



1662

Investing in opportunity



Bradford
Grammar
School



Bradford Grammar School

1662 Campaign Impact Report

2022 / 2023

Make your mark | Help them make theirs

Your support makes all **the difference**

Welcome to this latest iteration of our Impact Report for the 1662 Fund for Assisted Places. There is no more important work at Bradford Grammar School than this which seeks to protect our inclusivity and essential character.

Educational, commercial and public benefit priorities represent the bedrock upon which successful independent schools like BGS are grounded and go forwards.

To that end, it has been encouraging to see the 1662 Fund get off to a strong start, ushering in a new era of benefaction and wider public benefit. Needless to say, we take our commitment to benefactors and supporters very seriously and want to share the impact of your generosity with you.

Our mission is to enable bright and ambitious people from all kinds of backgrounds to attend BGS. However, the cost of educating a child has increased and demand for Assisted Places continues to grow. Deepening economic and ideological challenges cannot be underestimated. But in characteristic *Hoc Age* fashion, and with the backing of our benefactors, we continue to meet these headwinds with confidence and seek to make a lasting difference, improving the lives and prospects of young people in the north through education. In so doing, we are building on our longstanding and more recent fundraising achievements to safeguard Assisted Places and foster social mobility.

Our school is by necessity a well-run and efficient operation, and once again The Daily Telegraph recognised us as such. Our list of

recent accolades tells a story:

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

National recognition reflects our core strategy, articulated thus at the annual Speech Day and Prize Giving ceremony:

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, 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.

This is our vision for Bradford Grammar School, our purpose and mission, and with educational excellence and positive impact at its heart.

This past year we welcomed a report from fundraising experts Cairney and Co. who have previously advised several high profile independent schools in the UK. I am grateful to those benefactors, past, current and prospective, who spoke with Cairney and Co. to shape their findings and recommendations. Dialogue will continue and help to direct our philanthropic priorities and activity going forwards.

The value of our relationships with benefactors and Old Bradfordians cannot be overstated, and it has been a privilege to share in the recent anniversary celebrations of The Shears Foundation and Sovereign Health Care, for

example, who do much to support Assisted Places at BGS. Similarly, we are humbled by the pledge of support from the newly formed Keith Howard Foundation and cherish our ongoing relationship with its trustees. Finally, as the Headmaster I'll add a personal thank you to those supporters of our school with whom I have enjoyed a meal, drink and conversation. I am grateful for your advice and companionship.

We know that a great many OBs and supporters understand and believe in our mission. So too do our current pupils. They live and breathe BGS. Their achievements, including our best ever GCSE results and success gaining preferred university places, speak to the health and character of our school. With your support, we fully intend to remain a beacon of educational excellence and aspiration in the north. *Hoc Age!*

Thank you,

Dr Simon Hinchcliffe
Headmaster

BGS Flourishes Against National Economic Odds

A Report from Homera Najib,
Bursar and Clerk to the Governors

As the Headmaster's report shows, the 2022/23 academic year was a hugely positive and successful one for the school. Much was achieved, but against a backcloth of ideological and economic challenges, the latter common to many commercial organisations in the UK. Despite significant cost and market pressures, the school has maintained its position as a beacon of educational excellence, public benefit activity and continued to provide outstanding value for money for its families.

Reflecting this, BGS was listed by the Daily Telegraph as the 8th best value school in the UK reflecting the breadth of our curriculum, academic results, and fee levels.

The school is an efficient operation. Draft financial results for 2022/23 show a healthy operating surplus and around £1 million generated in cash. The school's investment portfolio yielded an income return of 3.8%,

whilst the economic climate meant a decline in the capital portfolio value of 5.7%, which is expected to reverse in the short to medium term. BGS remains a financially resilient and secure organisation with a strong balance sheet showing a net asset value of around £26 million.

With the generous support of our benefactors, BGS was able to offer nine new Assisted Place Awards (APAs) for this September to bright young people from our region.

Marc Leite, a Chartered Accountant, and our Finance Manager, leads our rigorous financial assessments for APAs which includes home visits. He and his team report that increasing levels of need are being seen as the regional economic environment has toughened. Greater numbers of families are applying for an APA and higher levels of funding. Truly transformational awards are required for BGS to welcome children of significant potential from disadvantaged backgrounds. Of the nine APA pupils who started their journey at BGS this September, six of them are in receipt of assistance at 85% of the fee value or higher.



Homera Najib, Bursar and Clerk to the Governors

This is a trend which we expect will continue in the foreseeable future.

Looking ahead, the challenges for schools like ours are mounting. Potential changes in taxation policy to include VAT on school fees would mean that the cost of educating each pupil will increase and greater levels of funding will be required to maintain our APA programme as it currently stands. To be clear, our school operates on a firm financial footing, we are planning for future scenarios and possess the commercial

resilience to continue to thrive. With the support of our benefactors, we will strain every sinew to stay true to our *Hoc Age* ethos and remain as accessible as we can possibly be.

We remain ambitious and intend to be able to grow our APA programme in time; but a very real need exists right now to fundraise to support our current APA children through their school journey. We are grateful to our benefactors who walk with us on this road to protect the inclusive and grounded character of our school.



Interview with OB and Major Benefactor, **Mark Learmonth**

Mark Learmonth may have hated studying accountancy, but it was his BGS-instilled 'get on and do' spirit which got him through his exams. After a spell in banking, he went on to strike gold, literally, in Zimbabwe. Now a major donor, he tells Headmaster Simon Hinchliffe why philanthropy is so important to him.



Mark Learmonth and Simon Hinchliffe

SH: It's a pleasure to meet again. Thank you for your time. I wonder if we might start with a pen profile of Mark Learmonth?

ML: I was a scholarship boy at BGS. I got in at 11 and was there in the late 70s early 80s. BGS was nothing like the school it is now. I mean, I've been to BGS recently and it's a sunny, happy, lovely place, although I can see people still work hard. In my day it could be a little bit grim and spartan - 1,100 boys rattling around. But you know, I got a huge amount out of it.

SH: What did you get?

ML: I got a fantastic academic education. BGS set me free. It's all about choices and opportunities which you can either take or not take. I also got a really good sense of

how to organise myself. BGS set me in good stead for the rest of my working life - you know, compartmentalising some serious work interspersed with bouts of quite intense exercise - that was BGS. I don't think I'd have got that somewhere else.

SH: Who do you remember at BGS?

ML: I remember some teachers. You forget the headmasters because they're completely irrelevant... [laughter]...

SH: Well, we tend to be shy and retiring types, so yes, I can see that...

ML: I remember some very gifted teachers, Paul Shaw, who went off to become a Catholic priest, to the Vatican, I think. He taught English and was inspirational. There were some incredible history teachers. And then some teachers who were just... clearly bonkers!

SH: You said, 'BGS set you free'. What does that mean to you?

ML: I couldn't have achieved what I've achieved without a BGS education, not coming from my background. And that's why it's so important to try and provide opportunities like I had to other people.

SH: And you had that opportunity as a 'scholarship boy'.

ML: Yes, paid for by the local authority. My parents could never have afforded to send me. But I got in.

SH: Money well spent to my mind, Mark. So, you and I might share an understanding and vision about education and recognise its liberating and elevating effect?

ML: Yes and no. I mean, from my perspective I don't forget I work in Africa. I run a gold mining business in Zimbabwe. I see people who are mainly white who've benefited from a good education. I see how they thrive. I see others, who are typically, but not exclusively, black, who haven't had that education and they end up being restricted to such a narrow range of jobs with very little potential to better themselves. The difference comes down to education.

SH: Is it that stark understanding of inequality that motives your philanthropy and which rekindled your relationship with BGS?

ML: Well, I briefly visited BGS, probably in the noughties. Nothing came of it. But, as you know, Simon, you more recently reached out to me directly. That's why I'm here. It strikes me that BGS has historically been backwards about coming forwards, at least that's my experience. I was delighted to be contacted. I remain delighted to offer what I can and to try and make a difference in a small way.

SH: We, BGS, are now making greater efforts to foster even better relationships with existing benefactors and to actively seek new ones to fund means tested Assisted Places. We're investing in development work, growing and professionalising the operation, but keeping it warm and honest. In recent times, I've been able to put more of my diary into this activity.

ML: I think Yorkshire people are quite transactional about this – it's cultural. But people are happy to be reached out to.

SH: Why do you give to Bradford Grammar School, and...?

ML: ... [Mark interrupts] ... well, I'm not gonna give my money to Leeds Grammar am I? ... [more laughter] ...

SH: Ok, fair point. However, it's all very well saying I went there so I'm going to give back; behind that, BGS has earned your trust, enough for our school to be a philanthropic priority for you.



ML: I do trust the school. I trust you, Simon. And philanthropy can make a big difference at BGS given where it is. I could look to support projects somewhere leafier. But money will make a bigger difference in a place like Bradford.

I went to Oxford after BGS and had a lovely time. BGS sets you up, but some people arrive there and struggle. So, I also support Lady Margaret Hall because they've pioneered a scheme to deliberately offer places to students who come from challenged backgrounds, who struggle to go straight into university, and they give them a year before they start their formal undergraduate course to prepare. It's been incredibly successful.

After Oxford I trained as an accountant and oh, I hated just about every single minute of it. And that's where the skills and outlook I picked up at BGS really paid dividends. I didn't enjoy all my subjects at school, I didn't like physics or French. But you have to knuckle down, organise yourself and do it. BGS taught me that. It got me through my accountancy exams, and if you fail those you lose your job. BGS gives you an ability to get on with it, get things done. It is a useful skill.

I left accountancy as soon as possible, and went into banking. I thought I was going to retire in 2008 with some money. Then the crash came and I joined a small mining business.

We spent \$100 million drilling holes in Zambia looking for Cobalt. We didn't find any! So, we sold that business for one dollar... [laughter]. It wasn't a resounding success! But we'd also bought a tiny little gold mine in Zimbabwe for \$4 million. And, as everything else fell away, we noticed this little gold mine was an absolute, well ... gold mine! Since 2000, we've turned it around and made a huge success of it, employing 2,000 workers. It now makes, give or take, a million dollars a week and is one of the lowest cost producers anywhere. And we've got a trajectory to quadruple the size of the business, which will hopefully make money for me, which I'm happy to share with BGS.

It will also allow us to offer life changing opportunities to more Zimbabweans who deserve better in terms of jobs. And some of these jobs are manual jobs underground, and they're hard and they're difficult and dirty, but it's a job. In Zimbabwe, 95% of people don't have a job, and when you do have a proper job, you know, you've got everything. We're also investing in the community.

I also support some Malawian students who are studying in South Africa. I do that personally.

Education is for me the best and most efficient way to make long term changes to improve people's lives.

SH: What you say is compelling. Has your social conscience always been this strong?

ML: It's grown as I've become more well off. I've now got greater capacity to do something. I've had more time to see the benefits of education and the disbenefits for people who just, through no fault of their own, have fallen through the cracks and are pretty much stuck in a cycle of limited or no opportunity.

SH: Your conviction is powerful.

ML: There's one other aspect which is quite dark. I'll try and keep it light. No, I don't think I can. I used to have three children. I have now only got two. They had every benefit I could

possibly give them. One got into drugs. They ended up dying of an overdose. I'd like to try and give the advantages that my children certainly had to others. Clearly, I can't give everything to everybody. But that doesn't mean what you do, what any of us do to improve the lives of others, is insignificant.

SH: Thank you for sharing that with me. I am so sorry for your loss... [Mark interrupts] ...

ML: ... I took the wind out of your sails, didn't I?

SH: Yes... you have [pause]. It's clear that your intention is to keep giving to make an even greater impact.

ML: My motives for doing so are strong. I distrust all governments, not just the British government and African governments. I think it's down to individuals to make choices about what to do with their money. And the individual can make a big difference. I trust BGS to direct my money to good causes. And I certainly don't interfere.

SH: Trust goes two ways. You do make a difference. A benefactor's relationship with a school like BGS, a connection with young people like our students, can have many direct and indirect benefits.

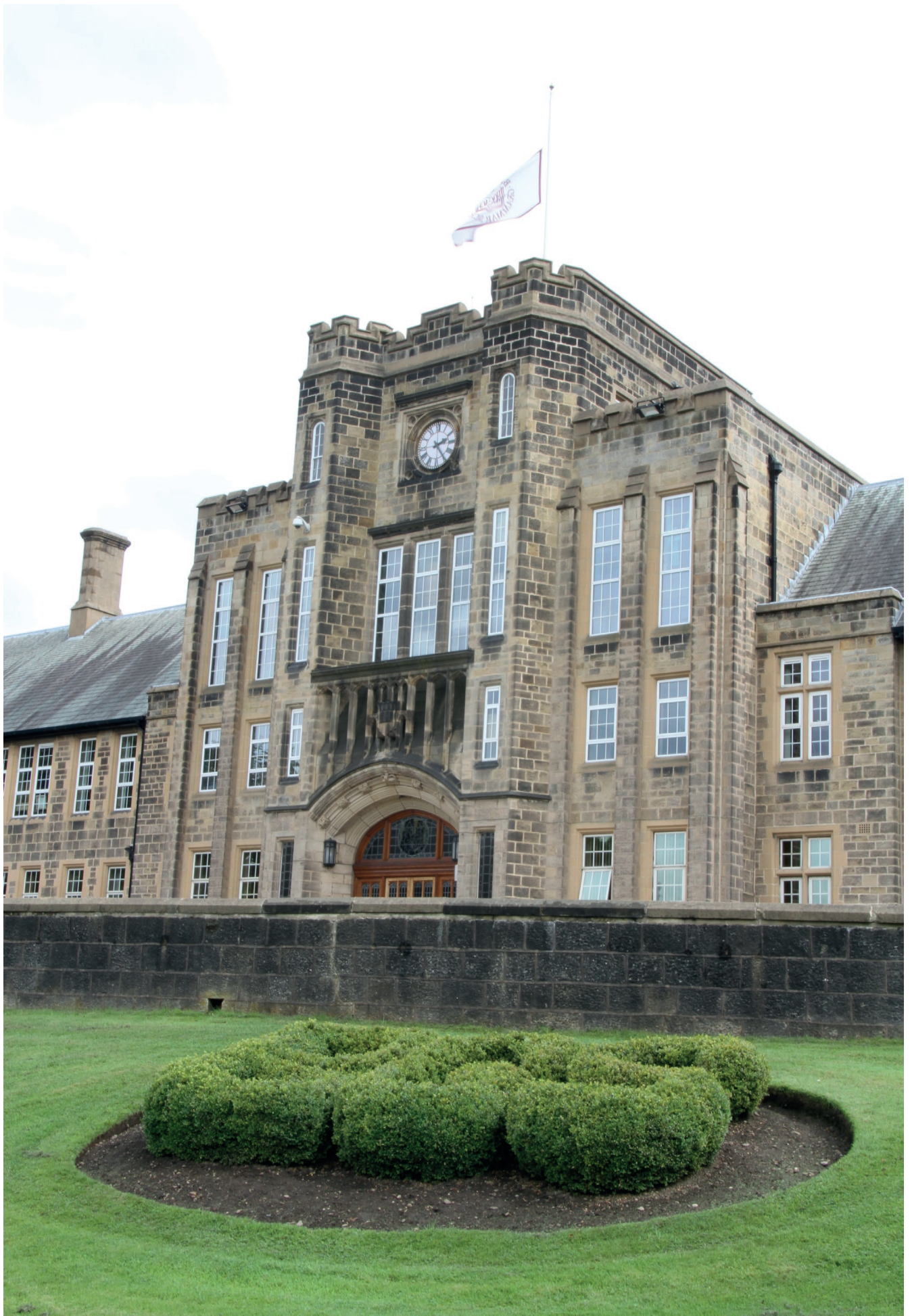
[pause]

ML: Understood. Time for a photo?

SH: I think so. And maybe that pint of Landlord, that our host James, kindly offered. Grateful thanks, Mark for your time and candour today, and for your ongoing commitment to the young people at BGS.

ML: You're welcome, Simon.

The full interview with Mark Learmonth will be published in the next edition of the Old Bradfordian.



Student Spotlight

"Being at BGS has given me
so **many opportunities**"

Ellie Koral,
Assisted Place student

Assisted Place student, Ellie Koral, has loved her time at BGS and was delighted to secure the A Level results she needed to study at Cambridge University.

Ellie received 3 A*s in biology, chemistry and history and an A in French, and was looking forward to starting her degree course in Archaeology and Biological Anthropology.

She said: "I was really nervous before I picked up the results – it's not just about the results themselves but about getting the grades you need for university. I was over the moon when I saw them. I loved Cambridge when I visited on the open day, and the course is very unique to what is offered throughout the country, allowing me to pursue my interests in both science and human history."

Ellie joined BGS on an Assisted Place in Year 7 as a Norfolk Scholar. Norfolk Scholarships were introduced by Old Bradfordian Mark Richer, who himself received funding to attend BGS in 1981. He always wanted to give back to the school, so set up the Norfolk Scholarships in memory of his dear school friend Nigel Norfolk who died tragically just before the pair were due to start Cambridge together.

"I settled in really well at BGS," she recalled. "There were a lot of people from my area

getting the train in to school and we soon became friends. I enjoyed life here. Playing hockey for the school and going on various school trips were particular highlights.

"I also learned to play the saxophone and the music facilities at BGS are fantastic. There is a real sense of community, and I enjoyed being part of the various groups and ensembles."

While there is a strong community in school, Ellie has also done a great deal to help her local community as President of Interact Club, the junior branch of Rotary. Under Ellie's leadership, the club raised funds for Martin House, a local charity which provides hospice care for children and young people, national charity Marie Curie and international charity Médecins Sans Frontières.

'You don't have to be just a sporty person or a music person, you can be involved in a huge variety of things at any one time at BGS,' said Ellie. "Being here has given me so many opportunities and a chance to grow in different areas. I've loved the experience."



Ellie Koral, Sixth Form leaver

Student Spotlight

"BGS has supported my sports career ambitions"

George Hahn, Head Boy
Assisted Place student

Head Boy George Hahn made the most of his time at BGS and credits the school with supporting his ambitions for a career in the sports industry.

George, who joined BGS on an Assisted Place in Year 7, played first team cricket and rugby for BGS and enjoyed athletics and other sports. Outside of school, he took part in the Yorkshire Rugby Academy Group.

He chose to study economics, maths, PE and psychology at A Level and, as he entered the Sixth Form, made the decision to become a prefect because he wanted to give back to the school.



"For me, the most important thing was to repay the investment and opportunities that the school had given me since I joined in Year 7," he said. "From the multitude of sporting activities to lessons where the teachers have helped develop me to where I am today, I've loved my time at BGS.

"It's a fantastic place to come and do sport. The facilities are great and there are so many high-quality coaches. It's like one big family. You find yourself surrounded by the right kind of people who have the same drive to compete."

George has made many friends at the school and has particularly enjoyed the sports tours abroad. There will no doubt be many more sports adventures on the horizon. On results day, George learned he'd received grade As across the board which secured his place at Loughborough University – named the best in the world for sports related subjects – to study Sport and Exercise Science.

"It's bittersweet to be leaving BGS," said George. "I'll miss it. But my younger brother will still be here, so I'll be coming back to visit!"



George Hahn, Sixth Form leaver

Student Spotlight

"I'll take the *Hoc Age* philosophy with me"

Hamza Sajid,
Assisted Place student

Self-belief and the *Hoc Age* mentality are two things Hamza Sajid will be taking with him as he heads to Durham University to study Natural Sciences.

Hamza, who joined BGS in Year 7 on an Assisted Place, said he developed a love of languages while at the school as well as playing on the hockey team and trying his hand at debating.

"In my time at BGS, I tried many new things," he said. "I remember walking into debating society, terrified, in Year 7 and the Japanese club in the little languages room above the rest of the school. I got to go to Spain and experienced a whole new country with a new group of people. There are many, many things I was fortunate enough to take part in during my time at BGS thanks to my Assisted Place, and many gave intangible benefits."

Hamza was delighted when, after all his hard work, he gained A*s in biology and chemistry and an A in maths on results day. He also did an AS level in French and got an A.

"Being around a lot of high achieving people can be very useful as it pushes you to do your best," he said.

"I remember getting a grade 7 in my end of Year 9 chemistry exam. At parents' evening the teacher said I was a grade 9 student and that I didn't achieve my potential this time. Moments like that keep you from getting complacent and remind you that you still have untapped potential.

"I'm not yet sure what my career will look like, but I'm interested in science, tech and business. I secured work experience at an OB's eCommerce fulfilment company this summer through school. It gave me a cross sectional view of the whole operation and I saw behind the scenes of eCommerce. I really value that experience."

Hamza said he was leaving BGS having become more well-rounded with a strong sense of belief in himself.

"The knowledge and the skills are one thing, but the *hoc age* philosophy, the memories and the personal development are something else altogether," he added. "I will take them with me as I leave BGS and will benefit from them for the rest of my life."



Hamza Sajid, Sixth Form leaver

Donor Roll

Listed below are the names of those who have very kindly made the 1662 Fund for Assisted Places a philanthropic priority between 01 September 2022 and 31 August 2023. 15 donors have chosen to remain anonymous.

1940s

Anonymous
Peter Rusby

1950s

John Bird
John Burnell
Gordon Dixon
Michael Ludgate
Graham Reid
Dale Smith

1960s

Anonymous
Peter Ackroyd
David Akerman
Roy Aspinall
Duncan Baker
Robin Bell
Richard Bellman
Geoff Blackburn
Keith Bottomley
Roger Bowers
Stephen Brunton
Peter Chamberlain
John Claughton
Peter Forbes
Jim Gilpin
Ian Glick
Peter Guy
John Haigh
Robert Hamilton
Tony and Pat Hart
David Illingworth
Duncan Preston

Michael Prior
Martin Seekings*
Ian Stoney
Derek Swift
John Sykes
John Tempest
John Waterhouse
Trevor Wright

1970s

Anonymous
James Barker
Nigel Cameron
Andy Child
Mark Evans
Nigel Evans
Ian Farnell
Tim Finney
Richard Goodall
Jerry Gregson
Philip Hanson
Mark Hardaker
John Holmes
Philip Howard
Ian Hudson
Kevan Keegan
Tony Kelley
David Kennedy
Rookie Kholwadia
Robert Leechman
Ian Lofthouse
Paul Marsden
Andy Meehan
Clive Minihan
John Moorhouse
Simon Sammons
Timothy Soutar
Russell Taylor

Rob Hill
John Verity
Ian Wilkinson

1980s

Anonymous
John Child
Chris and Julia Eskdale
Richard Green
Jim Hart
Peter Higgins
Ian Kennedy
Mark Learmonth
Richard Lewis
Catherine Moore
Dominic Pinnock
Bruce Robinson
John Robinson
Simon Shaw
Andrew Wood
Simon Wood

1990s

Dave Archer
Craig Bass
John Bolton
Adam Brosnan
Vincenzo Cilenti
Gully Hassan
Aamer Khan
Ty Khan
Asif Qasim
Alasdair Turnbull

2000s

Sacha Cohen-
Chowdhury
James Degnan
Katie Essex
Stuart Smith
Alistair Stead
David Wevill
Nick Yazdani

2010s

Matthew Cogan
Jill Gaunt
Amreena Pervaiz

Staff - Past and Present

Peter Ackroyd (1968)
Angela Cordial
Jonathan Evans
Heidi and Simon
Hinchliffe
Homera Najib
Robin Sharp
Ian Stoney (1964)

Alumni Associations

Old Bradfordian (OBA)
Committee
Old Bradfordians Club
(London) Ltd



Parents - Past and Present

Anonymous
James Barker (1976)
Ian Farnell (1971)
Peter Guy (1966)
Jim Hart (1984)
Saima Khalil
Paul Marsden (1975)
Duncan Newton
John Sykes (1963)

Friends

Anonymous
Justyn Jagger
Colin Mellors

North American Friends of BGS

John Burnell (1952)
Nigel Cameron (1971)
Martin Seekings* (1962)
Russell Taylor (1972)

Corporate Partners

Sovereign Health Care

Trust and Foundations

The Shears Foundation
The Keith Howard Foundation

Gifts in Memory of Mrs Anita Craig

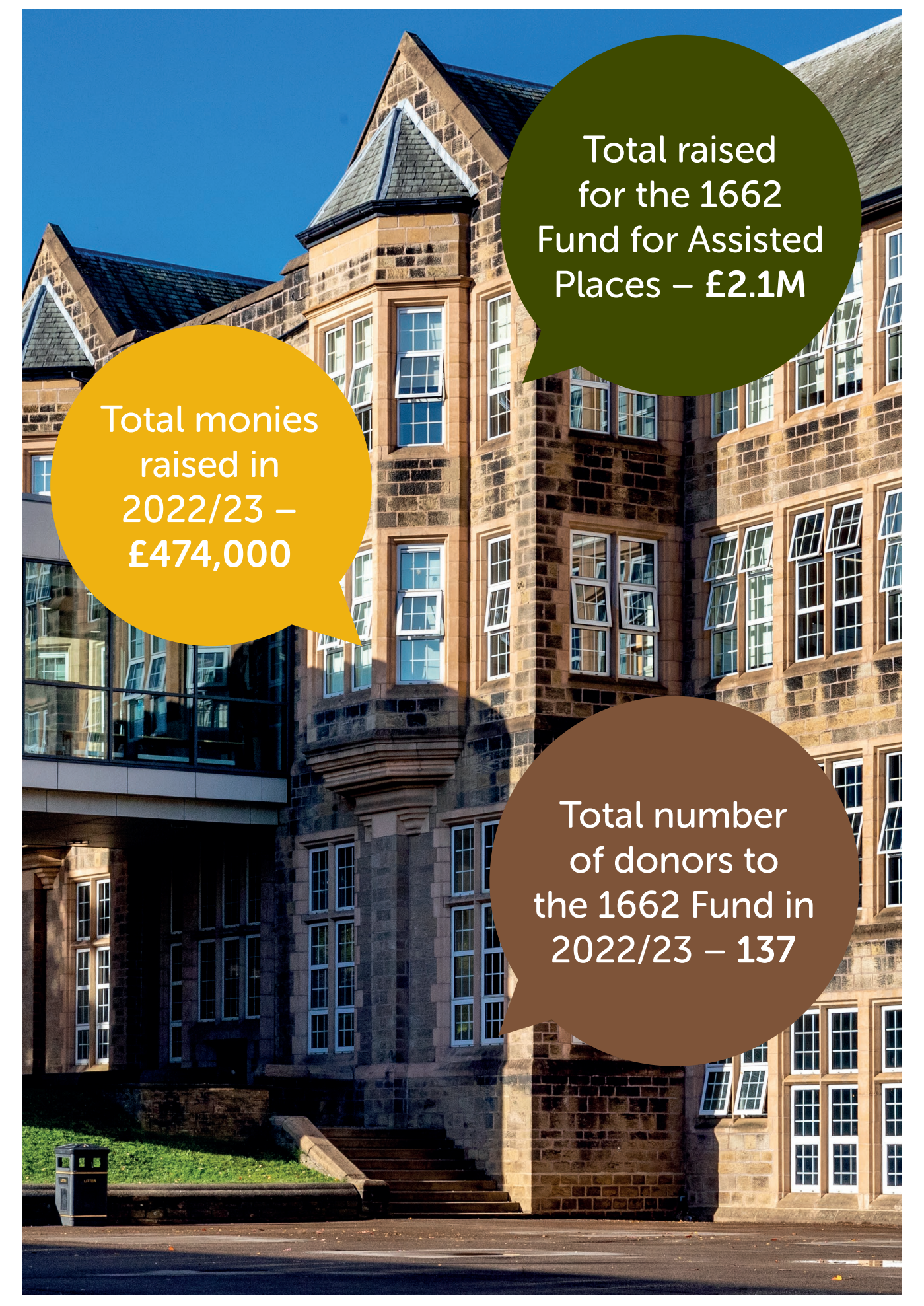
Anonymous
Arthur and Rosemary Bell
Roger Bowers (1961)
Vincenzo Cilenti (1992)
Sam Dabin
Ian Farnell (1971)
Tony and Pat Hart (1962)
Jeremy Hibbert
David Illingworth (1961)
Ian McAleese
Colin Mellors
Duncan Newton
Amreena Pervaiz (2017)
John Ridings
Marilyn Robinson
Dale Smith (1958)
GM Smith
Rachel and Hamish Swan
John Waterhouse (1964)
The Reverend Canon Alan Craig

BGS Major Benefactors

Anonymous
The Allanson Family (1974)
John Bigham (1988)
James Barker (1976)
Roger Bowers (1961)
John Brewer (1976)
Marian Creek
Chris Eskdale (1986) and Julia Eskdale
Roger Evans (1963)
Robert Hirst (1965)
Ian Hudson (1976)
Andrew Jones (1981)
Mark Learmonth (1981)
Andy Meehan (1973) and Sue Meehan
Lynne Morrison
William Morrison
Steve Nicholls (1969)
James Parker (1977)
Geoffrey Proctor (1962) and Jane Proctor
Mark Richer (1981)
Old Bradfordians Association (OBA)
Old Bradfordians Club (London) Ltd

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that this list is accurate, we apologise for any errors or omissions.

*Now deceased



Total raised
for the 1662
Fund for Assisted
Places – £2.1M

Total monies
raised in
2022/23 –
£474,000

Total number
of donors to
the 1662 Fund in
2022/23 – 137





Thank you for **your support**

Campaign Ambassadors

Roger Bowers (1961), Chris (1986) & Julia Eskdale, Roger Evans (1963),
Dr Amir Khan (1999), Andrew Meehan (1973), Mark Richer (1981),
Lyn Shears OBE (Chair, Shears Foundation), Sir David Wootton (1969)

Development & Old Bradfordians' Office

Bradford Grammar School,
Keighley Road, Bradford, BD9 4JP UK

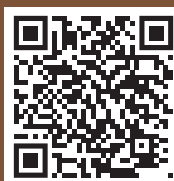
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