junior boys team placing first. It was an outstanding way to finish our athletics season.

We have also seen a major increase and interest in our co-curricular throwing and jumping lunch clubs. We had 80 Year 7 and 8 students attend one of the throwing lunch clubs alone. It was lovely to see so many willing, up and coming athletes wanting to improve their skills during these extra sessions.

We took four teams to the England Schools Athletics regional round at Thornes Park, Wakefield. We had a number of top three finishes with our junior girls team finishing in second place overall. This result had them qualify to the next round.



We also entered 10 students into the Bradford Schools individual event, having similar success. All but one of our athletes placed in the top three. Daniel O - 300m, Hartley E - High Jump, Elizabeth G - 200m, Millie D - 300m, Ollie H - 200m, Annabelle P - 100m and Rebecca F - 3000m were selected to represent the Bradford area in the West Yorkshire regional round. Going off their times and distances, we have our fingers crossed half of those athletes will be selected to go one step further.

On the back of her successes in cross country, Rebecca F represented West Yorkshire in the 3000m, finishing a remarkable second place.

We continue to grow and are looking forward to next summer where we can unleash our next batch of BGS athletes onto the competitive track.



To view teams, fixtures
and results, please visit
bradfordgrammar.com/fixtures

Cricket

U12

By D Scarbrough, Specialist Sport Coach
- Rugby

The 2023 U12 cricket season was a memorable one with many learning experiences for all children who committed to the co-curricular programme.

Results don't define the season for this talented group, captained by the irrepressible Ted S who led the team throughout the season with superb enthusiasm.

Pupils were rotated across the matches and opportunities for some pupils new to cricket were great to see, particularly Rafferty E and Alyaan H who really advanced, largely due to their hard work and persistence often during lunchtimes on a patch of grass behind the Hockney Theatre!

Alex G, Will C and Shanker K proved to be outstanding all-rounders, spinners Zak M and Seb C added a fantastic change up when needed in the bowling attack and Hanaya M really found some consistency with her swing bowling. Issam O found some superb form late in the season, particularly when batting and Tommy R proved to be the most consistent keeper.



The highlight of the season was the annual Hymers sixes' tournament. A draw against Hymers in the first match was a tough result to take with BGS opting to bowl first and despite Alex G scoring an amazing 46 not out. The rules stated that Hymers bowling second took the win!

Ashville were well beaten in match two thanks to a strong Bradford bowling and fielding performance.

QEGs who were tipped as one of the tournament favourites only managed 45 runs which was expertly picked off by Alex G and Ted S, only for Shanker K to finish the job with a magnificent four on the second to last remaining ball of the innings!

Hill House proved to be light competition and a win there meant that Bradford qualified for the final – a superb achievement.

GSAL proved to be stiff competition and after losing the toss, Bradford started with the bat. Some tight GSAL bowling restricted the team to a frustrating 39 runs. Sadly, this score was picked off by GSAL's very strong opening batsmen.

The U12s finished the HMC tournament in second place which is a great achievement in a tournament with many strong teams and most of all it was enjoyed by all!

U13

By B Hemsley, Graduate Sports Assistant
- Rugby

The U13s cricket season has been a major success, beginning with some indoor net sessions during the winter with large numbers turning up from the start and attendance remaining consistent throughout the duration of the season.

This enabled the squad to develop into a very consistent side by the end of the season. The improvement from start to finish was a privilege to watch with lots of talented sportsmen and women showcasing their talents. On-field results were incremental, in-line with their progression throughout the season. Based on results alone, the team has improved well, with major contributions coming from every single member of the squad - many arising in different situations, which was wonderful to see.

The season started with a close fixture loss with Woodhouse Grove which was then proceeded with four wins out of the next six fixtures against excellent cricketing schools such as Scarborough College and QEGS Wakefield. This happened with sixteen boys and girls representing the School during the term with many representing league and county sides over the summer - Venus W, Lizzie P and Anish M represented Lancashire and Yorkshire respectively and Billy T represented West Yorkshire.

Unfortunately, a third of the season was postponed due to the weather including the sixes' tournament at Leeds Grammar School which I believed the team would have competed well in and had the possibility of winning. Nevertheless, this was an outstanding season for this year group and there is so much more that this year group will achieve in the years to come.

U14

By M Wilde, Head of PE Outreach

The U14 competitive season started, predictably, in the damp latter weeks of April but concluded in the glorious sunshine in the first week of July.

A challenging fixture list was produced by Mr Kellett with the boys eventually playing nine of the planned twelve games - winning four and losing five. Whilst important, the headline figures only tell part of the story and I have been really pleased with the numbers of boys who wished to represent the School at this level, and the progress that they have made both as individuals and as a team. I have enjoyed teaching them, watching them in the middle and taking them on our end of season mini tour to the Mersey Cup.

Throughout the summer I was able to select a balanced XI capable of batting and bowling well, without the reliance on the same two or three players (which is often the case in at this age and below) and if the units didn't perform as well as they could, a couple of all-rounders could fill any voids. However, the reality was somewhat different, and it was a shame that the consistency of our batting, bowling and fielding performances wasn't as good as hoped. If we could have taken our best unit performances of the season and produced them in one game then, with the exception of Scarborough College, we were good enough to reverse any of our other four losses, but that is U14 cricket!



In conclusion, my thanks go to Mr Kellett, for his valued support of both me and the boys and for the fantastic end of season tour, Mr Morrison, Mrs Jones, and the Estates and Catering teams for the provision of the excellent playing facilities and quality refreshments we enjoy here at BGS. Thanks also to the dedicated band of parents who supported the team and of course all the boys, too numerous to mention individually here, who all work so hard and give up so much time in representing this great school. I wish them all well for the future and record my heartfelt thanks for such an enjoyable season.



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The improvement
from start to finish
was a privilege
to watch ...



U15

By L Hanson, Head of English

The 2022 season was a fruitful one where we were able to field players from the U15 year group as well as several from the years below.

This was a positive experience and widened opportunities to represent the School at cricket.

There were numerous highlights during the year and had it not been for some poor weather cancelling matches and the King's Coronation cancelling another, there might have been even more. One stand-out performance was a comfortable win against WHGS. They are always tough opponents, but on this occasion, we triumphed with a one wicket win in a high scoring match. We made 146-2 with captain Hardeep S making a fine 86no. It was a classy knock and an aggressive one.

Other wins came against Barnard Castle, Ashville College and Scarborough

College. In each of these games it was so pleasing to see the boys play with skill, intelligence and passion. Other wins came against Ampleforth College and Hymers. In the Ampleforth match we scored a fine total of 137 with Freddie D top scoring with a glorious 65. We then despatched Ampleforth for just 79 runs. In the Hymers game we made 98-6 and at the interval this seemed like a low total with Amaan H top scoring with 31. However, we bowled expertly and dismissed Hymers for just 79 to take the spoils.

Our season ended with a tour to Warrington where we played in the Mersey Cup, an U15 competition for schools and cricket academies. The boys relished the experience and had a superb time. Anyone who has played sport knows that touring is always a highlight and although we did not travel too far, the boys all agreed that it was a first-rate experience. We played three matches against GSAL, North Wales and the Wirral Academy. The games were played with enthusiasm and although we only won once we pushed our opponents close. 2023 was a very good season and I am proud of how the players performed and conducted themselves. Roll on 2024!

1st XI

By S Kellett, Specialist Sports Coach - Cricket

The 2023 cricket season has had some real highs coupled with some lows. The senior XI has produced some breath-taking cricket at times in all facets of the game, with fielding being a major positive.

The batting has been led by the ever-reliable captain Seamus N who has also proven to be a high-class leg spinner. Other fine innings have been played by Jonty M, Nate H and Will L.

George H remains an integral part of the side with his controlling off spin and diminutive batting. The bowling has been led by the dependable duo of Adil A and Hassan Q with the long-term absence of injury plagued Redford H proving to be a big miss for the seam attack.

Jacob R remains a class act with both bat and gloves. The first XI played in the prestigious Mersey cup in July and did themselves proud.

A problem however has been the availability of major players in the season, with many choosing to play lower

standard club cricket instead of representing the School. Hopefully this can be addressed next season.

On a more positive note, our younger age groups continue to develop and win most games, whilst the girls programme is starting to gain momentum playing regular fixtures. And we are still well represented at county and regional level.

Girls Cricket

By S Kellett, Specialist Sports Coach - Cricket

The girls cricket programme continues to grow at a healthy pace. More girls represented the School than ever before and although results are not overly important in our development strategy, some fine wins were recorded.

Three girls, Venus W, Lizzie P and Erin G played in the boys teams on a regular basis.

Venus W got wickets on her first XI debut including a wicket with her first ball. She is part of the Lancashire Academy, and we will follow her progression with real interest.

The introduction of cricket in curriculum time has already had the desired effect of more girls attending co-curricular practice sessions, and we hope to build on this again next summer.

We are looking to play more hard ball fixtures and mini festivals next season which will only enhance the enjoyment of all those girls involved.

Winter training will start in January in readiness for what we hope will be another bumper season of fun and competitive cricket for our girls.



To view teams, fixtures
and results, please visit
bradfordgrammar.com/fixtures

Cross Country

The school year began with international competition, as Rebecca F and Emily G both travelled to Thailand to represent Team GB at the 2022 World Mountain and Trail Running Championships.

There, they helped the GB U20 women's team take home a gold medal, making them world champions, with Rebecca also placing second individually on a world stage. Coming off that high, the senior girls team flew through the early rounds of the English Schools Cross Country Cup, securing their place in the final, where they finished an incredible second place. At the same time, Rebecca secured her place to represent GB again, this time at the European and World Cross Country Championships in Italy and Australia respectively. As a finale to a busy season, the ESAA Cross Country Championships are always a competitive national event and there are multiple rounds to proceed through to reach the final. BGS managed to get an impressive 18 students to represent Bradford at the West Yorkshire round of this prestigious event, with six athletes even managing to make it to the national final.



The senior girls once again performed, with BGS providing four of the eight West Yorkshire athletes who became national champions, with Rebecca securing individual silver. While this signalled the end of the cross country season, it also meant the start of the track and fell season and the BGS girls were off to a flying start, as Rebecca and Amelie L were both selected to represent GB at the 2023 World Mountain and Trail Running Championships in Austria. Amelie finished an excellent fourth and second GB runner home with Rebecca winning the whole race becoming world champion. Both girls were part of a gold medal winning team and should be very proud of themselves. An exciting way to start what will be another successful year to BGS running!

“

... the track and fell season and the BGS girls were off to a flying start ...

Gymnastics

By R Parkinson, Acting Director of Sport
and Gymnastics Coach

BGS gymnastics welcomed an influx of enthusiastic Junior School pupils this year, where both boys and girls worked well to progress their individual moves.

The more experienced gymnasts prepared well for competition and in March, the U18 team competed in the annual Yorkshire Floor and Vault competition. As ever, the standard was very high, and the girls were praised for their artistry. The girls performed exceptionally well on both floor and vault, placing them in third place overall.

In June, the U11 and U13 teams travelled 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 BGS with the utmost honour, performing with confidence and originality.

Extensive improvements were achieved this year in both age groups, the U11 category is well known for the vast number of entrants and our girls finished in seventh place. Huge congratulations to our two youngest gymnasts Misbah N and Beatrice J, who finished in sixth place with their acrobatic pairs routine scoring 13.300! Beatrice also placed an impressive fifth on floor with her individual floor routine.



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Our U13 team consisted of three Year 7 gymnasts new to both BGS and competition - the girls' exceeded expectations and performed with composure and attention to detail. This resulted in some well-deserved high scores and placed the girls in second - a BGS first to win a medal at English Schools. A special mention must go to Rebecca J who individually placed fifth on floor and seventh on vault.

Looking ahead to next year, we hope to enter the acrobatic group competition early in the academic year. We sadly say farewell and give our best wishes to one of our most experienced gymnasts, Amelia C. She has represented school every year and will be greatly missed.



Hockey

By D Birch, Senior Girls Head Coach and Specialist Sports Coach - Hockey

Bradford Grammar School senior girls hockey had high expectations for the 2022-23 hockey season, having the rare luxury of being able to field 1XI and 2XI squads, week in week out, which was fantastic in itself to see so many girls continuing to play into their Sixth Form years.

The 1XI went well from the get-go. Within 10 days of the new academic year, the squad defeated GSAL 3-2 in the Independent School Hockey Cup and Wakefield Girls High School 2-1 in the England Hockey Tier 2 competition. Both opponents in previous years have comfortably beaten BGS, which was testament to how much effort the squad had put in before the season began.

The games came thick and fast, with the girls going from strength to strength, winning further cup games against Pocklington 5-3 (coming from 0-3 down) and Stonyhurst 9-2, eventually reaching the last 16 of the England Hockey competition. Here they came up against Loughborough Grammar which proved to be a game of two halves and saw BGS bow out. The squad held their heads high and set a new school record in getting the furthest in an England Hockey competition – further than any other previous BGS senior hockey team has reached.

Our 2XI also had a very successful cup run in their England Hockey Tier 4 competition where they dominated the West Yorkshire round with victories over Rishworth, GSAL 2XI and Silcoates, qualifying in first place. This meant the 2XI squad qualified for the Yorkshire semi-finals which saw us compete against other schools' 1XI. This spoke volumes about the quality our 2XI possessed, to be able to get to a stage of a competition where BGS were the only 2XI left in the competition.

Whilst our cup success was a huge highlight of the season, the squad also competed in some exciting fixtures and ended up beating some schools we have never beaten at senior level before, such as Worksop College and Kirkham Grammar.

A special mention must go to the small group of U16 pupils who represented the senior hockey squads this year in cup fixtures and on Saturdays. They played a remarkable part in the groups success and clearly have a bright future ahead of them. They represented the school at the U16 indoor tournament and missed out narrowly on national finals to a strong Scarborough College team, who BGS went neck and neck with, losing out in the dying seconds 3-2. This group of girls build year-on-year - next season promises to be an excellent one.

Lastly, we wish our departing Year 13 pupils the very best for the future. They have been at the pinnacle of building an energetic and thriving hockey programme and we cannot thank them enough for what they have done and wish them all the best for the future. We hope they continue to manage to fit some form of hockey into their lives, whether that be of performance standard or social, they have all been brilliant and improved significantly over the years.



**This group of pupils
are a fantastic bunch
who love their hockey
and bring great energy
to every session
and fixture.**

U15 Girls

By D Birch, U15 Head Coach and Specialist Sports Coach - Hockey

The U15 girls had a difficult start to the season, experiencing three strong opponents in their first games of the season, including being knocked into the Independent Schools Plate competition. Nonetheless, the squad worked very hard in lessons and their training, and their luck began to turn, coming out with some good wins versus Hymers College, Worksop College and Wakefield Girls High School.

The girls came up against a very evenly matched Queen Ethelburga's in the Independent Schools Plate competition which saw BGS come from 0-2 to 2-2, forcing the game to go to extra time. The match was extremely tense and either team could have pinched victory. Sadly, it was not to be our year. A tough lesson for the girls but they came away from the game with some good learning points regarding different tactics they could have played differently.

Some of the squad members went above and beyond to improve themselves throughout the season - attending indoor training sessions to help improve certain elements of their game which ultimately improved their outdoor hockey performances. Three of the squad members went on to be selected for the U16 team that represented the school at the North East finals.

This group of pupils are a fantastic bunch who love their hockey and bring great energy to every session and fixture. We are very excited to see them merge with the older age groups and represent at senior level on Saturday fixtures in the 2023-24 season.

U14 Girls

By D Birch, U14 Head Coach and Specialist Sports Coach - Hockey

The U14 age group is always an exciting age group on the journey to becoming a senior hockey player, with girls making the jump from a 7-a-side to an 11-a-side format. As with most newly born teams, it takes a while to gel and find a style of play that works well. The squad attended training regularly and ended up having a successful season in terms of positive outcomes on the pitch but also having a fantastic team morale, seeing between 15-20 pupils attend training each week.

The girls attended the England Hockey competition West Yorkshire round early on in the term which saw them finish an impressive third place, thus qualifying for Tier 2. They went on to the Yorkshire semi-finals where they proved to be one, if not the, strongest team at the competition with victories over St Aidan's and Tranby College. Qualifying for the North East and Yorkshire finals is an achievement in itself - BGS has only ever reached this stage of the competition at this age group once in the past, in 2020 when the U14s made the national finals.

The girls showed up to the North East and Yorkshire finals in a very professional manner and were determined to get the result they deserved. They played Yarm in the semi-final where BGS were outright winners with a convincing 3-0 win. This brought us to the final to play St Aidans, who BGS previously beat 3-0 in the Yorkshire semi-finals. BGS dominated the game from start to finish, having countless chances and our defensive team having next to nothing to do. Sadly, the game went to a shootout, which is always a lottery. It was not to be our year; the girls were gutted to have come so close but did the School so proud. With the attitude, commitment and determination they possess, they will have a bright future ahead of them.

U13 Girls

By D Birch, U13 Girls Head Coach and Specialist Sports Coach - Hockey

Our U13 girls squad are a fantastic group who are extremely committed, and have a great team culture of supporting one another whilst aiming for excellence. The girls started the season very strongly with some positive results, qualifying in second place in the In2Hockey competition with convincing victories over Wakefield Girls High School, Silcoates and Ilkley Grammar.

The squad had to wait until March for the Yorkshire semi-finals where a strong group stage awaited them. Nonetheless, the team rose to the challenge and ended up winning their group undefeated against schools such as Scarborough College and Sheffield Girls' High School. Our girls played superb hockey throughout the day but sadly lost in the semi-final, to a side eventually reaching the national finals.

It was pleasing to be able to give pupils, who are new to both the game and BGS, an opportunity to represent the School. Many debutants have gone on to represent BGS on numerous occasions. Lastly, well done to the two pupils who were on the U16 indoor programme, a testament to their talent and motivation to get better. We hope to see more of this age group on the programme next academic year, and look forward to seeing this age group grow into an 11-a-side team in the next 12 months.

U12 Girls

By R Parkinson, U12 Girls Head Coach and Acting Director of Sport

The U12 season began with some tough opposition however, experiencing losses helped the team to build resilience and good sportsmanship. Despite playing strong opponents, the girls continued to remain passionate, enthusiastic and determined to develop their skills. Mid-season the squad faced Mount St Mary's, where the B team played well in an end-to-end game finishing 7-7. The A team fought hard for the win with plenty of chances but ended with a 2-0 loss.

The following week they faced Wakefield Girls where both teams found wins through great teamwork and discipline.

By the end of the season, many of the girls had found a real passion for hockey and numbers increased at co-curricular training where they worked on consolidating skills, game play and built on team cohesion. For the last game of the season the squad met with AKS Lytham away - both teams displayed some of their best hockey and played with true grit and determination. The loss prompted much needed reflection on game play. Overall, the girls had a good season and Head Coach for the U12 girls, Mrs Parkinson commented on how she looks forward to seeing the talented and committed group progress next season.

1XI Boys

By R Parkinson, 1XI Boys Head Coach and Acting Director of Sport

This season the senior boys played a tough fixture list, this challenged the players individually and as a squad where they faced more experienced teams which helped prepare them for their cup fixtures. The season started with some physical and technical opposition, where the boys did well to remain mentally resilient through some tough defeats. Progressing through the season and into the first fixture of the England Hockey Cup, they faced Altrincham Grammar School. The first half witnessed a strong fight, and the boys held their own with many chances, but the experienced side went on to win the second half and later be crowned Tier 2 winners! In round three of the EHC, the cup squad dominated against Barnard Castle resulting in a 6-0 win, which led to a nail-biting end-to-end game against Ashby Grammar in round four. The boys fought hard and scored in the remaining minutes of the game, this led the boys to the national quarter finals, the furthest a BGS hockey senior squad has ever reached. To reach this point is testament to the boys' hard work and determination. However, the boys finally met their match and ended their cup run by facing an experienced Bromsgrove, who later went on to become Tier 3 winners.

This season we only lose two players through Year 13 - though we lose experience and talent in these players, the squad welcomes a cohort of passionate and capable players. The squad would not have achieved as much as they had done this year without national league player and top goal scorer Zak B. We wish him and Jacob R, another committed and valuable player, all the best for their future endeavours and thank them for all they have done in their time involved with BGS hockey.

Head Coach for the senior boys, Mrs Parkinson wishes to thank the group for their hard work and ability to balance schoolwork and other commitments.

U15 Boys

By D Birch, U15 Boys Head Coach and Specialist Sports Coach - Hockey

The U15 boys were committed to the school hockey programme throughout the two terms. The boys had a healthy sized squad with a fantastic, supportive and motivated culture. The boys were raring to go after Christmas, knowing fixtures would kick start for them. They were drawn, in the Independent Schools Cup, against a Trent College side who not only had international quality but ended up making the national finals. The boys entered the plate competition where they progressed nicely with a victory over GSAL and ended up in a local battle with QEGS where we narrowly missed out on making the national plate quarter finals.

Cup stories aside, the boys continued to progress throughout the term in terms of commitment and on-pitch success. The boys were lucky enough to attend a five-night tour to Rotterdam, Netherlands where they were able to spend a bit of time focusing on their team bonding and setting some team values for the seasons ahead. The group played in three fixtures, scoring a total of 29 goals! The time away was invaluable and has put them in a good position to push on next season and beyond.

A special mention must go to the boys that took part in the indoor programmes, six of the squad represented at U16 level. Two pupils were part of the BGS team that won the Yorkshire competition at U18 level and represented the school in the North East final, narrowly losing to an experienced Yarm side, 6-5.

Overall, it was a very positive season with a group of pupils who have excellent standards on and off the pitch.

U14 Boys

By J Zoers-Benstead, U14 Boys Head Coach and Assistant Coach - Hockey

Despite a fair share of results not being in the favour of the U14 boys, every game was played with a 'never say die' attitude and were tightly contested. The U14 boys have lived and breathed the true meaning of 'Hoc Age'. Every player that represented the School over the course of the season has done so with excellent attitude and effort. The following pupils in particular demonstrated outstanding and exemplary commitment by representing in every single available fixture: Zack B, Harrison C, Oliver A, Stan A and Frederick D. It was a real achievement to get 21 boys representing the school within one season.

The season started off with a cold and wet Thursday afternoon at QEGS Wakefield, where even if the result did not go our way, the improvements that the boys made throughout the game were outstanding – a steep learning curve, which was topped off by winning the fourth quarter impressively! They had a notable performance at GSAL, where they received high praise from spectators and staff but came second in the match with a 4-3 finishing score line.

Given this was the boys' first year of playing 11-a-side hockey, they have done themselves and the School proud. They are a talented group with a huge amount of potential - we look forward to seeing them develop and mature.

U13 Boys

By L Lemos, U13 Boys Head Coach and Graduate Sports Assistant - Hockey

It was a fantastic season for the U13 boys this year - they are a very spirited and talented group. Mr Lemos, their Head Coach, always looked forward to working with the group who are intrinsically motivated, having a healthy competitive spirit and were always eager to learn. Across the entire squad, there has been growth from all individuals, skill-wise and tactically even in such a short amount of time.

A season highlight was our U13A reaching the Independent Hockey School Plate competition finals. The boys faced many strong teams and came away with an amazing learning experience, competing against some of the best squads in the country. It was also a chance to see Nottingham's world class hockey facility and broaden their horizons on higher levels of competition.

We have been immensely proud to see this group develop across the course of the season and look forward to them pushing on in future seasons to come. Well done to all who represented the School on a fantastic season.



U12 Boys

By J Zoers-Benstead, U12 Boys Head Coach and Assistant Coach - Hockey

The U12 boys have taken senior school hockey in their stride - the talent that has come through Clock House and those that had just joined BGS, was an exciting prospect in itself! Whether they have represented the A or B teams over the course of the year, everyone has made big improvements in their game technically and tactically, as well as growing socially and as teammates. Well done to all pupils!

Across both A and B Teams, the U12 boys played 10 fixtures - winning seven and drawing three overall, and in the process, they scored 43 goals and only conceded 15. An unbeaten season for the U12 boys. A notable fixture for the A and B teams was away at GSAL back in early February - a cold and early start at Leeds with a lot of movement of players between the teams on the day. This showcased the whole group mentality that the boys have.

Every boy should hold their head high, we look forward to seeing them all grow on and off the pitch and ready to make the U13 age group season an even better one.



Netball

U12

By A Rawsthorne, Specialist Sports Coach, Netball

Our U12 cohort of netballers this season has been oozing with talent and more importantly the desire to improve and the drive to want to represent the School. We have managed to get over 45 pupils out to represent BGS at A, B or C team level this season, all of whom have consistently attended training with purpose in both timetabled and co-curricular sessions. Across the three squads we have played approximately 30 fixtures - 19 at A team who secured an impressive 13 wins, four draws and only two losses with notable wins against Sedbergh and Wakefield Girls', 15 at B team who finished the season on nine wins, three draws and three losses with competitive fixtures against Silcoates and GSAL, and five at C team who came away with one win, three draws and one loss, often having played against A and B team opposition. They are a talented group of girls who we have no doubt will be competing at the national finals in the future.

U13

By R Miller, Acting Director of Sport and Head of PE Qualifications

This group of U13 players possesses some of the hardest working and committed girls I have ever had the pleasure of coaching. They have strength in depth, in abundance and have a B team squad that is comparable in ability to other A teams we have had, at this age, in the past. The As played 19 - won 10 of those, drew three and lost six. Highlights come from comfortably beating GSAL and Wakefield Girls' and winning the U13 Bradford Schools' tournament where the girls dominated and beat local rivals Ilkley Grammar School, South Craven and BBG for the title. It must not be missed that three girls within this squad were selected to represent the U14 National Schools' Squad that made the national finals. The Bs had a good season with eight wins, four draws and five losses. The group had healthy wins against other A team competitors and against Woodhouse Grove and RGS Newcastle. They also came third in the U13 Bradford Schools' tournament, only losing out to a place in the final to the A team. The squad must be congratulated on their sportsmanship on court and encouragement they gave to each other on match days. The Cs team had a mixed yet well-balanced season. They won four games, drew three and lost two, with healthy wins against strong Sedbergh Prep and Pocklington sides. The girls worked incredibly hard to improve this year and we are immensely proud of the effort they put into their individual skills and their ability to try and apply these skills to competitive contexts. 39 girls represented an U13 squad this year which bears testament to the willingness to progress and compete.



U14

By R Miller, Acting Director of Sport and Head of PE Qualifications

This is a group of girls that all work hard for each other. There is great team morale and rapport. Every pupil that selected netball has represented BGS this season. The As competed in 22 games, winning 15, defeating local rivals Woodhouse Grove and Wakefield Girls'. The Bs had a well-balanced season with seven wins, three draws and four losses, with a notable win against GSAL. In both squads our attacking unit is confident in feeding the ball into the circle - even at times from the middle of the centre third and the strength of defensive set plays allowed a lot of ball to be turned over from the re-start, giving our shooters so many more opportunities to be successful. The strength in both squads has notably been in defence as many of their opponents have encountered. Many turnover balls from interceptions and third phase defensive tactics have seen frustration shown on the oppositions' faces. This group must be commended for sportsmanship on court and the encouragement they give to each other in training and matchdays. The positive group cohesion and culture has led to success in the Bradford Schools' Tournament, in Disneyland Paris and to make the England Netball National Schools' finals.

U14 National Schools Squad

By A Rawsthorne, Specialist Sports Coach, Netball

Our U14 National Schools journey 2022-23 is one that both coaches and pupils will remember for years to come. Going into this season we knew that this young squad would have plenty of potential but were unsure how far we'd be able to take them in this national competition.

In November 2022, our U14 nationals squad played in the first round of the competition, the county round. Despite playing as a newly formed squad and still striving to create connections with each other on court, our girls played with passion and were able to secure a second-place finish narrowly missing out to a strong Woodhouse Grove side to send them through to the regional round of the competition as second best in West Yorkshire.

Prior to the regional round, our girls trained well and formed bonds as a squad and following a trip to the English Institute of Sport for a pre-tournament session, felt better prepared going into this round. From the moment we arrived and took to the court to warm up, our girls were focused, and it was clear they were ready. They were impressive throughout the entire day and secured a confident seven out of seven wins sending them through to the national final as regional champions!

For the first time since 2009, the U14s progressed to the national finals. The whole day was impressive and an experience our girls will likely remember for years to come. We played some strong netball at the final and came home with a mixed bag of wins and losses. A special mention must go to Jessica B who was a phenomenal captain and player on the day.

U15

By L Kelly, Graduate Sports Assistant - Netball

Our group of U15s have gone from strength to strength. They began the season as a group of individuals, and after working consistently hard week in, week out, they have grown and jelled into a highly competitive team. Over the season, our A team competed in 17 matches. They won six, drew three and after coming up against some extremely strong sides including Woodhouse Grove, Wakefield Girls and Hymers, they came away with eight losses. Our B team played eight matches, they won two, drew three and lost three, which, for a relatively new team, was positive.

Despite a rather challenging season for our U15s, there were many highlights, one of which included many girls being selected for the U16 National Schools Squad. These girls trained hard during games lessons, lunch time clubs, early morning sessions and after school sessions, in preparation for the county round of National Schools. After performing well across the day and beating strong rivals GSAL, the girls were third overall, narrowly missing out on progressing through to the regional rounds. Another stand out achievement was the Sisters and Sport Cup. Our girls again performed consistently well across the weekly matches, which resulted in them reaching the quarter final stages. After facing a strong Sedbergh side, the girls narrowly missed out on progressing through to the semi-finals. Despite this, they should be extremely proud of their achievements this season and should be extremely excited for the season ahead.

U16

By L Kelly, Graduate Sports Assistant - Netball

Our group of U16s have had a challenging yet exciting season. They played a total of 19 matches, nine of which they won, three which they drew and seven which they lost. The seven games the girls lost were against sides including Altrincham Grammar, Woodhouse Grove and Hymers - strong sides made up of club and pathway players. This was a year of growth for our U16s. Although there was a small cohort of girls representing the School at this age group, they worked hard week in, week out and never gave up. During the first term, the girls showed a great level of commitment, training hard weekly at lunch times, during early morning sessions and after school in preparation for the county round of National Schools. The girls performed extremely well across the day, they connected well on the court, they encouraged one another and really stepped up to the mark. Unfortunately, they were unable to secure a top two position, finishing third overall. This meant the girls narrowly missed out on progressing through to the regional rounds. Despite the expected disappointment, this has made the girls more determined to finish in the top two next season.

1st VII

By L Kelly, Graduate Sports Assistant - Netball

The 1st VII have been an absolute pleasure to coach this season. This group of girls define commitment, enthusiasm and passion for BGS netball. Despite the season being challenging with the girls having to balance their netball commitments alongside the workload that Years 12 and 13 brings, the girls continued to attend training every week and work as hard as they possibly could with an outstanding attitude. The girls have had a mixed yet well balanced season, competing in 20 fixtures, winning seven against the likes of strong Altrincham Grammar and Pocklington sides. They drew three matches and lost 10 competitive games, against strong opposition including Sedbergh, Woodhouse Grove, QE and GSAL, all of whom have squads built up of national pathway or club players. Despite many challenging matches for this squad, the girls have always shown true determination to regroup, become better and go again. This is the culture we at BGS netball strive for and our senior group this year have led by example and been incredible role models for our younger girls.

2nd VII

By G Jones, Head of Junior School PE & Games

The 2nd VII squad have throughout the season demonstrated the commitment and desire to improve which is the embodiment of netball at BGS. The squad this year was composed of experienced and knowledgeable performers, athletes who had played netball in the lower years and decided to return, and novices. The more experienced players led by Anamaria H and Lucy B embraced the responsibility for team bonding and for coaching and developing the girls new to the squad. As a result, strong bonds and friendships have been formed both on and off the court.

After heavy defeats at the start of the season to Sedbergh and Woodhouse Grove, which included a good deal of squad rotation to figure out the best playing combinations, the hard work of the girls started to pay off. Triggered by a first win just before Christmas against Bradford League opposition the 2nd VII began to find their feet and converted good performances into wins against GSAL, Skipton Girls' and Pocklington and a draw against Ashville in the second half of the season.

The 2nd VII of 2022-23 have been an absolute pleasure to coach - a true example of all the benefits of team sport!



The year ended with the club winning the secondary school category of the Yorkshire and Humberside Orienteering Championships ...



Orienteering

By D Alcock, Teacher of Geography and Orienteering Coach

This year we consolidated our position as a high-achieving orienteering club on the national stage, welcomed keen new members, deepened the involvement of existing ones, and celebrated our first international vest.

In October, a strong team travelled to Heanor in Derbyshire for the British Schools Score Orienteering Championships, where our top six scorers were crowned Upper Secondary Boys champions. Individual highlights included Henry S's gold medal in Year 10 boys, Imogen B's silver in Year 7 girls, Joseph D's bronze in Year 9 boys, and Tom T's bronze in Year 12 boys.

In November, against some very strong schools, BGS was placed fifth at the British Schools Orienteering Championships. The Year 10 boys team won team bronze, the Year 8 boys team were fourth, and Emily G and Joseph D picked up individual bronze medals.

Club members helped to run the second BGS indoor orienteering event in December, which was ably planned by James W. The help of parents was invaluable at this event too.



The team boasts several county-level athletes, and Emily G and Henry S have attended national age group training camps. Emily G represented England at the Interland competition in Belgium in March; she has also been selected for GB at the European Youth Orienteering Championships in Bulgaria.

Lunchtime sessions regularly required two minibuses, with Joseph H, Emily G, and Mr Asghar joining Mr Schofield and Mr Alcock, enabling us to put on increasingly challenging (but still very rushed!) practice sessions. Orienteers also kept busy by attending Orienteers events.

Harry W stepped up to plan the annual World Orienteering Day event in May, when all Year 7 and 8 pupils undertook a score event in Lister Park.

The year ended with the club winning the secondary school category of the Yorkshire and Humberside Orienteering Championships at Northcliffe Park in June. Bring on 2023-24!

Rowing

By S Darnbrough, Specialist Sports Coach
- Rowing

The 2022-23 rowing year was not the most successful regarding the number of wins that we enjoyed but regarding the development of the squads, it was extremely encouraging.

The year began with Bradford Autumn Regatta, just two weeks into the year, with wins for Edwin V-L in the J16 single and Torben F and Tom V in the J15 Doubles. The rest of the term was then affected by the wet weather, forcing the cancellation of several events and resulting in the boat club once more having to train in the rowing room rather than on the water.

The spring term saw us competing at the Yorkshire Head, for only the second time in six years due to the height of the River Ouse. Although not winning any events, the crews rowed extremely well showing promise for the forthcoming season. For the Schools Sculling Head held at Eton Dorney, gaining experience was the priority. We entered four quads, two boys and two girls, splitting the Year 10s between J16 and J15 events. All crews acquitted themselves extremely well and learnt a lot from the experience and there was a marked improvement in the intensity of their training over the rest of the year.

The highlight of the year was the progress of Bella M in her single. Bella represented Yorkshire in the Junior Inter Regional Regatta finishing a disappointing sixth in the 'A' Final. Putting this behind her, Bella then raced at the Junior Sculling Regatta at Eton qualifying for the Final with the fastest time and going on to win with one of the most mature and confident races that I have seen for a long time. Bella has also raced with other J15 girls, Ruqaiyah A, Iris E and Abby H in WJ16 quads at several regattas with them losing very narrowly to an extremely good Yarm J16 crew in the final at Durham Regatta.

The regatta season saw extremely encouraging results from the lower age groups with performances improving at each regatta attended. Although not enjoying many wins, both the J15 Boys and Girls squads have performed remarkably well and have led by example both on and off the water, assisting the J14 and J13 crews to also perform well. One crew that we must keep an eye on however are the Year 7 boys, Albert H, Finlay T, Thomas N, Ethan N and Ammar K who, if they carry on as they have started, will be stars for the future.

May I thank Miss Jones-Gerrard for her drive and commitment with the younger rowers and particularly for her work with Bella, and Miss Seager for her time and support at events and on Saturday mornings. Finally, may I once again thank the Rowing Parents' Association for their tireless support and fundraising which has enabled us to purchase both a lightweight single scull and lightweight Hudson coxless quad this year, an outlay of £23,000.





Rugby

U12

By B Hemsley, U12 Lead Rugby Coach and Graduate Sports Assistant - Rugby

The U12s rugby season has been a major success, beginning with 'Super Saturday' sessions and over 40 students in attendance. The squad committed to regular training throughout the season which enabled the team to develop into a very competent unit by the end of the calendar. The improvement from start to finish was impressive with some talented sportsmen picking up a rugby ball for the first time in September. On-field results improved incrementally, in-line with their progression throughout the season. Based on results alone, the team has improved, however it's the growth in character and determination throughout the year which will enable this group to prosper for years to come.

The close victories against Yarm and Ashville were evidence of the team's cohesiveness, empowering the boys to find a way to win in these tightly fought contests. Edward B led the team well and certainly matured as a captain and leader, within a group of boys who were enthusiastic in their approach to learning.

The seven's season was unfortunately hampered due to appalling weather over the winter, yet the consistent commitment to training never faded and was commendable throughout. I look forward to watching this team continue to grow. This certainly feels like it is the start of a wonderful journey for this group and the progress made is the start of something to build on.

U13

By G Morrison, U13 Lead Rugby Coach and Specialist Sports Coach - Athletics & Multi Sports

The U13s began with a tough loss to Stonyhurst, which highlighted the need for a focus on defensive organisation. The hard work and commitment early in the season paid off with much improved performances, winning seven out of their next nine matches, the only loss coming to a very strong QEGS.

The highlight of the season was a 20 all draw against local rivals - GSAL who painfully scored with the last play of the game!

Captain, Ciaran M led well from the front all year, whilst Billy T pulled the strings in attack from fly-half. Milo D and Freddie H seemed to enjoy the hard, unseen work in the breakdown area whilst Yusef A and Ed A proved to be everywhere on the pitch, working hard for a team which grew in confidence game by game.

Another highlight was enjoyed when visiting local rivals Woodhouse Grove and getting the victory on their home pitch – a real testament to the resolve of this group.

It has been a pleasure to coach this group of young men and watch them develop, playing with much needed smiles on their faces. They had a very successful season in terms of results, and I look forward to seeing how they take BGS rugby forward.

U14

By M Wilde, U14 Lead Rugby Coach and Head of PE Outreach

It has been thoroughly enjoyable working with this year's cohort of U14 players.

They are a passionate and enthusiastic group who look out for each other both on and off the pitch. Twenty-six players represented the School A XV in fourteen games. The boys won ten and lost four, accumulating fifty-seven tries in the process. Personal season highlights came in the performance (in torrential rain) and victory in the Yorkshire Independent Schools Cup and our performances against GSAL and QEGS Wakefield. Albeit in defeat, the boys demonstrated fantastic character and no small amount of skill against much bigger and powerful opponents in those games.

Throughout the season the boys played to their strengths, trusted the process and scored some cracking tries in both victory and defeat. Congratulations to Samuel S, Eesa R, Isaac S and Thomas H for playing all fourteen games and finally, grateful thanks to all the boys and my valued colleagues for a fantastic season. Rugby forever #Goslings #Geese.



U15

By B Nabozny, U15 Lead Rugby Coach and Specialist Sports Coach - Strength & Conditioning

A small yet tight knit group have matured and developed from a game sense, tactically and technically, seeing big improvements in their defensive structure and intensity. The two highlighted performances being a victory in the local derby against Woodhouse Grove where the boys displayed true 'BGS Geese' spirit and togetherness, increased their intensity to another level and played some of their best rugby of the season. The Independent Schools Cup final win against Scarborough College gave the boys some well-deserved silverware for their season's efforts. Without doubt the momentum built and the performances, shown in these two highlighted fixtures, would have converted four narrow losses earlier in the season into victories; but as the saying goes 'you learn more from your losses than your wins'.

Special mentions to Jai T and Archie H who played in all 16 15-a-side fixtures. Roman A and Osh G-W scored most tries overall crossing the line with 20 tries a piece!

The success of the season could not have been achieved without all the 22 Year 10 boys pulling on the maroon and white quarter jersey, having fun and playing with their friends. The group has also developed a great deal in their general maturity and this has transferred onto the pitch.

The sevens season was hampered with poor weather, but ended on a high with an excellent day of performances in the BGS 'Storm' Sevens pushing Sedbergh close and picking up a plate winner's trophy.



2nd XV

By D Pullen, Head of Business Studies

As usual with the 2nd XV, the season had its ups and downs as a result of the availability of players due to injury and 1st XV selection. However, they always showed the typical spirit we expect from a BGS squad, never giving up and always giving their best. They started with a tough away fixture at Ampleforth, with a number of U16s making their debuts and Milan S scoring the first try of the year.

The next game against Stonyhurst went a similar way, with the visitors coming against a tough BGS defence which forced the opposition to resort to kicks late in the game to breach the line for the win. BGS had displayed an open attacking style, and this paid dividends against Pocklington and Ashville. Over ninety points were scored in those two games as they made use of their structure and pace. Alex G made his presence felt with some strong running and every member of the team contributed to some fantastic flowing rugby. Another open and free scoring performance came at Giggleswick, where true rugby values

were shown, loaning players to a depleted opponent, sandwiched between not unsurprising defeats away against strong GSAL and QEGS teams. At Giggleswick Will C and Rory K excelled with their distribution and skill, with Will deservedly crossing the whitewash on three occasions. Alex M even scored tries for both teams! Unfortunately, a depleted side ended the season with a tough away defeat at Harrogate, though Richard C did score two well taken tries.

Although not a winning season, it was played throughout in the right manner, and every player showed they were willing to give everything for their teammates, whether U16, Year 12 or Year 13! It was a pleasure to watch some of the rugby played by these boys. They were never the biggest side, but they played an entertaining style, appreciated by those on and off the pitch.

1st XV

By D Scarbrough, Specialist Sports Coach
- Rugby

The 2022-23 season is a true culmination and reflection of the combined efforts and commitment of all players and staff throughout the boys schooling. It gives me a great sense of pride that all our senior rugby players are still 'home grown'.

The season began with a two-week tour to South Africa's Cape Town and the stunning Garden Route. The tour party, which included Mr J Marsh, our travelling groundsman, enjoyed local fixtures with Knysna Secondary School, alongside tough challenges against Hoër Landbouskool and Wynberg Boys' High School which resulted in four wins out of five matches. A strong leadership group was established to give ownership to the students with George H (team manager), Harry L (cultural architect), Sam B (lineout captain), Ismaeel A (scrum captain), Fergus R (defence captain) and Will O (attack captain), who set standards and strong values in which the team would operate.

The King's Macclesfield pre-season festival was a great opportunity to test out the new 50-22 and goal-line drop out laws. It also offered a chance to blood some of the U16 in the lead up to the first fixture of the season in the Daily Mail Trophy against Ampleforth, where the 1st XV came out on top.

Having lost to Stonyhurst the previous season by 45-0, this year's result proved to be a different story, with the seniors competing in a thrilling encounter and carving out an 21-19 winning margin with wrecking ball Gus M giving the team go-forward and the irrepressible Ammar S in scintillating form.



In the first round of the National Vase competition, BGS brushed aside a spirited Silcoates, followed by Pocklington. The winning run came to an end in a frustrating second round National Vase encounter away at Rishworth School.

The 1st XV bounced back with possibly the performance of the season away at GSAL in which captain Will B had his most complete performance yet, setting the tone early by slotting two penalties from long range to get the scoreboard ticking over. A remarkable team effort which kept the opposition to nil.

There were several memorable experiences throughout the season, including a close victory against a strong Harrogate Grammar in front of a large crowd.

In total 15 1st XV matches were played: ten wins with 314 points for, 164 points against. Ismaeel A, Joe H, Nikhil G, Gus M, Ferg R and Luca M all had the most appearances with 15, Will B scored 80 points in 13 appearances, scoring five tries, seven penalties and 17 conversions, whilst Joe H was top try scorer with eight tries in 14 appearances.

1st VII

By D Scarbrough, Specialist Sports Coach
- Rugby

The 1st VII squad managed to put some superb performances together in their first tournament, winning all their matches at the Wirrell 7's, which was held on the artificial pitch at Chester RUFC. It was great to see a welcome return to action for Head Boy George H who had been side-lined for around 18 months prior due to injury and Morgan H putting in impressive performances. Rosslyn Park once again proved to be a fantastic occasion with the boys winning all their group matches (including a superb performance against Dollar Academy) which qualified them for the elimination game. Despite being 12-0 up at half time, an unfortunate facial injury to Will O seemed to swing momentum the opposition's way, who clawed back the deficit and stole the win, ending the boys' chances abruptly.



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There were several boys who played representative rugby:

Joe H and Gus M were selected for the Northern Independent School Lambs, whilst George H was selected to represent the full National Lambs squad.

Sam B, Fergus R and Will O were in the Yorkshire Academy squad 2022-23 with Sam B also representing the Welsh Exiles U18s.

For the first time in Bradford Grammar School history, Joe H and Will B have been offered and accepted sporting scholarships to two universities in the USA, Belmont Abbey and Lindenwood respectively. These boys have certainly left their shirts in a better place and will be missed!

Squash

By E Griggs, Teacher of French and German

It has been another great year for the squash club at BGS with over 40 students consistently attending weekly sessions.

Every week of the 2022-23 academic year students have been taking part in training sessions as well as competing against their peers in BGS internal leagues. No matter what age group, gender, or ability one is up against, each and every student has shown true 'Hoc Age' spirit, fantastic sportsmanship and respect which has truly been one of my highlights this year. In 2023, we managed to have a couple of external fixtures too against Woodhouse Grove which allowed our students to experience the sport in a more competitive atmosphere. Despite the results, our students represented our School with pride and a positive attitude which they should be very proud of. The biggest shoutouts this year go to Will F (Year 9), Fausto K (Year 8), Will P (Year 11), Evie S (Year 10), Finlay J (Year 9) and Hugo M (Year 10). These students have attended week-in week-out for the past two years whilst also eager to represent the School. Well done to you all.

The winner of league A has been Evie S (Year 10) on both occasions - well done, Evie.

The winners of league B this academic year have been Oscar W (Year 8) and Hugo M (Year 10). Congratulations to you both.

The winners of league C for the 2022-23 season have been Oliver M (Year 9) and Theo M (Year 9).

It has been an absolute pleasure to lead and play with such a fantastic group of young sportsmen and women this year and I sincerely hope that squash club continues to grow in my absence. I wish all the squash attendees the very best for the future!



Swimming

By C Robinson, Specialist Sports Coach - Swimming

For the first competition of the season we took a team to County Durham for the English School Swimming Association Secondary Relay Championships.

Days later, we took a full complement to GSAL for a three-way competition including Woodhouse Grove (WHG). Having an additional school in an inter-school fixture divided the spoils and ensured an entertaining encounter.

The U18 boys fought the most contested battle with the GSAL boys. Touched out on the Freestyle, they exacted revenge in the Medley. Were it not for the U15 boys, and an inspired performance by the U18 Girls, the results could have been different. GSAL took victory by 30 points from BGS, and WHG finished third by 24.

Next, it was a fantastic turnout of 31, including 15 Year 7s, against Harrogate Ladies College (HLC). HLC's depth in the younger age groups was too strong, whilst the U18's endured their toughest challenge yet, scoring in the individuals but touched out by just hundredths in the relays. But for the Canon, an eight girl Freestyle frenzy, it may have been a relay whitewash, but BGS took revenge, and were eventual winners 236 vs 227.

The U15 girls endured the closest battle against Ripon Grammar and showed resilience to win, whilst the U18 boys found the 20m pool did not favour their strengths, despite still winning. A rejuvenated Ripon took the win.

From the 20m pool to Ashville College's (AC) 33-yard pool, and a much-needed win. AC lacked depth and our U13 boys competed against the girls, whilst the U15 girls competed in the U18 girl's events.

Girls' Captain, Charlotte K, spurred the U18 girls to victory, and a whitewash of all the U15 boys events secured a 158 vs 133 win against WHG.



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In a Saturday fixture against Sedbergh, Taran T was the star man, without whom the U18 boys could not have fielded a team. Evie H and Anna S scored a one-two in the 100 Individual Medley, and the U15 boys, with three one-two finishes, inflicted damage to Sedbergh's points total.

In the final home fixture against GSAL, the U18 boys were outmatched, but Captain Rhys H scalped two experienced GSAL boys in the 50m Fly and Freestyle. However, team of the year undoubtedly belongs to the U15 boys who reigned undefeated in all inter-school competitions.

Bath Cup

It was a cold grey morning at the Charlton Lido. The heated pool did little to prevent students fleeing for warmth after an hour. Next, we went for a 'spin', literally. The Traq Go Karting Arena in Croydon was slick with the rain. No one got away without spinning off. Then we headed to Whitgift for the Invitational event. Charlotte K, Carla B, Laura K, and Sophie T did well against some fast girls but the boys, Rhys H, Ben H, Oscar H, and Harry S did very well. The following day, in our first trip to the London Aquatics Centre for the Bath Cup, qualifying as a smaller school, the students finished just outside of the finals. The boys particularly were only three and four places off a final spot, but were pleased to beat local rivals GSAL in the 4x100 Freestyle.

Old Bradfordians Swimming & Water Polo Event

A return to winning ways in the annual Old Bradfordian's event, which saw us overcome the OBs; however, as per usual, the water polo event went to the experienced OBs, but not without one of the best fights we have witnessed in the last five years.

Table Tennis

By A Crabtree, Teacher of Mathematics
and Table Tennis Coach

This year has been a remarkably busy one for the BGS Table Tennis Club. The School continues to host the West Yorkshire Schools team and individual events, with BGS entering seven competitions with approximately 50 pupils taking part in individual and team events. This year the Bradford Schools Championships were restarted and there was also time for the 30 Year Table Tennis Anniversary.

The girls Under 13s were team of the year finishing third nationally, repeating last year's success. All four players were in Year 7 and improved significantly during the year.

The U11 and U13 boys' teams and U13 and U16 girls' teams were West Yorkshire winners. Five teams took part in the ESTTA Zone finals with two girls teams progressing to the regional finals which the U13 girls won, whilst the U16 girls finished third.

Edward B and Ellie S finished second in the U13 boys and girls West Yorkshire Individuals, however Edward was Bradford Schools Champion with Ellie finishing a close second to an improving Jameela T.

Muhammad C, Emma M, Laith G, Haaniyah N and Ben A were awarded Bradford Champions at U15, U11 and U9 levels.

It was also great for Old Bradfordians to return to BGS to celebrate 30 years of table tennis. Trophies were presented to Aarez A and Anees K who won the school competitions at U13 and U11 age groups. Thank you to Tracy Lord in the BGS Library for finding a plethora of old photographs from the BGS archive which are on display outside the Senior Gym.

The Senior Gym has been busy seven times a week with lots of excellent practice and I have been grateful to Mr Finch and notably Alekss B for their enthusiastic support and help with coaching.



Tennis

By B Crichton, Specialist Sports Coach - Tennis

The 2022-23 academic year has been a real stand out one for BGS tennis. The programme caters for around 70 pupils taking tennis sessions each week and this has been our first year expanding into Clock House, now giving Year 4, 5 and 6 children the opportunity to take lessons.

Tennis is now a key component of the Clock House curriculum, and this is giving our pupils access to experienced coaches, fantastic facilities, and more hours on court from a young age.

Winter competition

Over the autumn and winter terms, both Senior teams were entered into the LTA Year 11-13 cup. The boys were drawn in Northern Group E with local rivals Woodhouse Grove and St Peters. The latter are always tough competition, however the team of Morgan H, Will B, Shishir S and Haris M proved far too strong, coming away with a 12-0 win. Woodhouse Grove were more manageable opposition, and the boys had no trouble securing a win against them. This meant that the team qualified from their group and progressed to the regional knockout. The team were due to play Altrincham Grammar School, however due to mocks, the match date got pushed back and on the date we were due to play there was a freak snowstorm! This meant that the match had to go to a coin flip by the LTA. We unfortunately came out on the wrong side. A very harsh way to miss out on regional finals.



The Year 11-13 girls were drawn in Northern Group F, with Lancaster Royal Grammar and Clitheroe Grammar. Unfortunately, Clitheroe were not able to fulfil their fixtures, so the girls were awarded a walkover. The match against Lancaster Grammar however was a much tighter affair. After singles the match was 2-2 with Olivia B and Hannah G winning their contests. After doubles the match was still tied, which meant a tiebreak shootout to 10. Hannah G and Anna B were selected to play. The tiebreak went back and forwards with the girls going 9-6 down. After keeping things steady, they managed to pull it back to 11-9 to BGS. With this the girls qualified for regional finals. The regional finals were hosted at Sunderland Tennis Centre over a full day. The level at regional finals was very high. There were some excellent individual performances but not quite enough to come away with any team wins, resulting in the girls coming fourth. Making regional finals will mean that the girls have achieved LTA schools ranking points, putting us amongst some of the best tennis schools in the UK.

Summer Competition

The 2022-23 summer term competition calendar was the most extensive BGS tennis season to date. Having recently registered as a tennis club, this allowed us to enter club competition as well as school tennis competitions.

The highlight of the School's tennis season was the Glanville and Abadere Cups which are the national championships for boys and girls. This year our girls reached the regional finals, losing out to a strong St Peters team. Their run in the regional final included a nail-biting match against Pocklington that went to 3-3 after singles. Jameela T and Amelie B managed to pull off a 11-9 win to secure victory. The girls then beat South Hunsley School. Considering this year was made up of only one senior, they will continue to develop and come back stronger next year.

The boys team also had an excellent run to the semi finals of the regional round. They came up against Birkdale in their first round who had an excellent young player at number one. Morgan H battled hard and managed to win a tiebreak. In the same match, Innes M also came through in a tiebreak, with Innes and Haris' doubles also going to a tiebreak.

The boys showed good character to come through. Their next round was against Ampleforth. The team played a superb set of singles to 4-0 up, showing their match experience. In the semi finals we came up against a very strong Ilkley Grammar. The match took four hours to complete with every point being incredibly tight. The team ended up losing 4-2 with three of the losing matches going to 11-9 in the tiebreak. One or two points the other way and the team would have made it through to the finals against a St Peters team who we had beaten before.



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Bradford Parks League and LTA national league game play has exposed all our players to an appropriate level of competition.

After winning both the U15 and U18 Bradford Parks League last season, the goal was the repeat the achievement. Having such a great depth of players across all age groups certainly helped the teams maintain a strong level week in, week out. The U18s dominated the league stage of the competition, going undefeated all season. The main players in this team were, Morgan H, Will B, Shishir S, Haris M, Reuben H and Lucas A. In the finals stage of the competition, the BGS team saw off Cleckheaton and Skipton Tennis Club to claim the title.

The U15 team saw a superb variety of players take part ranging from Year 6 to Year 10. Even after extensive rotation of the squads, the team managed to win the league with a team of Jameela T, Henry S, Daniel B and Ameen J, bringing home the trophy after a strong day at Ilkley Tennis Club beating Cleckheaton and Ilkley in their finals matches.

2022-23 was the first year we have entered the LTA Summer National League. This league pitted us against most of the big tennis centres in Yorkshire, providing quality competition for our more advanced players against county and regional level opposition. We entered four teams in the competition. U11 boys, U14 boys, U18 girls, U18 boys.

Oliver M, Laith G and Ralph H made up the U11 boys team and they achieved a superb second place finish.

Christian B-V, Zack B and Ameen J made up the U14s boys team and they placed fourth in their league.

Jameela T, Ava R and Anna B made up the U18 girls team who placed fourth in their league. This was an excellent achievement considering Jameela is in Year 7 and Ava in Year 10. Their performance against Goole, particularly the doubles, was a highlight of the season, dominating around the net.

Morgan H, Haris M and Shishir S made up the U18 boys team and they finished in fifth place in a very strong division 1. Shishir's three set marathons stand out as some of the best performances of the season with some of his matches lasting well over two hours.

2022-23 was also the first year that BGS has entered both division 1 and 2 LTA schools team tennis. The performances of the teams over the season were a testament to their hard work over the term. BGS teams managed to win both divisions of every age group. Division 1 teams will progress to the regional knockouts with a chance of reaching LTA team tennis national finals, whilst division 2 winners will progress to the regional finals where we hope to retain our U13s girls and U15s boys regional titles and go one step further in the U13s boys and U15s girls who came runners up last year.



Individual achievements

Across the year players have been competing individually outside of school, improving their skills and their rankings.

Jameela T has had an excellent year winning 16 events in and outside of her own age group. This has pushed her ranking inside the top 50 in Britain which is an excellent achievement and BGS first.

Ava R has transitioned into U16s and managed to win two tournaments. This has pushed her ranking up into the top 800 in the UK and is steadily rising as she continues to work hard.

Ameen J, Henry S, Christian B-V, Harry S, Laith G, Zack B, Oliver M, Shishir S, Morgan H and Haris M have all picked up points in the various events which puts them on the LTA rankings table.

The BGS tennis programme continues to develop a reputation around Yorkshire, with more and more players playing tournaments and competing regularly. This year's achievements, when the rankings are released, should push BGS inside the top 20 ranked schools for tennis in the UK.

2022-23 has been an excellent springboard for our players to access the correct level of competition and gain an understanding of the standard of tennis out there. As we move in 2023-24 more experienced, we are hoping for an even stronger year.



Water Polo

By C Robinson, Specialist Sports Coach - Swimming

It's been busier than usual this year in water polo. In the early season, our longstanding relationship with St Bede's and St Joseph's (SBSJ) offered some valuable lessons that will serve the team well later.

In December 2022, a trip to Walsall for the first round of the English Schools was eye opening, but the boys got some goals on the scoreboard against quality opposition, which was a real confidence boost.

In January 2023, the U15s also faced off in the English Schools on home turf, but the skill and experience of the visiting schools was too much for the juniors to secure progression to the next round.



To view teams, fixtures and results, please visit bradfordgrammar.com/fixtures

They then qualified for the inaugural bowl semi-final - an equally long trip to Bedford Modern School for a three-way clash with Warwick. The fixture did yield their first win in open competition. The victory led to renewed confidence that had Bedford sweating in a friendly post-tournament game.

This earned us a slot in the bowl final. In another long trip to Northampton School, we faced off Millfield, a physical Bedford and an experienced Churchers. Alas, even with the best defensive record to date, and some dazzling finishes by Hugo S and Haris M, it was a tough day at the office.

Our exemplary captain, Harry P, led the team for the final time against the Old Bradfordians to close the season out. As always, the elite experience of the OBs proved too strong, but even they acknowledged just how far the team has come.

It's going to be a difficult 2023-24, as we say goodbye to five of the first XIV. The strength and experience of Harry P, Hugo S and Haris M particularly will be a significant loss. We hope new captain, Oscar H will help to inspire a new generation.



Sport Tours

Hockey

By D Birch, Specialist Sport Coach - Hockey

Rotterdam, Netherlands Hockey Tour

After a three-and-a-half-year absence of any touring opportunities, it was exciting to be able to return to the Netherlands for a 5-night tour. We travelled with a range of age groups – U14 girls, U15 girls, U15 boys and a small group of our senior girls.

Each group came to explore and experience the hockey capital of the world whilst also having specific tour objectives within their own playing squads.

All squads played three fixtures and as a collective unit we scored just under 100 goals, which is an outstanding effort and a testament to how exciting our fixtures were. The pupils were also lucky enough to experience a training session led by a professional Dutch coach, giving them an experience to compare coaching styles against what they receive in the UK.

The tour group also watched a professional hockey match at Pinoke HC where we not only saw international athletes playing but Olympic medal athletes too. The quality of the game was next level and a real eye opener to what elite level hockey looks like. The pupils also enjoyed down time to bond within their squads, going to a theme park, exploring beaches and participating in evening activities led by the BGS staff.



The tour was heavily supported by the fantastic Hockey Parents' Association. The pupils were lucky to receive a tour playing shirt, an exciting excursion at a high ropes centre and a meal for our leaving senior hockey players. The fundraising that goes on behind the scenes really does add to the quality of our trips and offering at Bradford Grammar School.

Senior Hockey South Africa Tour

After just over a four-year absence, our first senior hockey tour returned.

Once again, we returned to South Africa, and history was made as our senior boys squad also joined our senior girls - the first time we have been able to do this. A true testament to the hard work put in over recent years by various parties at BGS.

The tour was designed to bring squads together, make new friends, improve existing relationships, bond as a team and embrace a South African style of hockey. Our touring group experienced true South Africa to the full through the modern streets and history exhibits, such as the Apartheid Museum and Robben Island. These were all a real eye opening experience for the touring group into how lucky they are and what the texture of South African history possesses.



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Senior School and Sixth Form Sport – Sport Tours



The tour group were quick into action with intense training sessions at Garsfontein High School, led by BGS staff, setting the tone for the tour and for the upcoming 2023-24 season. The group had a long lunch at the Mall of Africa before heading back to Garsfontein High School for their first fixture of the tour – the boys 1XI coming up against some quality opposition, holding their own, scoring what can only be described as a quality team goal. The girls 1XI started their game with intensity. It was apparent that they meant business by going up 2-0 before half-time. Grinding out a gritty second half, the girls were able to secure the first win of the tour 2-1. The hospitality of the opposition is what makes these fixtures special and what we experienced after all of our fixtures is something our pupils will remember - playing football together, exchanging kit, and enjoying food and drink together!

Whilst they may have been labelled 'rest days' they really weren't - the tour group were kept busy from start to finish. Some of the non-hockey days included excursions such as mine diving, theme parks, a Lesedi Cultural Village experience, Langa Township tours, toboggan rides, Robben Island Tours, beach visits and ziplining.

Our other two fixtures were against Bellville High School and De Kuilen High School. Our boys played out a dominating 4-0 win with some exciting and at times, untouchable hockey, executing their new chevron press to perfection and then finishing what was the game of the tour, a 2-2 draw which really could have gone either way. Both sides gave it their all, both utterly desperate to win, but acknowledging each other's efforts at the end in an excellent manner. The boys can be proud of what they have achieved on the tour, they have a very exciting season ahead. The girls played out a 2-1 loss, being put through their paces against a well organised, aggressive side but were able to recognise the learning points in a challenging game, keeping their positive team mentality to take it all into the last game and an 11-0 victory. The girls have gone from strength to strength over the years and we cannot wait to see them enjoy the 2023-24 season.

The work that goes into these tours behind the scenes is significant and the trip would not be possible without it. Therefore, we would like to thank the following sponsors for their contributions to the 2023 Senior Hockey Tour:

- Brosnan Accountants – Playing kit
- W.S Bentley – ¼ Zip midlayers
- Reward Finance Group – Rucksacks
- D-CarbN, Moons and the Sainsbury family – Tracksuit bottoms
- Lifesaver – Shower proof jackets
- Squashed Pixel – Hockey sticks and kit bags

Lastly, a special mention and thank you to the BGS Hockey Parents' Association who contributed around £6,000 to the tour through items of kit including the tour caps and training shirts, along with sponsoring extra excursions such as the Robben Island Tour, a zip lining experience and for our pupils to have a meal out at a local restaurant. This generosity and kindness made the tour that extra bit special!

As fantastic as all of our kit, excursions and fixtures were, this tour did have a mission. The boys squad started the tour not really knowing one other but have gelled wonderfully over the duration of the tour to the point of being arm-in-arm singing together. Our girls have been an established entity for a few years now and have set themselves up nicely for the new season, having real clarity on how they want to approach it. Both squads have no doubt made memories for life and we wish them all the best for the upcoming 2023-24 season.

Netball

By L Kelly, Graduate Sports Assistant -
Netball

Junior Netball Tour to Disneyland Paris

During the Easter holidays, we took our Year 9 girls on a netball tour to Disneyland Paris.

Despite the traumatic 14-hour delays at Dover, the girls managed to keep spirits high, by making friends with other schools, choreographing acts for our tour talent show, entertaining one another with games and quizzes and more importantly they managed to stay happy and positive through it all. After a five-hour coach trip to Dover, a 14-hour delay, a two-hour ferry crossing, a five-hour coach journey, 12 hours spent in Belgium and a four-hour journey to our hotel, we finally made it to Paris! Then it was time to fuel up, catch up on sleep and start to prepare for the tournament day.



The tournament day finally came, and the girls were ready to go. Both teams did extremely well, setting high standards, encouraging one another, and giving their all in every single match. After the morning block of fixtures, our B team had won four matches and drawn one and our A team were unbeaten! When the afternoon pools were released, the girls were keen to continue their winning streaks. After some close fought matches against some extremely strong opponents, our B team were positioned sixth out of 29 teams in the Challenger Cup, which is an incredible achievement for a relatively new team. Our A team continued their winning streak throughout the day and managed to make it through to the final unbeaten, coming head-to-head with a national club side. After a strong start from both sides, the girls were down by two goals going into the second half. However, they stuck to task and came out fighting! Unfortunately, the girls narrowly missed out on being crowned champions, losing the match by just one goal on the final whistle. Despite the result, our A team displayed some incredible netball and were therefore positioned an impressive second place out of 16 in the Showdown Cup.

The girls celebrated their successes with a trip to Val D'Europe that evening and although they only had a couple of hours, let's just say they made the most of it! The following day the girls were up early and ready to spend their day exploring the Disneyland parks. They had an amazing time going on the rides, watching the parade and making new friends, and to top off what had been an amazing day, that evening we celebrated the girl's netball successes at the Disneyland awards evening.

Overall, the girls were a real credit to both themselves and BGS. Even at the toughest times, they stayed positive, supported one another, and played some fabulous netball, alongside making some lifelong friends and memories.



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Thank you ...

To all pupils, parents and staff members for helping to make this year at BGS truly remarkable, yet again.



Bradford Grammar School
Keighley Road, Bradford
BD9 4JP

bradfordgrammar.com

