



Bradford  
Grammar  
School

# Learning Strategies and SEND



EXCELLENCE | OPPORTUNITY | HAPPINESS

## **Laura Johnson: Head of Learning Strategies and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENDCo)**

Laura is a qualified SENDCo, who joined BGS in September 2023 to lead Learning Support. She has experience and passion for teaching and supporting students with additional needs.

Working collaboratively with students, parents, staff and external agencies, Laura aims to get the best outcomes for individuals with need. Having studied a BSc in Mathematics and MSc in Psychology, Laura also leads on maths intervention within Learning Support and teaches A Level Psychology. Laura is currently studying a further level 7 qualification, in psychometric testing, assessment and access arrangements. Outside of the classroom, Laura is joining the Duke of Edinburgh team to assist pupils on their overnight expeditions.



## **Angie Hicks: Assistant Head of Learning Strategies**

Angie has worked at Bradford Grammar School for 14 years so has a wealth of experience of working with pupils and their families. She joined the school as a Teacher of Geography but has also worked in the Pastoral Team firstly as Assistant Head of Lower School and later Head of Year 8. Currently Angie is part of the Personal Development Team, delivering regular lessons to all lower school pupils on topics of environmental interest and workshops to Years 10 and 11. In her role in Learning Support, Angie is leading on interventions required for English and the humanities. Angie is currently studying a further level 7 qualification in psychometric testing, assessment and access arrangements. Outside of the classroom, Angie assists with Handmade Club which encourages crafting as a means of relaxing and demonstrating creativity.



### **What does the Learning Strategies Department do?**

- Co-ordinates and evaluates the provision for pupils with SEND.
- Provides strategic support, advice and training to colleagues to ensure the quality of teaching for all pupils.
- Supports class teachers whenever necessary to ensure that programmes of work include differentiation for pupils with SEND.
- Ensures that appropriate access arrangements are given to identified pupils.
- Communicates between parents, teachers and external agencies to develop holistic SEND support.
- Provides academic support to all students.

## What we offer at BGS

The Learning Strategies Department is a calm and supportive space that sits alongside the Assistant Head Pastoral's office, the Heads of Year office and School Nurses. This aids collaborative working and ensures holistic pastoral care of our students.

The department boasts a range of different resources to support SEND pupils in their learning, including supporting their academic understanding, concentration and organisation.

Where possible, we will offer tailored one-to-one or small group working support group interventions to support/ supplement learning in lessons. Our school library is also central to Bradford Grammar's inclusivity; with passionate staff who also offer learning support, including the running of spelling focused and reading interventions. The key objective of the department is to support pupils to thrive within the academic environment of Bradford Grammar School. As our pupils grow, we wish to help them take responsibility for their own learning and developing their independence and agency for life beyond school.

“ The use of having blue paper in lessons and a reader pen for my exams was a massive help”.

**Morgan H, Senior School student**

## Assess, Plan, Do, Review

Learning Strategies adopt a graduated approach to identifying and meeting needs of children. This four-step cycle involves the school making assessments of individual needs; planning and delivering targeted levels of support, when a student is struggling to make expected progress and reviewing the impact of support. This approach is used for all pupils, those with SEND support and those with an EHCP. Should a Learning Strategies Plan be required, we work collaboratively with pupils, parents, and teachers to identify and annually review supporting strategies.

## Referrals

Pupils may join the school with their needs already identified and the Learning Strategies Department works with their previous school and parents to ensure a smooth transition to life at Bradford Grammar School.

Other students' needs may be identified as they progress through school. Referrals for Learning Strategies can be made from staff or pupils themselves. Screening assessments in Year 7 and 9 may also highlight a need for intervention.

Learning Strategies can recommend and work with external agencies, who can offer support to families and students with SEND and can also help support applications for external referrals for SEND diagnoses.



## Admissions

Where applicable, the school ensures that reasonable adjustments will be made during the admissions procedure for pupils with SEND. Parents will include any SEND needs on the online application form and a member of the Learning Strategies team will contact families to discuss. Alternatively, families are more than welcome to contact Laura or Angie prior to applying and they will be happy to discuss any issues relating to SEND.

## Contact us:

[Learningsupport@bradfordgrammar.com](mailto:Learningsupport@bradfordgrammar.com)

“ All the teachers have been really supportive. Having that support gave me the confidence to do well in my exams and to also do well in my life. The environment is nice, and it's been easy to make friends while still learning at the same time.”

**Alex F, Senior School student**



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