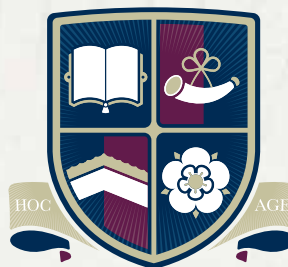


SPRING
2024

CHALLENGE 03-05
ARTS 06-09
COMMUNITY 10-11
LIFE 12-14
JUNIORS 15-24



Bradford
Grammar
School

Home Age

Feature

Laura excels in
the University
of Oxford's
Quantum in
Pictures Study



CONTINUED ON PAGE 03

Last summer, Year 13 student Laura K took part in the Quantum in Pictures study, an educational project used to teach quantum physics via the pictorial method to UK schoolchildren – who then collectively beat the average exam scores of Oxford University's postgraduate physics students.

The experiment involved 54 schoolchildren, aged 15-17, who were randomly selected from around 1,000 applicants.



Bradford
Grammar
School

Welcome from the Headmaster

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

Following a 'gentle' reminder about my impending Hoc Age deadline from our supremely organised BGS publications chief, Jessica Alred, I find myself typing these words in a bustling Italian airport, expresso close by, after a superb Year 8-10 ski trip. Everything about the past week, with the possible exception of lack of sleep, was fantastic – accommodation, food, conditions on and off-piste, weather, (did I mention the food?), my colleagues... the list goes on. But my lasting memory of the previous few days will be of our BGS students. They embraced the opportunities and challenges of the trip in the right spirit, gave it all a 'proper go', were inclusive and supportive of each other and, put simply, provided wonderful company and much laughter. This was BGS on tour and in microcosm. The following articles are imbued with this BGS ethos and character and speak volumes about the life and pace of our busy (Italian airports have got nothing on us!) and high achieving school.

Enjoy... (time now for another shot of coffee before flying and an 'eagerly anticipated' 4am-ish ETA at BGS)!

Best wishes and thank you.

Simon Hinchliffe

Dr Simon Hinchliffe

Keep yourself up-to-date!

LATEST STORIES ...

bradfordgrammar.com/news

LATEST EVENTS ...

bradfordgrammar.com/events

IN THE PRESS ...

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



Search for Bradford Grammar School

LATEST BLOG ...

bradfordgrammar.com/simonsblog



APR/MAY

12 April – 14 April
Years 11 to 13 Norwich
Pre-season Cricket Tour

16 April
Woodwind Concert

18 April – 21 April
Gold Duke of Edinburgh
Training Expedition

25 April
Leavers' Concert

26 April
Year 8 Geography Trip to
Heaton Woods

2 May
Open Morning

2 May – 4 May
Silver Duke of Edinburgh
Training Expedition

MAY

10 May
Year 13 Leavers' Lunch

17 May – 20 May
Bronze Duke of Edinburgh
Assessed Expeditions

20 May – 24 May
Year 7 and 8 exams

21 May
Brownlee Foundation
Triathlon

21 May
Year 12 Biology Trip to
Ainsdale Sands

24 May – 28 May
Years 7 and 8 Rhineland,
Germany trip

JUN/JUL

3 June – 7 June
Years 9, 10 and 12 exams

12 June
Higher Education Day

13 June – 17 June
Gold Duke of Edinburgh
Assessed Expedition

24 June
UCAT training

25 June
Year 9 Born in Bradford
Careers in NHS Day

27 June
Summer Concert

28 June
Speech Day

JUL

29 June – 1 July
Silver Duke of Edinburgh
Assessed Expedition

1 July
Year 7 Transition Day

5 July – 15 July
Senior Development
Rugby Tour to Canada

5 July – 19 July
Year 9 World Challenge
Trip to Morocco

8 July – 18 July
Senior Development
Netball tour to Sri Lanka

**All events may be
subject to change*

“...”
 ... I’m thrilled that I
 passed it – I really
 enjoyed the experience!

Laura spent two hours a week in online classes and after eight weeks she was given a test using questions from an Oxford postgraduate quantum physics exam. Here is what Laura had to say about her experience:

“From June to August last year, I took part in the Quantum in Pictures programme led by Oxford University. It was a study to show that high school students can learn quantum theory, previously only taught to undergraduates. I participated in weekly lectures and seminars to be introduced to

the quantum world. The course ended with an exam, and I’m thrilled that I passed it – I really enjoyed the experience!”

Ross McOwen, Head of Year 13 was delighted to hear of Laura’s contribution to the experiment: “Laura’s participation, hard work and success in the study is hugely impressive, and certainly speaks to the high-calibre and capability of Laura, the physicist.”

Well done, Laura!



Spring Term Sporting Highlights

Since returning from the Christmas holidays there has been an incredible amount of sporting action packed into the first five weeks of term.

Away from team games there has been success in the pool for BGS Aquatics, notably a significant victory over local rivals Woodhouse Grove, with senior students managing the teams and administering the races in a true demonstration of BGS values. There was also a large cohort of BGS runners representing Bradford Schools at the West Yorkshire finals. The senior girls tennis teams moved through to the next round of the cup with strong victories over Wakefield Girls and GSAL on a busy afternoon in the Barn. In the week before half term BGS played host

to the West Yorkshire Table Tennis Finals. In an immense effort by Mr Crabtree the sports hall was filled with tables and competitors from across West Yorkshire hoping to be crowned champions.

We now look forward to the summer term, which will see cricket, tennis and athletics take centre stage.

J MORAN, DIRECTOR OF SPORT



It was brilliant to officially open the new Cardiovascular Gym Suite above the Sports Hall. This project was generously supported by the Parents’ Association and was orchestrated by Mr Nabozny sourcing state of the art equipment and curating artwork, featuring some of our Old Bradfordians who have had success on the Senior, Professional and International sporting landscape, to serve as inspiration to our current aspiring athletes.

In hockey, the boys’ season has had an excellent start. The 1st XI mounted an impressive Independent Schools Hockey Cup run defeating QEGS Wakefield and St Peter’s School, York, before bowing out to a superb Yarm School outfit in a tight, high-quality encounter. There has also been festival action across the age groups with BGS squads progressing beyond initial stages in all instances. The girls 1st XI also secured a landmark victory for the first time over Cheadle Hulme School at home.

For the first time BGS were one of few schools with both U14 and U16 squads in attendance at the Yorkshire Regional round of the National Schools Netball Cup. The U16s put in a gallant effort facing tough opposition during to finish sixth in Yorkshire. The U14s played superb netball during the day falling agonisingly one goal short of the top two places to qualify for the national rounds. All pupils and staff should be proud of their efforts enabling them to compete on the regional stage.

The rugby 7s season has started apace with only the U15s not having played a tournament (due to cancellation). The highlights have been runners up performances for the U12s and the U16s at the Pocklington 10-a-side festival and champions at the Wirral Grammar School 7s for the 1st VII in a flawless display.

CAPTIONS

Front Cover
 Sixth Form physicist, Laura really enjoyed taking part in the Quantum in Pictures study.

1 and 2 The new Cardiovascular Gym Suite was generously supported by the Parents’ Association.

Ben scores in England hockey debut

BGS student Ben P enjoyed a fantastic debut for the U16 national hockey team after successfully undergoing his England assessment.

CAPTIONS

1 Year 11 pupil Ben hopes to forge a long-term career in hockey.

2 Congratulations to Fausto, Liberty, Rowan and Poppy who won the Central Yorkshire round of the annual Royal Society of Chemistry Top of the Bench competition.

Ben, who plays for Ben Rhydding Hockey Club, scored a goal in his first match for England against The Armed Forces, following his selection for the U16 squad.

Ben, who is in Year 11, has been playing hockey since he was in Year 3, and says the hockey on offer at BGS has given him a distinct advantage compared with other schools.

"It's been great to have the opportunity to play hockey here which has given me an advantage over other players," he said. "The school supports me off the pitch as well. Staff let me do my schoolwork in the library during games lessons when I need to rest for future sessions, which helps with my academics and with the busy schedule which comes with playing hockey. There's also the athletic development programme at BGS, which helps with my strength, fitness and injury prevention."

Following a training camp in late December, Ben faced his first international game against The Armed Forces later in the month.

Read the full article on the BGS website >>

<https://bit.ly/ben-hockey>



“...”

...BGS, which helps with my strength, fitness and injury prevention.

BGS chemists head to the national finals

On Wednesday 17 January, Poppy H-C, Fausto K, Liberty P, and Rowan R won the Central Yorkshire round of the annual Royal Society of Chemistry Top of the Bench competition at York University.

The four students came out on top following five written and two laboratory-based challenges. In these challenges they demonstrated their excellent knowledge, analytical skills, and precision in experimental technique, all whilst working as a cohesive team. This victory means that they will proceed to the national finals in Edinburgh, and everyone at BGS will be wishing them all the best in competing against other top Chemistry students from around the country.

M TATE, HEAD OF YEAR 8 AND
TEACHER OF CHEMISTRY



BGS Gymnasts Soar: Yorkshire Gold and National Qualification!

Battling it out at the annual Yorkshire Floor and Vault and Milano Team competitions in Sheffield on 2 February, our gymnastics teams demonstrated exceptional skill and determination. For the first time, both competitions ran side by side, and marked a significant event in BGS gymnastics history.



In the individual floor and vault event, our diverse team, which included boys – a first for BGS in these competitions – showcased their talents. The U19 squad wowed the judges with their poise, securing a remarkable third place finish.

Meanwhile, the U16 team mesmerised with their artistry in the group routine, narrowly missing out on a podium spot. Year 11 pupil, Charlotte D, one of our seasoned gymnasts, stole the spotlight with an impressive floor routine, earning a remarkable score of 14.8.

The U14 floor and vault team displayed flawless precision, earning the coveted title of Yorkshire champions and securing a spot in the National Finals in May.

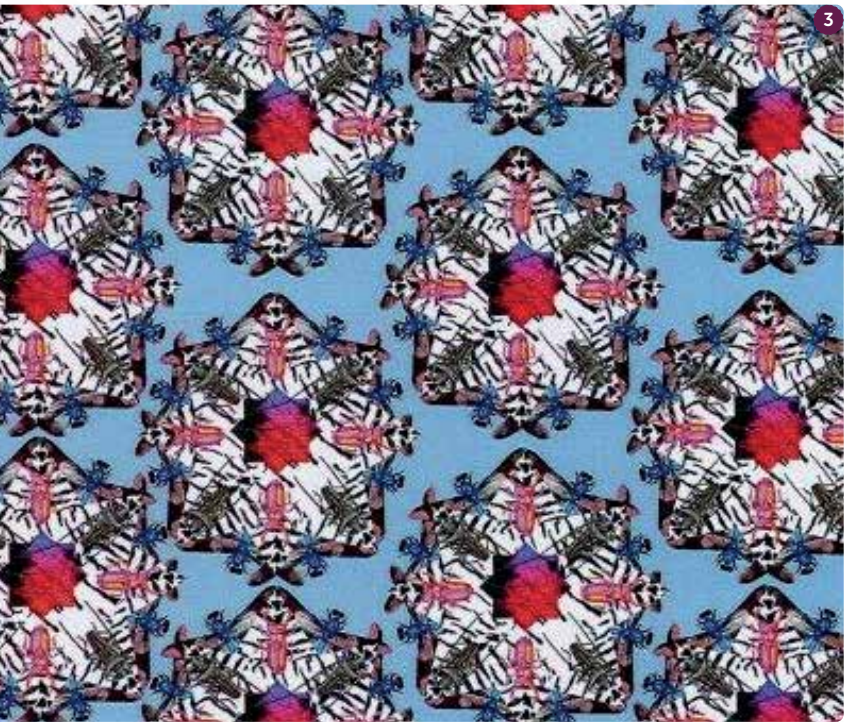
Not to be outdone, the U13 mixed team dazzled judges with a synchronised routine, clinching the top spot and earning the prestigious Yorkshire champions title. They now qualify for the National Finals to be held in March.

What a remarkable triumph for our gymnastics teams, showcasing talent, dedication, and the spirit of champions!

R PARKINSON,
TEACHER OF PE AND GAMES



CAPTION
1 and 2 The annual Yorkshire Floor and Vault and Milano Team competitions marked a significant event in BGS gymnastics history.





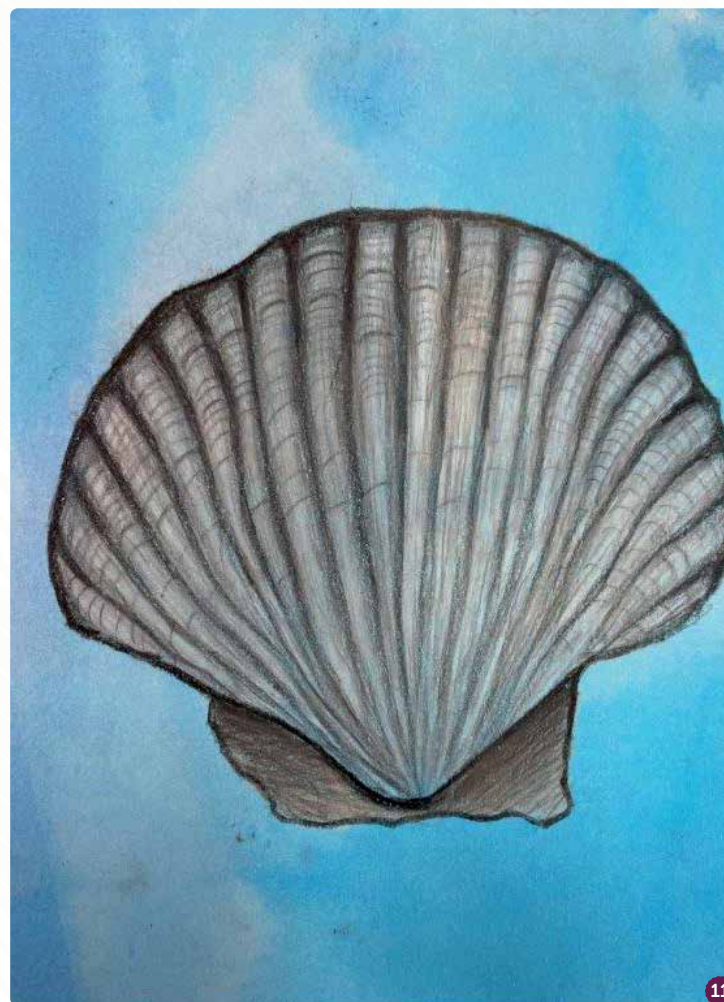
8



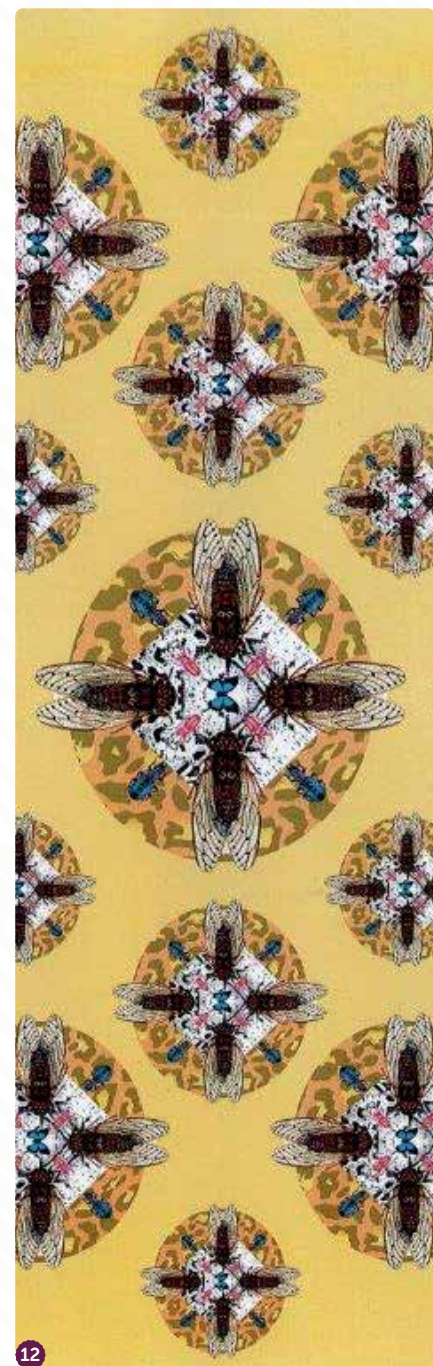
9



10



11



12

Our artists of the term ...

- 1 Alice M, Year 9
- 2 Anastasio M-S, Year 9
- 3 Austin A, Year 8
- 4 Eesa A, Year 9
- 5 Emma C, Year 10
- 6 Esme U, Year 9
- 7 Eesa R, Year 8
- 8 Isaac S, Year 10
- 9 Lucy H, Year 8
- 10 Mahiba A, Year 9
- 11 Oscar D B, Year 7
- 12 Shreya B-M, Year 8

News from the Music Department

CAPTIONS

1 and 2 The Addams Family production created lasting memories for the performers and musicians.

3 Congratulations to sisters Phoebe and Lexi who earlier this term earned Distinctions in their LAMDA Speaking for Performance exams.

What a great spring term we've had in the Music department! A real high point was the joint Drama and Music production of 'The Addams Family' (see separate article for the full write up).

Performing to a sell-out Hockney Theatre for three evening performances in late January/early February, this show was the culmination of months of hard work, rehearsals after school, weekends and hours of practise at home. The 17-piece orchestra sounded stunning and accompanied the musical so well. The chorus mastered the challenging singing parts, and the main roles delivered their songs with panache and aplomb. It was a truly wonderful production and one which will live in the memories of the performers forever!

Our Spring Chamber Concert, held on 14 March was a hugely enjoyable occasion. Featuring our small ensembles and soloists, we were treated to music from Mozart, Debussy, D'angelo and Billy Joel. It's always so exciting to see such a wide variety of music performed so well. Congratulations to our soloists and a special thank you to our music teachers who put so much time into directing our school ensembles.

E WHITE, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



Sibling Success: Phoebe and Lexi Earn Distinctions in LAMDA Speaking for Performance Exams

Sisters Phoebe M in Year 10 and Lexi M in Year 7 achieved stellar results earlier this term in their LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) Speaking for Performance exams.

Phoebe, tackling Grade 7, and Lexi, mastering Grade 5, both earned Distinctions, maintaining their streak of excellence since they began at Grade 1.

Their success in these exams, known for rigorous assessment of communication skills, showcases their dedication to the performing arts.

Their achievements underscore the value of dedication, discipline, and a genuine love for one's craft. Phoebe and Lexi stand as shining examples of the power of passion and hard work, proving that excellence extends beyond traditional academic pursuits. Congratulations to the talented sisters on their well-deserved success.

Said Phoebe: "Achieving a Distinction in Grade 7 felt amazing. I always enjoy and look forward to my LAMDA lessons, exams and taking part in local festivals. I'm lucky to have a great teacher and I'm also really proud of my sister who achieved a Distinction at Grade 5."

“...”
Achieving a Distinction in Grade 7 felt amazing ...

The Addams Family Musical: A Spooktacular Success!

This year's production of 'The Addams Family' proved another triumph for our Drama and Music departments, playing to sold out audiences across three nights in late January/early February.

Over 50 pupils were involved in the production, either as cast, band, technical or backstage crew, demonstrating the wealth of talent on display at BGS.

'The Addams Family' is a musical comedy based upon Charles Addams's beloved macabre cartoon strip, depicting an anything-but-normal American family with an affinity for all things ghoulish. Addams's creation has long been adapted for the big and small screen and has enjoyed huge commercial success for decades, most recently with Netflix's hit series 'Wednesday', but the musical version sees the iconic family pulled in a new direction.

Head boy Tayjus B-M leads the company as Gomez, the amorous patriarch, whose devotion to his family, especially wife Morticia, played by Harriet C is evident from the opening number 'When You're An Addams', a rip-roaring ensemble number featuring the Addams' ancestors, an outstanding troupe of dancers expertly captained by Charlotte D. Uncle Fester, superbly played by Sulayman B, calls upon the ancestors for help with a family emergency: Wednesday, Gomez and Morticia's dark and sadistic daughter, has fallen in love ... with a boy from Ohio! What follows is a hilarious caper as Wednesday and her new boyfriend Lucas, played respectively by Georgie M and Lucas A, attempt to introduce their equally unusual families to one



CAPTION

1 Earlier this term, BGS presented 'The Addams Family' to sell out audiences each night – it truly was a spooky spectacle of talent!

another. In the Addams' mansion, however, one normal night is quite a tall order, especially as the far-from-angelic Pugsley (played wonderfully by Dermot M), devastated not to be tortured anymore by his sister, conspires to break up the happy couple by stealing a truth serum from Grandma. Lauren F plays the wickedly funny old hag, even though it later transpires that nobody knows if she's actually part of the family at all. Lucas's parents, Mal and Alice (Will S and Jessica P) learn to throw off their inhibitions and move towards the darkness. James J steals the show at the end, as the hitherto silent Lurch reveals his stunning bass vocals.

So, full disclosure: if you didn't make it down to the Hockney Theatre to see it, you missed a real treat. Congratulations to Julia Sharp and Elizabeth White for directing another outstanding BGS musical.

S SEAGER, ASSISTANT HEAD OF SIXTH FORM ENRICHMENT AND TEACHER OF ENGLISH

Head over to the BGS Flickr page to view photos from this spooktacular event >>

<https://bit.ly/taf-2024>



Addams

“...”

If you're an OB and you'd like to hear about upcoming and future events, please connect with us.

CAPTION

1 The Development Office event calendar is looking busy over the next few months, providing opportunities for OBs to reconnect, network and reminisce about all things BGS.

Exciting Alumni Events & Initiatives

As we step into Spring, the Development Office is looking ahead at a range of events to engage with OBs across the country.



We kicked off with our Swimming and Water Polo Gala earlier this month where BGS pupils took on Old Bradfordians (OBs) in an afternoon of competitive fun. Our annual Reunion Lunch returns on 20 April – this is an exciting event as it will be the first year we welcome the 1960s cohort to join us for this special occasion. As we enter May, we will be hosting social events in Leeds and London, providing the perfect opportunity for our alumni community to reconnect, network and reminisce about all things BGS.

Before our Year 13s depart for study leave, the Development Office will be holding drop-in sessions to support students setting-up LinkedIn profiles so they can begin creating their identity in the professional

world. We have a vast network of OBs on LinkedIn who are always happy to support and guide our students as they embark on their next adventure.

If you're an OB and you'd like to hear about upcoming and future events, please connect with us on LinkedIn, and ensure your details are up to date to receive publications and correspondence.

Connect with us on LinkedIn >>
<https://bit.ly/obs-linkedin>

Update your details >>
<https://bit.ly/OB-update-my-details>

A FRIIS, HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT



Young Carers Mentoring Scheme Returns to BGS

The Young Carers' mentoring scheme has made a very welcome return to Bradford Grammar School, after the pandemic and external funding cuts made it unfeasible to run successfully for the past couple of years.

Thanks to the generosity of the Parents' Association, the programme is back up and running and has already made a significant impact on some of Bradford's most vulnerable young people.

Every Monday evening, a dozen Young Carers from across Bradford come to spend time in our Sixth Form Centre to receive tuition and mentoring from Year 12 volunteers. Our volunteers offer them academic as well as emotional support, as well as advice on how to revise effectively. This not only improves the young carers' grades, but also gives them confidence in their own ability and, for a short time, they can focus on themselves and not who they are caring for at home.

The two hours are mutually beneficial, as our students have developed useful tutoring and mentoring skills. One pupil who volunteers with the programme said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience with the Bradford Young Carers scheme as it is incredibly fulfilling to help other people and it has helped me to gain confidence when speaking to new people as well as developing transferable skills that will be useful in later life as I am aiming to become a teacher."

The programme will continue running until April.

**S SEAGER, ASSISTANT HEAD OF
SIXTH FORM ENRICHMENT AND
TEACHER OF ENGLISH**

“...”

I have
thoroughly
enjoyed my
experience with
the Bradford
Young Carers
programme ...

CAPTION

1 Thanks to the generosity of the Parents' Association, the Young Carers programme returned to BGS this term.

Slopes, Sunshine, and Snowy Delights!

During February half term, the Junior Ski Trip saw 79 Year 8-10 pupils visiting Folgarida in Italy. The pupils enjoyed five days on the piste, four of which were drenched in beautiful sunshine. The advanced group also took advantage of the connection to Madonna di Campiglio, skiing the iconic Tomba Wall.

Thomas H won the Mountain Goat award, whilst Catriona W distinguished herself as a highly accomplished skier. Master of Disaster was awarded to Edward S.

The evening entertainment programme had something for everybody, with George N demonstrating a unique style on the ice-skating rink, Freddy B and Lorna Y leading the Macarena, and Samuel S delivering a great rendition of Supersonic. Evie S used tin foil to transform herself into a convincing cat, whilst Alice S's binbag biceps showed great ingenuity in the Folgarida's Top Model contest. Plenty of pizza and pasta was enjoyed by all, as was the fantastic Italian hospitality provided by the hotels.

CAPTION

1 79 Year 8-10 pupils embraced the thrill of skiing in Folgarida, Italy during February half term.

A MCOWEN, HEAD OF POLITICS, HEAD OF SIXTH FORM ENRICHMENT AND EPQ COORDINATOR



A day in the life of a Sixth Form student

Towards the end of the last term, a videographer visited BGS to capture the essence of Sixth Form life. Six Senior Prefects led the narrative - here's what one of them had to say about the experience:

"For the Senior Prefects, having the opportunity to film a 'day in the life' video and talk about our experiences at BGS was fantastic. Prior to the day, we scheduled when each of us would be busy, to ensure that all parts of our day were covered. Getting to spend the day as a team talking about the things each of us love was a real privilege. For me, having the chance to talk about the opportunity for expression in art was hugely important. Fortunately, the British weather went in our favour, and we all enjoyed watching each other play sport and chat about our experiences and success in the sporting world.

The staff were incredibly helpful in making us feel comfortable talking about our daily lives and more personal things, like our relationships with subject teachers. These relationships are very important as, in Sixth Form, work is enjoyable and able to be of tailored interest.

Spotlight on ... Photography Society

The Photography Society (that now meets on a lunchtime every Tuesday in T2 at 1pm) started in 2020 when students were being taught on Microsoft Teams due to COVID-19.

Teachers were asked to share their interests and from student responses to photography competitions, the Photography Society was created. The original members of this group (and those who have subsequently joined) have continued to pursue and develop their skills in photography. Each student has developed their own style and are keen to share their particular passions, interests and styles.

**R SKELTON, HEAD OF
RELIGIOUS STUDIES**



CAPTION

1 Many thanks to our Senior Prefects who helped create the latest BGS video, showcasing the vibrant life at BGS Sixth Form.

For the six of us, extracurricular activities are hugely significant, and seeing so many examples of this in one day truly put it into perspective how lucky we are to have such resources at our disposal. There is always something to do, and I feel that the video really did this justice. In particular, Oliver said he 'felt proud to be able to show off the school and all it offers'.

The BGS value of opportunity is evident throughout the school day, and, as prefect Raza said, the video created an 'accurately enthusiastic representation of BGS'. Thankfully, the videographer managed to pick

out some useful words, because – as we found out – we are not naturals in front of the camera and were laughing much of the time!

Ultimately, all six of us thoroughly enjoyed helping to document a 'day in the life', and being given the opportunity show off our school was a genuine privilege."

**ANNABEL P, YEAR 13 STUDENT AND
SENIOR PREFECT**

To view the latest BGS Sixth Form video, visit >>

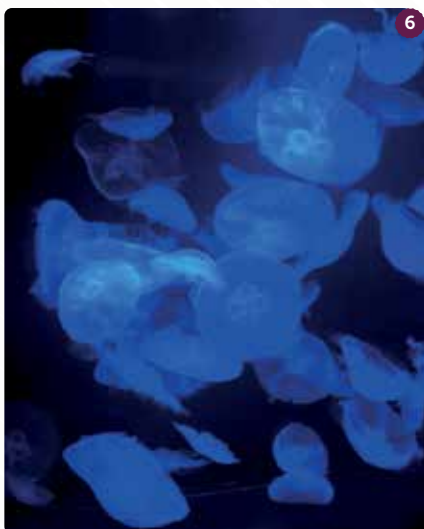
<https://bit.ly/sixth-form-video>



**1. and 2. Marcus E and
Edward M, Year 9:**

We like taking action photos (planes, cars, football, sport, etc). This skill may be used to take photos in other areas in various ways. We have shared our most popular and liked images.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



1. Freddy B, Year 9:

I take photos of landscapes when I go on holiday to places like Northumberland. I also like to take pictures of buildings and fascinating rooms like the Winter Gardens in Blackpool. I then edit and enhance colours using filters to bring out the vibrancy of the landscapes as well as taking photos in black and white which enhances the texture and contrast of the photo.

2. Dermot M, Year 9:

I take landscape pictures of beautiful scenery and also portrait photos of trees, bushes, rocks, etc. I like to take my phone on walks because I usually take photos of whatever catches my eye rather than planning it. I often edit my photos to make them more vibrant and colourful, which I think has a nice effect on pictures of nature. I think I have a unique and interesting style of photography that I have never seen before.

3. Zoila R, Year 7:

As an artist and photographer, I take pride in capturing the beauty of nature and light, usually as close-up photos. My main subjects tend to be things such as flowers or small insects – recently I have taken pictures of buildings like BGS as well, which I enjoy thoroughly. I am also fond of experimenting with filters to make my pictures become colourful and lively. Furthermore, I often edit photographs so that the colours, textures and lighting are brought out.

4. Joe B, Year 13:

I like taking photos of wildlife and motorsports. While these might seem opposed, they are both very opportunistic styles of photography, working with telephoto lenses and fast shutter speeds.

5. Lukas G, Year 9:

I enjoy taking action photos of trains and other modes of transportation, which has allowed me to get some good still photos and also panning shots, as well as landscape photos capturing the rolling countryside and urban landscape shots. I have previously used post editing to make some photos more vibrant, or to put them into black and white.

6. Haruka N, Year 7:

I like taking pictures of nature, especially when it's early in the morning and the sky is a lovely pink colour. I also enjoy capturing images of wildlife in action, for example, a butterfly as it begins to fly away. I love seeing the vibrant colours in a closeup picture. I enjoy taking beautiful photos and fiddling with the filter to make them even more colourful. My favourite filter at the moment is dramatic and noir. I also enjoy taking pictures of busy environments and looking at them after and seeing all the colours against a black and white filter.

7. Neeve M, Year 7:

For me, photography is about capturing the beauty of the world in one picture. I like taking pictures of landscapes, whether that's a city skyline or in the middle of the countryside. I especially like taking pictures of sunrises and sunsets and sometimes pictures of nature too. I mainly take pictures in colour but every so often I use filters such as black and white.

Junior



Bradford
Grammar
School
JUNIORS

SPRING
2024

EVENTS
VISITS
LIFE



Year 12



Bradford
Grammar
School
JUNIORS

Welcome!

'Watch out for the piranha pool!'

Children are encouraged to 'lean in' and push beyond their comfort zones in Clock House and our children in Year 4 took the opportunity to confront their fears on their residential this term when they braved the 'carefully risk assessed' piranha pool! Great fun all round, but important life lessons learned regarding courage, teamwork and the rewards gained from being brave and having a go!

Nine pupils were welcomed to Clock House in January across all ages ranges, and have settled in brilliantly, supported by their class buddies. We also welcomed

Mrs Laura Tapscott to the Junior School teaching team. Laura will be teaching our very first Reception class when we open in September.

High participation rates and achievement in the sporting arena have been a theme this term, with a highlight being the ongoing improvements and successes of our gymnastics team and strong results from our cross-country runners.

We thank our Estates and IT teams for their ongoing refurbishment work to ensure that the Junior School classrooms are state of the art learning environments for the

children. Standards are set high here at BGS in all aspects of what the school provides and the smallest detail makes a huge difference.

This is an exciting place to be and a true growth environment. Just watch out for the piranhas!

I hope you enjoy finding out more about life in the Junior School.

Mr Richard Ribeiro
Junior School Headmaster

APR/MAY

15 April
Science Week
17 April – 19 April
Year 5 Residential Trip to
Bewerley Park
24 April - 26 April
Year 3 Residential Trip to
Ingleborough Hall
27 April
Spring Fair
2 May
Open Morning
15 May – 17 May
Year 6 Residential Trip to
the Lake District
21 May
Brownlee Foundation
Triathlon

JUN

7 June – 8 June
Year 2 Residential Trip to
Borrowdale
11 June
Sports Day
18 June
New Pupils' Day
25 June
Year 6 Production
26 June
Grandparents' Day

JUL

1 July
Year 6 to Year 7
Transition Day
2 July
Year 6 Leavers' Trip
4 July
Clock House Prize Giving
event (afternoon event)

*All events may be
subject to change

Keep yourself up-to-date!

LATEST STORIES ...

bradfordgrammar.com/news

LATEST EVENTS ...

bradfordgrammar.com/events

IN THE PRESS ...

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



Search for Bradford Grammar School
Facebook – @BGSclockhouse

“...”
Oliver has
worked
relentlessly to
achieve this role
and attended
practices four
times a week.



CAPTIONS

1 Oliver in Year 6 plays the part of Harry in Opera North's production of Benjamin Britten's Opera, Albert Herring.

Oliver's Operatic Success

Since October last year, Year 6 pupil Oliver M has been attending rehearsals at Opera North in Leeds for their production of Benjamin Britten's Opera, Albert Herring. It is a fully professional production, with an orchestra and many adult singers, with national newspapers attending opening night on Friday 12 January to write their reviews.

To be part of this performance, Oliver auditioned and was selected to play the part of Harry. Oliver is just one of two children within the cast of this opera. He worked relentlessly to achieve this role and attended practices four times a week.

When he found out about his prestigious invitation, he was overjoyed with happiness since it was his second opera with Opera North. He was quite nervous before going on stage for the first of a series of shows. Fortunately, everyone was very welcoming, and he had made lots of friends. His singing teacher, who he respects very much, is called Heather Watts.

Oliver was nine years old when he first started singing in the Children's Chorus of Opera North (ONCC) and he hopes to continue his amazing journey and be selected for solo parts in further productions. We wish him every success!

The production was filmed at the end of February and is available to watch online through Operavision.

ANNA R AND RUSHDA R, YEAR 6 PUPILS

CAPTIONS
1 to 3 Gymnastics at
BGS is going from
strength to strength!



Gymnastics competitions

Super Achievements in Newcastle!

On Friday 26 January, BGS took part in a gymnastics competition at RGS Newcastle. All the gymnasts that represented BGS performed well – it was a fantastic opportunity for those who had not competed in gymnastics before.

This was the first time boys had ever represented school in gymnastics. The boys team finished in third place overall with Ben A receiving second place on vault and Oliver G scoring the highest score on floor.

The BGS girls A team finished in fourth place, missing third place by just 0.3. Bea J scored 15.5 on floor placing her individually in fourth place and Misbah N scored 15.8 on vault placing her in second place.

In the BGS B team Amina R scored highly on the vault with 15.7 putting her in joint third place, along with Bea J and Safa N. Sophia B scored the highest floor score for the B team with a score of 14.6.

The BGS gymnasts enjoyed the day immensely. It was an eye-opening experience to those that wanted a taste of competing in the gymnastics world!

Further success in Sheffield!

On Friday 2 February, our gymnastics teams travelled to Sheffield for the annual Yorkshire Floor and Vault and the Milano Team competitions, the first time both have run alongside each other. The floor and vault involved the gymnasts performing individual floor and vault routines, and in the Milano competition they performed an additional team floor routine. This year we took a range of experienced and new gymnasts which included boys – a BGS first for these competitions.

The U14 floor and vault team consisted of pupils from Years 4 to 7 performing in an older age category. They performed their routines and vaults to perfection, with very little errors made. These gymnasts were crowned Yorkshire champions and now qualify for the National Finals in May.



Our U13 mixed team consisting of Misbah N, Bea J and Issac R entertained the judges with a synchronised team routine which also placed them in first place, making them Yorkshire champions and they now qualify for the National Finals later in March.

Such amazing achievements for our mixed team gymnasts and the first Yorkshire gold medals the school has ever won!

MISBAH N, YEAR 6 PUPIL AND R PARKINSON, TEACHER OF PE AND GAMES

House Music Competition

On 6 March, Clock House children enjoyed participating in the annual House Music Competition.

Musicians from across the Junior School came together in the Clock House Hall to showcase their talents and compete against one another in their houses with their most show-stopping pieces that they'd been relentlessly rehearsing at home.

Each pupil that entered received one point. The winners of each category then earned three points, second place received two points and third place one point. Additionally, some of the winners were invited to perform their piece(s) at either the Spring Concert or Prize Giving events.

This year, we had a variety of musicians who played different instruments from string to percussion. When every competitor had finished their pieces, the judges decided who they thought was the best in their group. The winner from each group then achieved a house music medal.

Well done to all involved and a huge thank you to Mr Brook for organising.

BEN H, YEAR 5 PUPIL



CAPTIONS
1 to 3 Well done to all our musicians who took part in this year's House Music Competition.
4 Clock House pupils enjoyed the Secret Santa event held towards the end of last term.



Secret Santa

Several Clock House pupils may have noticed that on Friday 8 December 2023, children were being called from the playground inside.

These pupils paid a small fee to take part in the annual Secret Santa event. Lots of wonderful gifts were displayed to be picked and given as a festive Christmas present to friends or relatives. All the children enjoyed this opportunity to have a bit of merry, cheerful fun!

Some children may not know what Secret Santa is. This is when someone gives someone else a present, but the receiving person does not know who gave the gift. The receiving person also gets a present for another person, but it remains a mystery who gave it to them.

KIT E, YEAR 6 PUPIL

CAPTIONS

1 Last term's book fair raised £400 which will fund more books for use in lessons and the library.

2 Years 2 and 3 performed an amazing nativity towards the end of last term.



The Book Fair

Whether it's novels or picture books, we can all agree that books are great – that is why we hosted a book fair just before the Christmas break.

We will use the profits to buy more books for use in our lessons and the library. It was held from 28 November to 4 December – thanks to all your generous purchases, we managed to raise over £400 for our fund to purchase more books.

staff running the book fair and their consistent expertise made lots of happy customers."

We do hope that this tradition of hosting a book fair will continue!

SAMUEL L, YEAR 5 PUPIL

We cannot forget about our helpers, Anna R, Georgia M, Ayla M and Tilly L who helped manage the money and reserve books for people who didn't have enough money to purchase a certain book on that day. Mrs Robertshaw-Hughes, who organised the event, had this to say: "This year's addition of the Year 6 helpers ensured that the event ran smoothly. They were a fabulous support to the team of

“...”
This year's addition of the Year 6 helpers ensured that the event ran smoothly.

Year 2 And 3 Nativity

For the Year 2 and 3 Nativity towards the end of last term, many children worked hard and practiced for several weeks to put on an amazing show!



There were many highlights, however when all the children sang together, the audience was blown away.

There were many, many roles but the main roles were not Mary or Joseph, but a young girl called Sarah. The audience watched in awe as the children gave it their all – the excitement of the crowd cheered on the younger pupils as they performed what they had been practising for about one and half months!

This was a fantastic event, and everyone is already looking forward to this year's nativity!

SEBASTIAN R, YEAR 6 PUPIL

Year 4 Residential

The Year 4 residential took place on 25 – 27 January 2024. The trip involved travelling to an outdoor centre called Robinwood in the market town of Todmorden. Pupils and staff were greeted with a variety of challenges to experience, and many were bursting with excitement upon arrival.



Anthina B-V, a pupil in Year 4, had a fantastic time on the trip and shared a few of her feelings and experiences. Before the trip took place, she had a range of mixed feelings including being excited and nervous. However, on the trip she conquered a lot of her fears, with the support of her group leaders! Even though things were scary, she did not dislike anything. One of her most enjoyable activities was conquering the zipline but her absolute favourite was the giant swing!

This was a fantastic residential and one to look forward to in years to come for younger pupils at Clock House! Thank you to Mr Tatham, Mrs Atkinson, Miss Yates and Mrs Watson for making the trip possible.

AAMINA U, YEAR 5 PUPIL

CAPTIONS

1 and 2 Year 4 were greeted with a variety of challenges when they visited Robinwood in January.

3 and 4 Clock House children (and staff) thoroughly enjoyed their trip to the Alhambra Theatre to watch Cinderella.

Alhambra Theatre Visit



On Tuesday 12 December, all of the Junior School went to the Alhambra Theatre to watch the Cinderella pantomime. The Alhambra Theatre is in the centre of Bradford and was built in 1914. The reason for the Alhambra's popularity and significance is that it is one of the most stunning theatres in the country.

The bus journey was quite short, and many children occupied themselves by playing games. Pupils were filled with excitement before the show, and we were also provided with refreshments by our class teachers. Before the show began, Christmas music was being played and the curtains with lovely designs adorned the stage. The whole room was filled with eye-catching, bright colours. Due to the lights at the front of the stage, the red curtains looked magenta!

Here is Year 6 pupil Hamnah C's opinion of the Alhambra Theatre visit:

What was your favourite part?
My favourite part was when the actors began saying the tongue twisters – it was very funny since they were mixing up their words.

What was your least favourite part?
My least favourite characters were the witch and stepsisters, so my least favourite part was when they made an appearance.

Hamnah said she found the pantomime quite funny and enjoyed it a lot.

It was my first time going to the Alhambra Theatre – it was a fantastic experience, and I enjoyed the pantomime greatly! There were excellent effects, and I was mesmerised throughout the whole show!

The whole school enjoyed the pantomime and found it an unforgettable experience!

MARYAM A, YEAR 6 PUPIL





Round up of Life at Clock House

Welcome to a round up of life at Clock House during the term, including climate projects and a Book and a Brew event.



1. Year 2 – DT lesson

As part of our Cooking and Nutrition – Design and Technology project this half term, Year 2 have been working in pairs to learn about the preparation of fruit and vegetables, in order to design healthy salads. As well as learning how to safely prepare many varieties of fruits and vegetables, the children have also enjoyed sampling their final creations.

2. Year 3 – The Iron Man

This term, Year 3 children have really enjoyed reading The Iron Man and exploring the different writing techniques used by Ted Hughes.

3. Year 4 – Tooth Decay

Year 4 enjoyed investigating the impact of a range of liquids on their teeth by soaking eggshells (to represent the enamel of the tooth) in sugary and non-sugary liquids. The children were left wondering, will anyone drink Lucozade ever again?!

4. Year 5 – Book and a Brew

Year 5 pupils and teachers recently hosted a Book and a Brew event where parents visited the library to enjoy reading a book with their children and a warm drink. Parents explored the vast range of books in our fabulous library and found out what their child's reading interests were. The Book and Brew event is extremely popular and always goes down well with both parents and pupils! We look forward to other year groups hosting their events.

5. Year 6 – Geography Climate Project

Year 6 pupils have been learning about weather and climate this half term, including what we can do to tackle climate change. There have been amazing homework projects completed on a range of environmental themes and we have been both impressed and proud of our children for their incredible efforts. We can see that the future is safe in their hands.

Meet ... Mrs Tapscott

As we undergo exciting expansion plans, our newly appointed Early Years Foundation Stage Lead, Laura Tapscott, talks about what new Reception and Year 1 pupils can look forward to in September.

"I love working with little children and I get such job satisfaction from it. For younger children, the world is so big and it's so exciting and everything you teach them is just... 'wow'. Their wonder is everything to me. When you see them going through the school, growing up, it's lovely to see them mature and know I've taught them to read and write from an early age. Their memories of their early years in school are core memories, and they're pivotal in child development.

Key Stage 1 playground, the menus for the children, all of the assessments – it's a very busy time and there's a lot of logistics!

I'm so looking forward to meeting my new pupils. One thing I loved about my last school was that it was like a family, and I know Clock House will be the same. The experience these children will get will be second to none."

Read the article on our website >> <https://bit.ly/meet-laura-tapscott>

At the moment, there are lots of projects ongoing, with the building, the budgeting, the provision for the



CAPTION

1 Laura Tapscott, our new Reception Teacher and EYFS Lead is looking forward to September when she'll meet her new pupils.

Ethan's Cross Country Journey

Ethan P is a Year 5 pupil and talented sportsman. He is a successful runner, holding the school records for Year 3 300 metres and Year 4 600 metres. In recent times, he has started to achieve great things in the long-distance running category and as such he has been interviewed about his cross country journey.



CAPTION
1 and 2 Ethan is a pupil in Year 5 and a talented sportsman.

Ethan's mum noticed that he was a fast runner from a very young age. When his family lived in London, he went to Junior Parkrun every week which is a 2k race. Ethan also used to attend an athletics class at the Sir Mo Farah Training Track at St Mary's University in Twickenham, near to where he used to live. When he moved closer to Bradford, he began running for the West Yorkshire club, Ilkley Harriers. Although he didn't begin running in West Yorkshire competitions, Ethan still trained hard, practising up to seven days a week, running twice on Wednesdays and sometimes on Sundays, and resting on Thursdays and Fridays.

Below are some of his responses to a recent interview. We wish Ethan and his team continued success for the future:

At what age did you begin long distance running?
I was eight years of age.

Have you had any successes in recent races?
I have! I finished first in an inter-school XC race and third in the Bingley Harriers Schools XC races back in September. I came 14th in my most recent West Yorkshire league race. The West Yorkshire league is made up of some of the fastest runners from each of the local clubs. I run in the under 11 category which is both Year 5 and Year 6, so I'm one of the younger runners. In the last race, I came 14th out of approximately 40 runners.

How often do you train?
My running schedule varies a lot but includes Parkrun, a 5k race on a Saturday morning. My best time for this is 21.59.

What club do you run for?
I run for the Ilkley Harriers.

Do you want to be a cross country runner when you are older?
I may do. I'm also considering being a sprinter, but you never know what the future will bring.

Have you ever achieved higher than West Yorkshire (e.g., county, national)?
I'm hoping to get to Yorkshire next academic year.

Do you recommend cross country to others?
If you have good stamina and know when to pace yourself, yes, but if you don't, it will be tiring.

ISHAAN S, YEAR 5 PUPIL