

AUTUMN  
2023

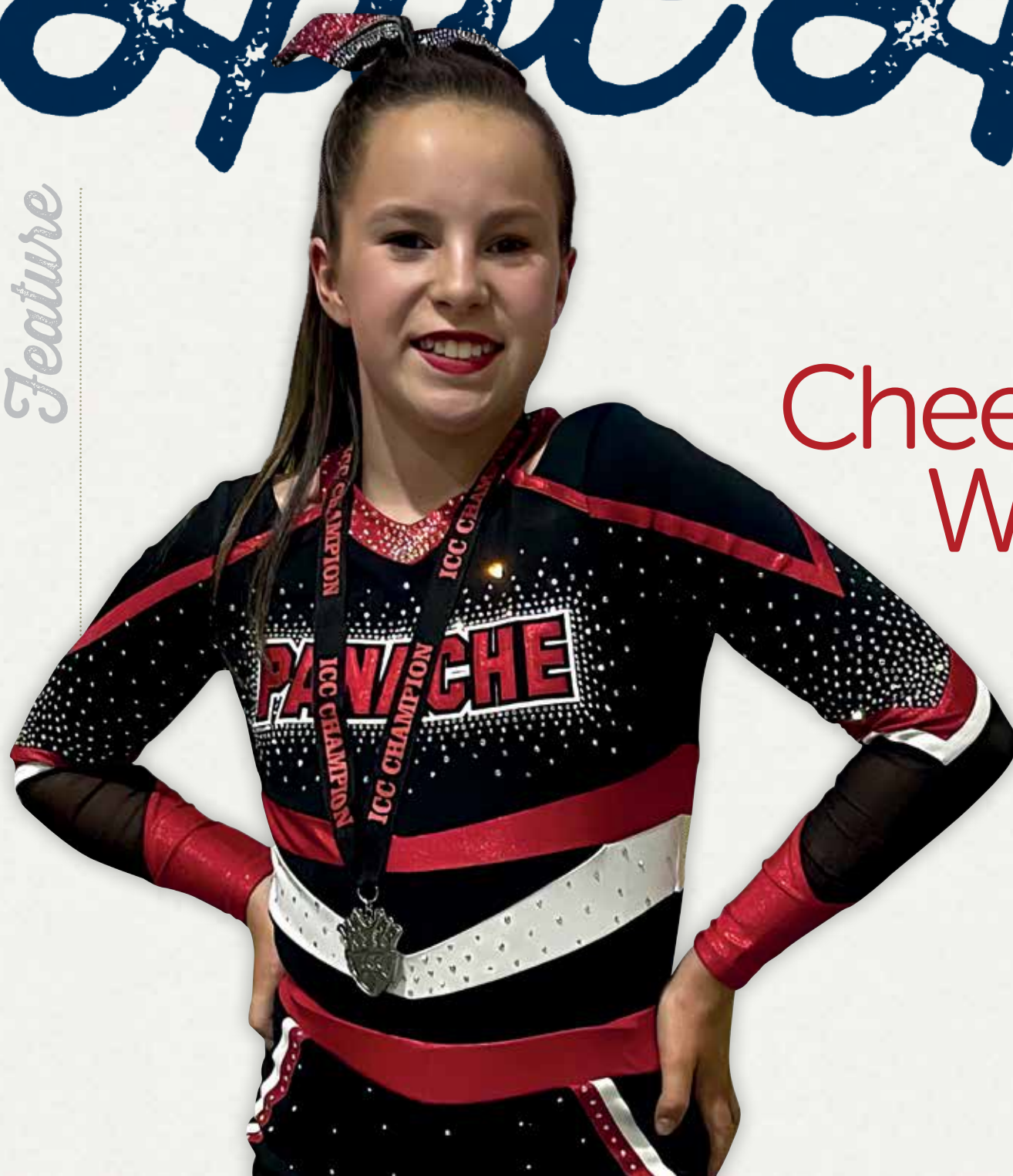
CHALLENGE 03-04  
ARTS 05-09  
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JUNIORS 15-23



Bradford  
Grammar  
School

# Hoc Age

Feature



## Cheerleading Worlds goal for Alice

CONTINUED ON PAGE 03

Year 8 pupil Alice S has her eye on Cheerleading Worlds, in Orlando, America, after a successful year competing.

Alice discovered she loved cheerleading when she went along with a friend to try a class at Panache Cheer School, in Brighouse – where she soon found a passion for it given its gymnastic and teamwork elements.





Bradford  
Grammar  
School

# Welcome to the latest edition of our termly school magazine, 'Hoc Age'!

## I opened the first assembly of the year with the following words:

"... at BGS we say we are 'at ease with excellence'. To me that means we do our best, nothing less. But we don't let it go to our heads, we don't get complacent. Excellence is not a snobby quality. Instead, we roll our sleeves up and get on with it, no nonsense".

So, have we walked our talk? I think the following pages provide the answer. It has been a positive start to the year and I am proud of the young people at our School for what they have done and achieved, grateful to my colleagues for their hard work and to parents for their support. This magazine can only ever provide a flavour of the BGS experience, our social media fills in some of the details. When we take in the full scope of all that our School community does it is simply breath-taking. So much energy and appetite to embrace life!

Enjoy the articles that follow.

Best wishes,

*Simon Hinchliffe*

Dr Simon Hinchliffe

**LATEST BLOG ...**

[bradfordgrammar.com/simonsblog](https://bradfordgrammar.com/simonsblog)



JAN/FEB

**10 January**  
Years 8 and 9  
Information Evening

**15 January**  
BGS Parents' Association  
Second Hand Uniform Sale

**16 January**  
Open Morning

**18 January**  
Year 8 Parents' Evening

**24 January**  
Year 12 Parents' Evening

**30 January**  
Year 7 Parents' Evening

**30 January – 2 February**  
School Production –  
The Addams Family

FEB/MAR

**10 – 16 February**  
Years 8 to 10 Ski Trip,  
Folgarida, Italy

**20 & 23 February**  
Year 7 Taster Day

**29 February**  
Parents' Pastoral Talk

**7 March**  
Year 10 Parents' Evening

**9 March**  
Bronze DoE Training

**12 March**  
Sixth Form Taster Morning  
and Informal Interviews

**12 March**  
Year 11 Parents' Evening

MAR

**22 – 30 March**  
Years 11 to 13 Ski Trip,  
Jasper, Canada

**22 – 28 March**  
Years 8 to 12 Tennis  
Tour, Barcelona

**22 – 25 March**  
French Trip, Opal Coast

## Keep yourself up-to-date!

**LATEST STORIES ...**

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[bradfordgrammar.com/events](https://bradfordgrammar.com/events)

**IN THE PRESS ...**

<https://bit.ly/bgs-press-portfolio>



Search for Bradford Grammar School

\*All events may be  
subject to change



“...”

There were four routines and I was in one. It was really fun and the team is really nice and I've made lots of friends through it.

Alice went on to win two medals in her first team cheerleading competition in Germany and plans to compete in national UK competitions in the run up to worlds, which take place next April.

Said Alice: “There were four routines and I was in one. It was really fun and the team is really nice and I've made lots of friends through it.”

The role Alice has within the team is a 'base' and she has been undergoing strength and conditioning training in the BGS gym alongside weekly cheer routine practise.

Her hard work and commitment to the club paid off and she secured two medals in Germany, including a silver.



## Bella participates in the British Rowing National Development Camps

Following Bella M's successful summer season last year, in October she was invited to take part in a regional talent testing day.

Bella, in Year 11, once again showed her strength and maturity at this event and as a result, she has been invited to participate in the British Rowing National Development Camps for the 2023/24 season.

Said Bella about her selection: “Being selected for the Performance Development Camps was a great achievement for me. The weekend was very intense and included strength testing, time trials, rowing machine testing and skills assessments. I look forward to seeing how much I can progress in future camps!”

The National Development Camps look to improve all aspects of a young athlete's rowing, from their athleticism to boat handling skills and performance lifestyle skills, including nutrition and race tactics.

Congratulations to Bella on her fantastic achievements to date and good luck for the coming season!

**M JONES-GERRARD,**  
GRADUATE SPORTS ASSISTANT – ROWING

# Sporting Highlights

The term started strongly with numerous pre-season activities in preparation for a packed calendar of fixtures and events in the autumn term.

30 boys headed to North Wales on a rugby camp that comprised of training as well as a team building and quarry karting session. At the end of the trip, they attended the King's School Macclesfield Festival playing four matches against opposition from across the country.

Following the successful summer tour of South Africa, the senior girls' hockey team attended the Nottingham High School Festival. They competed well in every game, progressing all the way to a final. True 'Hoc Age' spirit was on display throughout the tournament.

There was national success in the opening weeks of term, as Amelie L won the English Schools U18 Fell Running Championship, hosted at Giggleswick School, with Martha J finishing fifth after a strong return to the fells. This running success was capitalised on later in the term as the senior girls' team qualified for the National Finals. Amelie added to her Fell Running success, taking first place in the qualifying race for schools in the North of England. The girls were bolstered by the returning Rebecca F for the National Finals at Woodbridge School towards the end of term. Rebecca claimed first place, with Amelie a respectable third. The efforts of Martha J, Carla B and Phoebe M, ensured a landslide victory for BGS in the final standings.

In Orienteering, 30 students from Years 7 to 12 enjoyed a joint orienteering and cross-country trip to Leicestershire in October. The main focus was the British Schools Score Championships which took place in Martinshaw Woods, Groby. The Year 10 to 13 boys retained their British title from 2022, and the Year 7 to 9 boys and girls also stood on the team podium. Captain and Year 13 student Tom T and Year 11 pupil Henry S both earned individual silver medals, and Year 7 pupil Ben R went one better to clinch gold.

During half term, the Year 9 netballers went on tour to Disneyland.

Day one consisted of a masterclass, with expert coaches and day two was tournament day. Both teams did extremely well, setting standards high and encouraging one another. After some close fought matches, against some strong opponents, our B team were placed third in the Plate competition, after winning the third/fourth playoff with a golden goal! Our A team had an incredible afternoon, progressing through to the final. The girls stuck to the task in front of them, winning 13-7 and being crowned Showdown Cup Champions.

The girls celebrated their successes exploring Disneyland. To top off what had been an amazing day, that evening the girls continued their celebrations at the awards evening. Later in the term the U14 squad had further success qualifying for the regional rounds of the National Netball Cup. The U16 squad also got in on the action, qualifying for the next round on a great day of netball where BGS hosted all three competitions in the barn.



The U16 girls tennis team reached the LTA National Schools Finals in Bolton for the first time in BGS history. The team made up of Jameela T, Katy H, Ava R and Evie S, acquitted themselves with distinction to finish fourth overall. The highlight was an excellent team effort against King's High School, Warwick.

The amount of sporting participation and performance has been staggering this term, with 'Hoc Age' spirit at the heart of it from pupils, staff and parents.

**J MORAN, DIRECTOR OF SPORT**

### CAPTIONS

#### Front page

Alice S with one of her cheer medals.

1 An early session on the lake for Bella at her first camp in Nottingham.

2 Well done to Amelie, who, in the opening weeks of term, won the 2023 English Schools U18 Fell Running Championship with a time of 00:29:15.





**CAPTIONS**  
1 Tilda on her pony Edward competing at the Horse of the Year Show.  
2 Lucinda competed in the Junior Large Breeds Pony of the Year on Harry, a Connemara pony.



# Equestrian success at the Horse of the Year Show

Two students enjoyed huge success after taking part in the largest equestrian show in the UK calendar.

Lucinda L and Tilda H both competed in the prestigious Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham in October.

Year 10 pupil Lucinda competed in two classes at HOYS – the 14hh Working Hunter Pony of the Year on Rose and the Junior Large Breeds Pony of the Year on Harry, a Connemara pony.

Lucinda won and went champion on Harry which qualified her for the Supreme Championship, riding against the winners of all the other show classes. It followed success earlier in the week when Rocky, who Lucinda won the Open Section A of the Year on last year, was also in the Supreme this year ridden by her brother.

Said Lucinda: "I was thrilled to win the Junior Large Breeds Pony of the Year and become champion on Harry and it was beyond my wildest dreams to be in the Supreme Championship, among the best of the best. I never thought it would be possible to ride in the Supreme Championship at HOYS with my brother, it was an experience of a lifetime."

Tilda in Year 8 qualified five ponies for six different showing classes, ranging from Junior Small Breeds Pony of the Year to 138cm Show Pony of the Year.

She said: "I was really pleased with the way all the ponies performed. HOYS has such a high standard and it's a privilege to qualify and compete there. I was especially pleased to be placed 9th with Robin, at only my second show with him, and 2nd with Edward, against other competitors much older than me, some even up to the age of 17.

"It can be nerve-wracking for a 12-year-old girl to enter a ring where everyone has their eyes on you, however, I've gradually become less affected by nerves. I've developed many strong friendships along the way and I also love the proud feeling I get when I know I've improved, even just from one ride or from over the years."



## “...”

I was thrilled to win the Junior Large Breeds Pony of the Year and become champion on Harry and it was beyond my wildest dreams to be in the Supreme Championship ...



# BGS helps to inspire young minds at the Ilkley Literature Festival

In a delightful partnership, Bradford Grammar School proudly sponsored the Jacqueline Wilson author event at the Ilkley Literature Festival on 7 October.

The event was a perfect family outing, and coincidentally unfolded on the same day as our Open Event, adding an extra layer of excitement to the day!

Dame Jacqueline Wilson, celebrated as one of Britain's most cherished children's authors and the creative genius behind iconic characters like Tracy Beaker and Hetty Feather, returned to Ilkley to talk about her brand new book, 'The Best Sleepover in the World!'. The long awaited sequel to her hugely popular book 'Sleepovers', Wilson's session delved into themes of friendship, siblings, and the challenges of feeling left out.

The audience had the privilege of delving into Wilson's creative process, learning how she breathes life into her characters and the work that goes into her literary creations.

Over 350 attendees were captivated by her storytelling expertise and they also had the opportunity to pose questions, making the event an interactive and enlightening experience for all.

Bradford Grammar School's continual sponsorship of the Ilkley Literature Festival not only enriches the festival experience but also underscores our commitment to nurturing a love for literature and learning within the community.

**Photo credit: Rich Bunch Photography**



1

## A busy and musical summer for Thomas!

During the summer, Thomas H, now in Year 12, joined the Opera North Youth Company for their production of Gilbert & Sullivan's high-spirited opera, 'Trial by Jury', opening at the Howard Assembly Room in Leeds before touring to the International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival in Buxton.

This junior performing wing of Opera North trains 8 to 19-year-olds under the expert guidance of professional directors, singers and orchestral musicians.

Thomas and the rest of the cast went to Durham School for five days to rehearse and plan for performances and had a lot of fun making the production as sustainable as possible – reusing materials from Opera North's stores and using unconventional materials such as a wedding bouquet made of a head of broccoli – green eco friendly and biodegradable!

During rehearsals, they did lots of drama exercises and games to give the Youth Company real ownership of the production and to think of word changes to ways of staging that were more relevant to a modern audience. It was amazing to see the difference in confidence by the end of rehearsal week and play to packed audiences in Leeds and Buxton.

Well done, Thomas!

**Photo credit: Opera North and Tom Arber.**



2





## Senior Choir

On 17 October the Senior Choir provided the music for Founders' Day at the Cathedral. Singing 'Let All the World in Every Corner Sing' by Vaughan Williams and leading the hymns was a privilege and it was a real pleasure, as always to sing in Bradford Cathedral.

A particular mention must go to our 13 tenors who really nailed those top As!

The Senior Choir also visited Leeds Minster on 16 November in a joint Evensong with the Minster Choir conducted by the Director of Music at Leeds Minster, Mr Alex Woodrow, who also teaches the piano at BGS. This was a beautifully reflective service and the choir sang canticles by Stanford, an anthem by Vaughan Williams, and responses by Ebdon. It was the choir's first visit to Leeds Minster, and we enjoyed it immensely. Thank you to the Minster for such a warm welcome.

# Music at BGS

## Concert Band

What an incredible term it's been in the Music Department with 10 concerts taking place before the Christmas break!

The school year kicked off with a spectacular concert in St George's Hall, Bradford, as the Concert Band and String Trio helped Sovereign Health Care celebrate their 150th birthday.

With celebrity compere, and Old Bradfordian, Dr Amir Khan, the Concert Band played a variety of music interspersed with videos detailing the philanthropic work Sovereign Health Care undertake in the local community, as well as contributing significantly to our Assisted Places programme at school. We were entertained wonderfully at the drink's reception beforehand by the String Trio. It was a real privilege to perform in such an iconic building in Bradford.



## Chamber Music

After half term, our Tuesday evening recital series started with beautiful performances from our pianists and string players.

The standard of performance at the piano recital was incredibly strong, with pieces ranging from Christopher Norton Jazz classics to Coleridge-Taylor and Bach. The string recital featured many of our solo string players as well as our smaller string ensembles, Cello Choir and String Trio. Once again, there was a wide variety of music on offer and it was lovely to see performers from Clock House to Year 13.

The Autumn Chamber Concert in November provided another platform for our most advanced instrumentalists and singers to perform as well as our termly concert for our small ensembles. Starting the concert off with the Junior Brass Ensemble performing music by Monteverdi then The Beach Boys really highlighted what variety was on show in the Concert. Congratulations to all musicians who performed in the groups and volunteered for a solo.

## Julian Lloyd Webber

We were incredibly excited to welcome Julian Lloyd Webber to the Music Department on Saturday 2 December.

Julian and his wife Jiaxin worked with cellists from BGS and other local schools and we loved seeing such a musical legend in action! Thank you to our wonderful cello teacher Sam Laverick for organising this event.

## Christmas Concert and Carol Service

We immensely enjoyed two of our biggest events of the year, our Christmas Concert on 5 December and our Nine Lessons and Carols Service in the Cathedral on 11 December. Year 7 pupils particularly enjoyed rehearsing their performance for the Christmas Concert and it was a joy to hear so much singing in the department on a daily basis!

The Carol Service was a more reflective event, with readers telling the Christmas story and music from the Senior Brass Ensemble and our four school choirs. Well done to all involved.

**E WHITE, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

### CAPTIONS

**1 & 2** The academic year commenced with an extraordinary concert at St George's Hall in Bradford, where the Concert Band and String Trio played a pivotal role in celebrating the 150th anniversary of Sovereign Health Care.







1



2

- 1 Aeysha R
- 2 Anna R-P
- 3 Caitlin R
- 4 Charity C
- 5 Falaq K
- 6 Hassan K
- 7 Inaayah K
- 8 Lara S
- 9 Lara T
- 10 Lila W-G
- 11 Melody C
- 12 Phoebe M
- 13 Samuel D



3



4



5



6







## Artists of the term

The recent BGS Art Exhibition showcased at Salts Mill has been one of the largest yet, presenting 285 pieces of artwork and representing every year group within the Senior School.

What a new adventure it was, displaying and hanging the work on the attic floor, neighbouring the work of Old Bradfordian David Hockney's Normandy exhibition.

The visitors book really underpinned the public's amazement and joy to know that the work was produced by students in a nearby school.

It was clear to see the outstanding achievements of our students growing and evolving their personal interests and skills in such a wide range of materials, conceptual ideas and pushing structure and scale.

I am proud beyond belief of all these young people and their ability to see that so much is achievable!

**S HORSFIELD, HEAD OF ART**







## New recruits in the Development Office

**CAPTION**  
1 Meet Ali and Anya, our new recruits in the Development Department.

We have two new recruits in the Development Department: **Anya Richardson-Friss and Ali Brook.**

The duo will help strengthen fundraising, events and communications amongst our Old Bradfordian community and help raise vital funds to support the provision of Assisted Places.

The department has also just launched its annual Impact Report, which looks back on 2022/23 and the successes of the 1662 Campaign, in what has been a challenging year for everyone financially.

You can view the report here >> [bradfordgrammar.com/impact-report-2023](https://bradfordgrammar.com/impact-report-2023).

We hope you enjoy reading the stories from our OBs – including ones from our latest cohort, the Class of 2023 – who have benefitted from an Assisted Place.

The 1662 Campaign is dedicated to ensuring BGS offers children from all socio-economic backgrounds access to an exemplary education.

If you're OB, don't forget to connect with us on **LinkedIn** and **Beyond Bradford**. We'll be scheduling a range of events in the coming weeks – watch this space!

“...”

I'm honoured to have been chosen as one of His Majesty's Lord Lieutenants Cadets for West Yorkshire ...



# BGS has faith!

'Faiths in the City' day on Wednesday 18 October was a day of collaboration and exploration as pupils explored religious responses to compassion, generosity and hospitality.

The event was richly rewarding and stimulating for our pupils, celebrating and exploring the richness and diversity of faith in our community.

The annual event invites faith leaders from the local Bradford and wider Yorkshire community to lead our pupils through a variety of activities (which focus on exploring our theme), such as dance, musical performance, art, and drama. The workshops this year included a Hindu dance workshop that performed Bharatanatyam, a classical Indian dance style. Year 9 were certainly put through their paces!

In one of the Christian workshops led by 'Riding Lights', pupils performed their own dramatic sequences as well as explored the work of this theatre group and their Christian witness. The other Christian workshop explored the Christian approach to compassion and generosity through discussion and reflection, with reference to biblical stories and teachings focusing on hospitality.

The Islamic calligraphy workshop was led by Zareena who inspired our pupils to make beautiful traditional calligraphy designs.



The Sikh workshop allowed pupils to learn about and play traditional Sikh musical instruments as well as dance.

We also invited three different Buddhist communities to the school, from Manchester, Sheffield and Keighley. The pupils were able to build on their learning of Buddhism through their engagement with these different Buddhist communities.

Well done to all of Year 9 for making this event a very special and rewarding day.

**R SKELTON,  
HEAD OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

## Matthew achieves cadet's highest honour

Combined Cadet Force (CCF) member Matthew M has been honoured with the highest award possible for a cadet.



Matthew, who has been part of BGS's CCF since he was in Year 9, was appointed one of four Lord-Lieutenant's Cadets in a special ceremony at Carlton Barracks, in Leeds, West Yorkshire.

As part of his award, Matthew had to give an address to the Lord-Lieutenant, Ed Anderson, and other civil dignitaries before he was presented with his award.

He said: "I'm honoured to have been chosen as one of His Majesty's Lord Lieutenants Cadets for West Yorkshire and I know it's a great privilege to represent my school and area in this way. I look forward to working with the Lord Lieutenant and his deputies who have a wealth of experience to share with myself and my fellow cadets."

Matthew, who is in Year 13 studying Maths, Politics and History A Levels, said he was looking forward to his new role.

"I've learnt a great deal from being in the CCF, such as teamwork, and it's been a great way to get to know other people from around the country," he said. "I've also grown in confidence as time has gone on. I've learnt so much and I couldn't recommend it more."

Dr Simon Hinchliffe, headmaster at BGS attended the ceremony and said: "Congratulations to Matthew on his Lord-Lieutenant's Award. We're very proud of him and he can be proud of himself for all of his dedication and hard work. The CCF is an excellent place to learn about leadership and teamwork and we're very lucky to have a thriving force with Army and RAF sections here on site at BGS."

**CAPTIONS**  
1 18 October was our annual 'Faiths in the City' event for our Year 9 pupils.  
2 Matthew receives his award from Lord-Lieutenant, Ed Anderson.





# Year 7 residential

Our new Year 7 cohort began their BGS journey in true 'Hoc Age' style by embarking on their first Senior School residential in September.

We glamped for two nights at PGL Caythorpe Court in Lincolnshire and enjoyed a variety of activities such as raft building, archery, abseiling, laser tag and Jacob's ladder.

Going away so early into term is a nerve-wracking prospect for some, but the benefits to both pupils and staff are huge. We came back gelled, having made new friends and had new experiences demonstrating excellent teamwork, resilience and communication skills.

We are excited for Year 7! Hoc Age!

**E TOMLINSON, HEAD OF YEAR 7**



## CAPTIONS

**1 & 2** Year 7 had an amazing time at their residential at PGL Caythorpe Court, Lincolnshire.

**3 & 4** Our French and German Sixth Form linguists enjoyed their European adventure during October half term.

## Year 12 and 13 French and German trip to the Black Forest

We embarked upon our European adventure on Thursday 19 October and travelled to the beautiful city of Colmar in the Alsace.

Year 12 and 13 students took it in turns to enquire about transport links, seek directions to food establishments and book tickets. We spoke to waiters in French, customs officials in German and bus drivers in both! We sampled Maultaschen, Pfannkuchen/tarte flambée (depending on which side of the border we were on), Käsespätzle, Brezeln, Schwarzwälderkirchtorte, foie gras burger, Munster fermenté, Schripp Schwapp and a giant Babybel. Our journeys included regional trains, ICE trains, trams, coaches, a cable car, a minibus and a couple of aeroplanes.

The camaraderie developed as our group visited Freiburg and Titisee, immersing ourselves in the culture of the Black Forest region and enjoying the autumn colours from our Bootsfahrt. On our final day, we travelled to Strasbourg and were captivated by the impressive Louise Weiss European Parliament building, where we were able to experience the Parlamentarium, the Hemicycle and discover more about how European democracy works and about the history of the world's largest transnational parliament.

A truly European adventure.

**P SUGDEN, HEAD OF GERMAN**





## When in Rome ...

What a treat for all staff and pupils! With an early morning start, leaving BGS at 2.45am on Wednesday 25 October, our journey to Italy and ancient Rome was just beginning.

A very excited school group of Religious Studies and Classics students arrived in a warm and sunny Rome, where our busy schedule began in the ancient port of Rome, Ostia Antica and then continued underground into the Catacombs of Saint Sebastian (of which the Necropolis, an ancient city of the dead was a particular marvel). A very busy and full day ended with a lovely restaurant meal in the heart of Rome.

On our second day we began with an unforgettable experience of the Metro in Rome and managed very skilfully to navigate a very busy commuter train! Underground was a theme to the beginning of our day, exploring the wonders and eccentricities of Nero's extravagant Palace, the Domus Aurea and then travelling to the dizzying heights of the Victor Emmanuel II monument, pausing to learn about and reflect on the tomb to the unknown soldier, guarded by Italian marines. Pupils were able to practise their Italian and order lunch, while Dr Reeson ordered lunch with ease in fluent Italian! Our afternoon was another busy exploration of ancient art, symbolism and culture of Rome in the Capitoline Museum, moving to the Borghese Museum, exploring the power of the sculptures of Bernini and the art of Caravaggio.



### CAPTIONS

1 Students enjoyed their trip to Rome during October half term.

2 A quick trip to Ernest Cummins Printers proved invaluable to our Year 12 DT students to complement their 'Paper and Boards' unit.

With each day being crammed full of activity, our last full day was no exception. We started with a tour of the Colosseum followed by a tour of the Roman Forum, followed by more Metro navigation to the Vatican Museums which took our breath away as we walked down corridors of statues, paintings, artefacts and the beautiful frescos of the Sistine Chapel.

It was a trip of adventure, discovery, sensory overload and great excitement – thank you to all staff and pupils for making it a trip to remember.

**R SKELTON,**  
**HEAD OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES**



## Future Innovators on the Factory Floor

On the morning of 12 October, Year 12 set off on possibly the closest educational visit on record. Making the 10-minute walk down Frizinghall Road to Ernest Cummins Printers, the A Level students were excited about seeing the industrial application of the design theory they were studying at the time.

Over the past four years, the DT department has taken the opportunity during Bradford Manufacturing Week to visit the local factory to complement the 'Paper and Boards' unit. On the surface this topic may not sound overly exciting, however teaching is complemented by hands-on experience as well as industry insight and a design competition judged by a leading senior designer at UK Greetings, a Dewsbury based greeting card design studio.

Visiting the Ernest Cummins factory allowed students to compare printing processes such as digital and offset lithography as well as finishing techniques including foiling and embossing. Seeing the

machines running as well as speaking with the staff who maintain the operations and oversee quality control, embedded their theory knowledge by bringing it to life.

It is important that we provide these opportunities for students to see manufacturing taking place and be exposed to people and places they may not normally come into contact with.

**S COWDELL, TEACHER OF DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY**





#### CAPTIONS

1 There was plenty of fun and games taking place across the school to celebrate European Day of Languages.

2 43 pupils from Years 10 to 13 enjoyed the annual Spanish trip to Calafell, Catalunya.

# BGS does Eurovision!

The Modern Languages Department celebrated this year's European Day of Languages with their very own Eurovision song contest.

Sixth Form linguists took charge, recording and editing three superb videos (including some excellent lip-syncing and cameo appearances from teachers) to create entries for France, Germany and Spain.

Huge thanks to everyone involved – watch this space for next year's celebration!

**L KINGSLEY, HEAD OF MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

The whole school voted for their favourite – it was a close contest, but Spain were the winners (did Dr Hinchliffe's performance swing it?) ¡Enhorabuena España!

At lunchtime there was more European-themed fun and games, including the whole school lunch menu, face painting, quizzes, snacks and even karaoke.

## Spanish cultural trip to Calafell, Catalunya

On 23 October a group of 43 pupils from Years 10 to 13 took part in our annual Spanish trip.



This year we visited the beautiful region of Catalunya, staying at the coastal town of Calafell. Upon arriving in Spain, we took a cable car to visit the Monastery of Montserrat; nestled in the mountains, the site is one of the holiest places in Spain, surrounded by spectacular scenery.

We spent a day exploring the cosmopolitan city of Barcelona, with a guided visit to Gaudí's Sagrada Familia. A visit to the city of Tarragona and PortAventura theme park was a fitting end to this extremely enjoyable trip. Once again, we made the most of the opportunities to practise our Spanish and enjoyed the beautiful weather and Spanish culture.

**B CUESTA-GONZALEZ, HEAD OF SPANISH**



Junior

EVENTS  
VISITS  
LIFE



Bradford  
Grammar  
School

JUNIORS

AUTUMN  
2023



Autumn 2023





Bradford  
Grammar  
School  
JUNIORS

# Welcome!

Exciting times unfolded in the Junior School as class buddies and teachers said 'hello!' to over fifty new children at the beginning of term.

The children quickly settled into the routines and daily life of Clock House and new friendships were formed.

Noteworthy developments include the progress and activity in our new Reception and Year 1 building, which is now rising from its secure foundations in the area to the rear of the original Clock House building. This outstanding learning facility and associated grounds development will provide an ideal launchpad for our youngest learners when they join BGS in September 2024. We enjoyed meeting many of our prospective new families at our Open Events this term.

A particular highlight earlier in the term was the visit of the Children's Choir of Africa. The visiting children, aged 10 to 15, spent a whole morning at the Junior School, showcasing their musical and dancing talents – including impressive backflips – in a joyful assembly. Following this, they engaged in

teambuilding activities. After lunch, the visiting children joined the Clock House pupils at playtime, bringing smiles and joy to everyone as they danced and sang. The connections formed during this visit were truly heart-warming.

Clubs, fixtures, and educational visits have added further enrichment, with visits during the term to the Emergency Services Museum in Sheffield for Year 2, Leeds City Museum and Ancient Egyptian exhibits for Year 5 and a visit to Eden Camp to enhance the study of World War II for Year 6.

Enjoy reading more about life in Clock House this term and hearing from our Junior Journalists.

Mr Richard Ribeiro  
Junior School Headmaster

Our Junior Journalists have collectively produced the following pieces for this edition of Hoc Age. Thank you and well done to the following pupils who helped interview and write the articles:

- Aamina U, Year 5
- Ben H, Year 5
- Samuel L, Year 5
- Mariam A, Year 6
- Sebastian R, Year 6
- Kit E, Year 6
- Abreshmina K, Year 6
- Rushda R, Year 6
- Anna R, Year 6
- Maryam A, Year 6
- Misbah N, Year 6

JAN/FEB

16 January  
Open Morning  
24-26 January  
Year 4 Residential Trip  
to Robinwood  
21 February  
Young Voices

MAR

6 March  
House Music  
Competition  
12 March  
Years 2 and 3 Spring  
Concert  
12 & 13 March  
Parents' Consultation  
Evenings  
21 March  
Years 4, 5 and 6  
Spring Concert

\*All events may be  
subject to change

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“...”

It was wonderful to see the whole BGS family club together for such a good cause.

**CAPTION**  
1 The wet weather didn't stop this year's Harvest Appeal from being a success!

# Harvest Appeal

On the Thursday and Friday of the last week of half term, an amazing bake sale was hosted where the children of Clock House came together to raise an outstanding £987 for charity.

Harvest Appeal has been a staple in the Clock House calendar for many years and when it was announced this year, it proved more popular than ever. All around the school people started talking about what they were going to be doing. The out-of-this-world stalls ranged from BGS buns to emoji tin can pyramids. Sebastian R in Year 6 was extremely proud of his carrot picking stall which turned heads on the day!

Overall, all the stallholders did an amazing job of raising money.

Mrs Robertshaw-Hughes had this to say: "It was wonderful to see the whole BGS family club together for such a good cause."



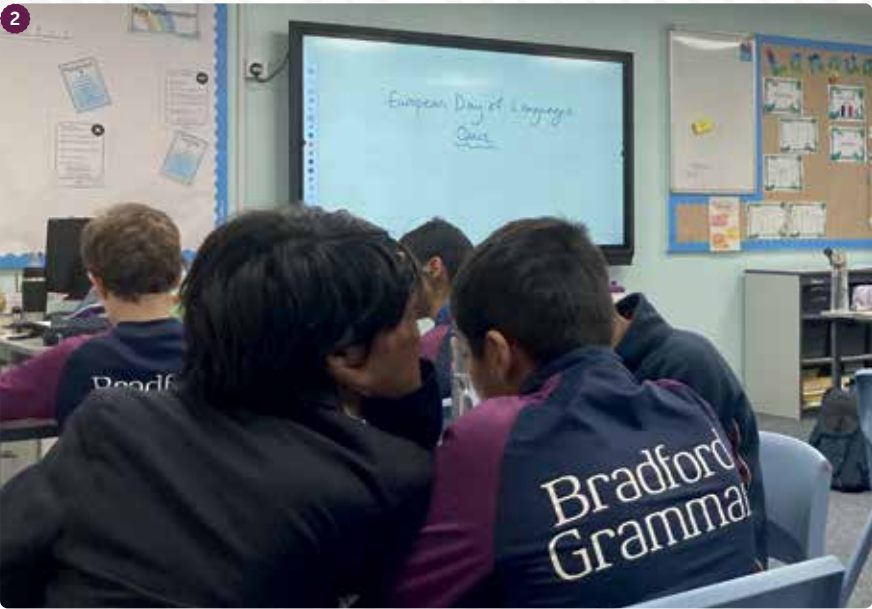
**CAPTIONS**  
1 BGS was delighted to host the Yorkshire Junior Chess Association Grand Prix event on 11 November. 90 competitors aged 7-18 years old took part from chess clubs across the region.  
2-3 Clock House pupils celebrated European Day of Languages with a fun quiz and language portrait.



# European Day of Languages

For European Day of Languages this year, as well as doing a fun quiz in teams during lessons, trying to work out the languages of different signs, all children created a language portrait. Everyone considered which languages were part of their identity and colour coded their portrait.

Mrs Green commented: "It was lovely to see the enthusiasm for languages and how important they are to us."  
**E GREEN, JUNIOR SCHOOL TEACHER, SUBJECT LEAD – HUMANITIES**



## Chess Tournament

On 11 November 2023, BGS arranged a fabulous chess tournament where students of all ages gave their all at this nail-biting event.

Several Clock House pupils with an enthusiasm for chess took part in the fabulous tournament.

Many teachers were there cheering on pupils including Mrs Green, Mr Brook, Mrs Riley, and Mr Ribeiro, plus many others from the Senior School. The main chess games took place in the Price Hall while parents waited in the Sixth Form Centre. Most of the participants in the Sixth Form Centre played chess even when they were waiting for pupils in the Price Hall to finish their games!

One participant, Sebastian R in Year 6 had this to say:  
"Pupils who had never been to a chess tournament before knew exactly what they were doing. It was an amazing layout but dissimilar to any others I have seen in the past. I loved every second!"

**“...”**  
**...I loved every second!**





## The Singing Children of Africa

On 22 September, a group of about 20 children came to visit the whole school and host a special assembly featuring singing and dancing in African style.

They were here to raise money for the charity **Educate the Kids**. This is a charity run by volunteers and enthusiasts. Established in 1998, so far, they have enabled over 25,000 children access to education that would otherwise have had nothing. Yvonne, Kombe and Maxwell, all former pupils of the special choir, spoke openly with pupils about how the charity has transformed their lives and offered them support and education at a time when they

were truly desperate. Pupils and staff were humbled to hear about the impact the charity had on their lives, and it inspired many of us to want to offer as much help to others in similar situations.

Yvonne Craig had this to say: "The Kenyan children really value the cultural and educational opportunities they have when visiting the UK, and schools such as yours. The funds raised from the singing tours are invested

into the school infrastructure and teaching team."

A tiny amount of just £11 a month will pay for books, food, uniforms and teachers. It is an incredible charity, helping the poorest children in Kenya to enjoy a happy and safe childhood. If you wish to donate to this legendary charity, please text 'singing' followed by the amount you wish to donate to 70470.



“...”

... The funds raised from the singing tours are invested into the school infrastructure and teaching team.

**CAPTION**  
1 The Singing Children of Africa and Clock House pupils showcasing their dancing talents!





“...”  
It was quite  
an eye-opening  
experience ...

#### CAPTIONS

1-2 Year 6 pupils  
enjoyed their trip to  
Eden Camp – bringing  
their learning to life  
and providing an  
insight into daily living  
during World War II.



## Year 6 adventure to Eden Camp

On Thursday 5 October,  
Year 6 travelled to Eden  
Camp Modern History  
Museum in Malton.

Pupils discovered the contents of  
the huts at the former prisoner of  
war camp, bringing learning to life  
and providing an insight into daily  
living during World War II.

Year 6 discovered even more about  
the topics they had learned about in  
their lessons as well as discovering  
new information.

“It was quite an eye-opening  
experience, especially the blitz  
den,” admitted Anna R in Year 6.

Overall, the visit to Eden Camp  
gave pupils an experience they  
will always treasure. When pupils  
arrived at school the next day,  
their attitude to learning in history  
was in high spirits after their  
historical adventure!



# Round up of life at Clock House

## 1. Year 2 – Building friendships on Induction Day

This year and for the first time, Year 2 had an induction day. We completed some fun activities to develop new friendships and get to know Clock House before the rest of the children returned to school after the summer break. The class met new friends and their teachers and created some self-portraits for a display, before having lunch in the dining room together.



## 2. Year 3 – DT

In DT, Year 3 have been investigating a range of mechanical systems and they have made a number of prototypes. They will be using their new knowledge to create a moving poster to encourage their families to recycle.



## 3. Year 4 – Observing invertebrates

Woodlice, ants, worms and slugs aplenty! What else lurks beneath the soil in the flowerbeds of Clock House? Year 4 enjoyed using scientific equipment to observe invertebrates in our local school environment. We then classified our findings using scientific terminology.

## 4. Years 5 and 6 – HMC Rugby

On Wednesday 4 October we took a team to compete in the U11 tournament involving NE HMC schools, playing against strong rugby schools such as St Peter's, Yarm, RGS Newcastle and GSAL. The BGS team represented school with aplomb showcasing the RFU values with the emphasis on competitive performance not competitive outcome.

## 5. Year 6 – WW2 artefacts

Year 6 pupils were in for a historical treat this half term thanks to Mrs Green, who kindly collected a WW2 artefact box from the Imperial War Museum North in Salford for the two weeks between 30 September – 14 October. The artefacts came in a big wooden box and the children worked in groups to identify what they were and who they were used by. They then used iPads to take a photo and researched for homework what the item was and who used it to create a poster.







# A Spotlight on Emerson

Emerson G, a pupil in Year 4, is a keen ballroom and Latin dancer, having started as a beginner at the age of four.

His eldest sister was a regular dancer which gave him the opportunity to try this form of dance. Despite none of Emerson's close friends being dancers, he is very proud of his successful hobby. However, this type of success does not happen easily. Emerson practices twice a week and now has a dance partner named Erin B, who is a Year 10 pupil at BGS.

Emerson's favourite type of ballroom dance is the quick waltz and his least favourite is the foxtrot. He particularly enjoys speedy rhythm and beat dances. When he grows up, he would like to be a professional ballroom dancer and perhaps even appear on Strictly Come Dancing!

As a school, we are very proud of all of Emerson's achievements and wish him every success in the future.

Recently, at the nationwide sequence dance finals in Blackpool, he came fourth out of 100 people. This is a huge achievement as he got through two rounds to reach the final in his category beating boys from all over the UK.

### CAPTIONS

1 Year 4 pupil Emerson is a keen ballroom and Latin dancer and partners with Year 9 pupil, Erin.

2 Introducing this year's House Captains and Vice-Captains who lead various activities for Clock House pupils throughout the academic year.

## Leadership Roles in Year 6

In Clock House, pupils in Year 6 are offered the opportunity to fulfil leadership roles at some point during the academic year.

There are a range of roles available, some of which pupils are voted for by teachers and/or fellow pupils. Here is an overview of the fantastic jobs available to our mini leaders:

**Prefects:** They help the teachers to establish a good reputation for our school. They do important jobs including welcoming guests and helping at weekly assemblies.

**House Captains and Vice-Captains:** Every pupil in Clock House is a member of a house (Bradford, Freeman, Royal or Founders) and each House Captain leads activities for the pupils. On Sports Day, Captains also take charge of organising pupils in their houses.

**Treasurers:** The Treasurers support the House Captain and Vice-Captain and are one of the main leaders of the house. The Treasurer's focused commitment is managing the budget for the house. With the money they buy treats and games for their house.

**Digital Leaders:** Any pupil who has an interest in anything IT related can be put forward for the Digital Leader role. The Digital Leaders aid the younger children in accessing tasks during computing clubs.

**Playground Buddies:** Playground Buddies entertain younger pupils in the playground and arrange fun and interesting games for them.

**Science Ambassadors:** Science Ambassadors organise science workshops and promote science across all of Clock House.





# Meet new pupil ... Florence

Being a new pupil at a new school can be nerve-wracking. Having joined Clock House in Year 5 this September, here is Florence C's opinion on beginning life at a new school.

**Are you enjoying Clock House?  
What is your favourite thing  
about school?**

I enjoy Clock House and love DT lessons; making things in DT are my favourite things as I love the challenge.

**What is your opinion of the  
staff / teachers?**

All the staff / teachers are extremely friendly and delightful. I have been made to feel so welcome by everybody.

**What are your three favourite  
subjects currently?**

Maths, Art and DT are definitely my favourites. It's so hard to choose!

**Do you do anything outside  
of school?**

Outside of school, I enjoy dancing, playing the piano and singing. I also love the clubs on offer at Clock House as it means you can try out new hobbies.



**CAPTION**

1 Florence joined Clock House in September and is really enjoying Clock House so far!

**Have you made lots of friends  
at Clock House?**

It's such a friendly environment. I've made so many friends.

**How did it feel settling into  
Clock House?**

It was a nervous yet exciting experience. I feel like I have been here a while now.

**Name an opportunity that  
has come your way.**

I have signed up to attend the Young Voices event. I can't wait!