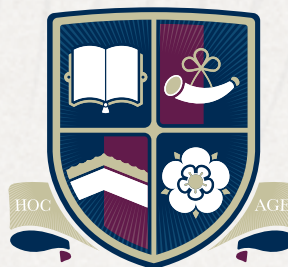


SUMMER  
2024

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



Bradford  
Grammar  
School

# Inc Age

Feature



## Lovely Leavers' Lunch

Friday 10 May saw Year 13 come together one last time for a breakfast in the sun at the Brownlee Pavilion.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12





Bradford  
Grammar  
School

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# Welcome from the Headmaster

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

You get a strong feeling for what BGS is all about, the difference it makes to people, its substance and significance, when attending Old Bradfordian (alumni) events. Happily, there have been quite a few recently. This week (at the time of writing), for example, we enjoyed a 'sell out' social near St Paul's Cathedral to mark 40 years since the first girls were welcomed at BGS. Old Bradfordians (OBs) of various vintage, including many recent leavers, gathered in good spirits to renew and strengthen friendships and forge new ones. Mrs Jane Chapman was in attendance and kindly shared a few words about her long relationship with BGS – as a teacher, mum and wife to OBs. Mrs Chapman retires at the end of this summer term, and she was our guest of honour. There is great strength and warmth in our extended school family, and these qualities reflect formative experiences in the classrooms and corridors, fields and theatre, labs and library – the list goes on – at BGS. There is something special about our School.

And the pages that follow attest to that quality. This past term I've had the privilege, once again, to witness young people at work with a spirit of enquiry and personal ambition, compete hard and fairly at sport, perform outstanding music and drama, enter and succeed in various intellectual and practical competitions and challenges, make a difference through fundraising and volunteering opportunities, head off on Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and participate in growing numbers in our CCF – the list continues to go on and on.

Those that embrace this wealth of opportunity get set for life. It's little wonder that our OBs are such a wonderful, cohesive and colourful lot, and want to give back to support our School.

Well done students and staff and thank you BGS families and supporters – it's been a characteristically busy and successful term in which you've all played a part. Wishing everyone a lovely summer break – Hoc Age!

Dr Simon Hinchliffe

**JUL/AUG**

**5 – 15 July**  
Pre-season Senior  
Rugby Development  
Tour to Canada

**5 – 19 July**  
Year 9 World Challenge  
Expedition to Morocco

**7 – 13 July**  
CCF Summer Camps

**8 – 18 July**  
Senior Netball  
Development Tour  
to Sri Lanka

**15 August**  
A Level Results Day

**AUG/SEP/OCT**

**22 August**  
GCSE Results Day

**28 August – 1 September**  
Pre-season Senior Hockey  
Girls Tournament

**11 – 13 September**  
Year 7 PGL Trip

**17 September**  
Open Morning

**5 October**  
Open Day

**10 October**  
Stay & Play Event  
(for Reception)

**OCT**

**15 October**  
Founders' Day

**22 October**  
Year 9 Faiths in the City

**22 – 26 October**  
Years 11 & 13 History  
Battlefields Trip to Ypres  
and Somme

**23 – 26 October**  
Years 10-13 Spanish  
Study Trip to Malaga  
and Cordoba

**23 – 27 October**  
Years 9 -13 Geography  
Trip to Iceland

**NOV/DEC**

**7 November**  
Sixth Form  
Information Evening

**12 November**  
Open Morning

**16 – 17 November**  
British Schools  
Orienteering  
Championships  
to Dartford

**10 December**  
Nine Lessons and Carols

**\*All events may be  
subject to change**



# Sporting Highlights

Despite the decidedly mixed weather in the first half of the summer term, there has been a wide variety of sporting action since our return in April.



## CAPTION

1 There has been a wide variety of sporting action this term including cricket, tennis, athletics and rowing.

In the first week of term, a senior cricket squad toured East Anglia with fixtures against Wisbech Grammar, Norwich School and Gresham's. There was some outstanding cricket played with captain Will L leading from the front and the tour party were a credit to the school both on and off the field. Across the age groups there's been some excellent performances both individually and collectively, including strong wins for the U13 girls and U15 boys against Woodhouse Grove. The U14A boys side have been the team of the season thus far, unbeaten at the half way stage.

The volume and quality of tennis fixtures this term has been immense. Both the girls and boys senior teams have progressed to the last 32 of their respective national schools knock-out competitions and sit one match away from a finals day in Nottingham. There have also been wider successes across the age groups in the Bradford Parks

League and LTA national knock-out competitions, and block victories over Hymers College, Woodhouse Grove and Queen Margaret's amongst others.

Athletics have had several meetings already this term, the big events being at Cleckheaton and Keighley, with successes at both Bradford Schools and West Yorkshire level.

In rowing there has been some excellent racing across all age groups. The York Regatta saw Bella M row an excellent race in her single to win the WJ16. At Eton Dorney, Edwin V-L rowed an exquisite time trial making everything look effortless to achieve an eighth place finish, placing him in the B final, beating several other big-name clubs. The Tees Regatta was a collective highlight with the girls J14 team winning the double sculls and the J13 boys winning their first ever event. This was followed up by the J14 boys winning their event before Leo M-G won the J15 single sculls.

Individually, Amelie L was selected for GB running in the European Off-Road Running Championships, which included a trip to the continent just days before a crucial A Level exam. It is testament to Amelie's hard work and conscientious approach to both her studies and her sport that she is balancing these commitments with ease. Alice S has also become a world champion in cheerleading following a competition in America.

**J MORAN, DIRECTOR OF SPORT**



# Computer Science successes!

It has been an extraordinary year for Computer Science at BGS. We kicked off with our highest-ever participation in the CyberCenturion challenge, a national cybersecurity competition.

Seven teams from the school took part along with 450 teams from across the UK and British Isles engaged in two intense rounds, showcasing their prowess in identifying security vulnerabilities across various operating systems. Notably, we proudly cheered on our inaugural all-girls team as they advanced through the initial rounds to secure a spot in the National Finals.

The Finals, hosted at Media City in Salford, saw Eliza S, Fiona L, Eloise B and Ruqaiyah A join 14 other top-tier teams from around the UK. Competing head-to-head, they demonstrated remarkable skill in uncovering vulnerabilities across three distinct operating systems, ultimately clinching the tenth position. It was a moment of immense pride for both the girls and the BGS community.



1

Further triumph awaited us in the realm of Lego Robotics. The First Lego League competition combines robot building and programming with crafting innovative projects centred around a designated theme. Finalists were drawn from 1,800 teams nationwide. This year saw BGS represented by two standout teams, 'The IncrediLEGOS' and 'Lego of My Bricks'. The teams were made up of pupils from Year 7 to Year 13. Both teams emerged triumphant in their regional contests, excelling in both robot performance and innovation.

The pinnacle of the competition, the National Final held in Harrogate on 20 April, witnessed 72 teams vying for top honours in robot games and innovation projects. Both BGS teams made it and shone brightly, with 'Lego of My Bricks' clinching the top spot for their innovation project, and 'The IncrediLEGOS' earning the esteemed Judges' Motivate Award while securing eighth position overall.

Beyond the thrill of competition and accolades, it's heartening to witness students developing a genuine passion for the subject, forging lasting friendships, and collaborating in ways they might not otherwise have the opportunity to do.

We are incredibly proud of the dedication, talent, and camaraderie demonstrated by all our students, and we look forward to building on the resounding success of this year.

**N ASGHAR, HEAD OF  
COMPUTER SCIENCE**

## CAPTIONS

- 1 Our inaugural all-girls team got all the way to the CyberCenturion National Finals..
- 2 Our two teams performed amazingly at the First Lego League competition, both making it to the UK National Finals and each bringing an award back to BGS.



2



# Triumph in the BPhO Physics Challenges

Five Year 11 pupils recently took on the challenging British Physics Olympiad (BPhO) Intermediate Physics Challenge, joining over 6,000 peers worldwide.

Each participant – Tom V, James N, Eliza S, Thomas P, and Rowan R – received recognition for their outstanding performance. Notably, Rowan's achievement earned him a coveted gold award, placing him in the top 9% of all entrants and securing an invitation to the prestigious Royal Society Annual Awards event.

In addition, 13 students from Year 12 also participated in the Senior Physics Challenge, all achieving awards. Special recognition goes to Shishir S, who attained a gold award, positioning him in the top 7% of entrants, a testament to his exceptional problem-solving abilities.

These successes not only highlight individual brilliance but also underscores the school's commitment to academic excellence. Congratulations to our exceptional pupils on their remarkable accomplishments.

**J BOARDMAN, DEPUTY HEADMASTER AND TEACHER OF PHYSICS, AND V POWNE, HEAD OF PHYSICS**



“...”

Rowan's achievement earned him a coveted gold award, placing him in the top 9% of all entrants...



## Orienteering

Following the school placing third nationally at the British Schools Championships at Temple Newsam, Leeds, in November, the team travelled to Doncaster on 21 April for the Yorkshire and Humberside Schools Championships.

As well as celebrating our Year 8, 9 and 10 boys winning teams, we were second school overall, and there were many individual successes. Pupils who were placed in the top three were Rosa W (Year 7 Girls), Sam C (Year 7 Boys), Ethan N and Oliver J (Year 8 Boys), Ross C and Fausto K (Year 9 Boys), and Joseph D and Will A (Year 10 Boys).

For some, it was their first successful completion of an orienteering race, and many others chose to have a go at two courses in one day. More importantly, the team had a fun and challenging outdoor adventure!

**D ALCOCK, TEACHER OF GEOGRAPHY**

### CAPTIONS

**1** Thomas, James, Rowan, Eliza and Tom, who each received well-deserved recognition for their performance in the BPhO Intermediate Physics Challenge.

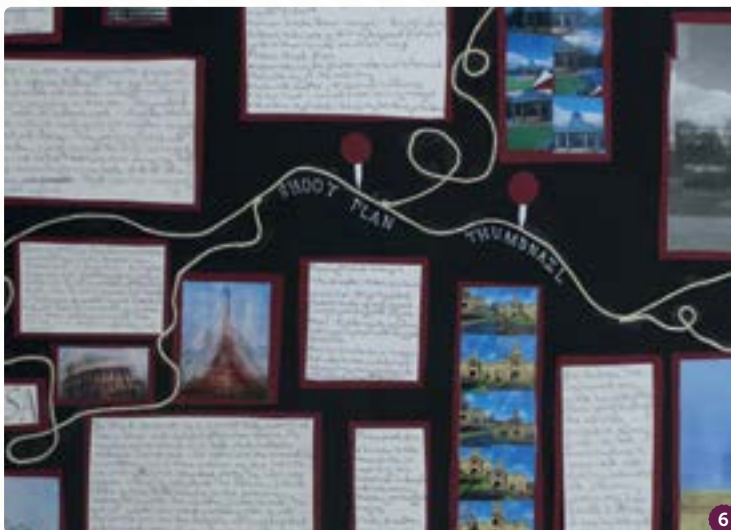
**2** Freddie W (Year 10) and George O (Year 7) were just two of the pupils that competed in the Yorkshire and Humberside Schools Championships earlier this term where we placed second school overall.





## Our artists of the term ...

- 1 Aisha B, Year 10
- 2 Aleena S, Year 10
- 3 Amalie P-S, Year 10
- 4 Daniel F, Year 10
- 5 Emma G, Year 7
- 6 Erin B, Year 10
- 7 Esmee L, Year 7
- 8 Gabrielle P, Year 7
- 9 Georgina W, Year 10
- 10 Grace M, Year 8
- 11 Haruka N, Year 7
- 12 Kathryn D, Year 10
- 13 Lucy M, Year 10
- 14 Savannah W, Year 10







8



9



10



11



12



13



14



# Music Roundup

## CAPTION

1 The Leavers' Concert at the end of April was an opportunity to say goodbye, good luck and thank you to our Year 13 musicians.



## Leavers' Concert

We held our annual Leavers' Concert at the end of April. This jam-packed concert featured all our large instrumental ensembles but also gave us a chance to say goodbye, good luck and thank you to our Year 13 leavers.

Eleven Year 13 students performed a variety of solos, from Rihanna and Saint-Saëns to ABBA and a movement from Devienne's Flute Sonata – they really showed us how much they have contributed to music at BGS. We bid all our Year 13 musicians a fond farewell and hope they continue making music after school. The other musical items on the night were provided by our four school choirs, singing an incredibly wide variety of music from George Michael to Old Bradfordian, Frederick Delius. Our large ensembles wowed us with a selection of film music and choreographed items, from Concert Band and our Soul Band, Dixieland Crackerjacks, Wickermen and Big Band, they treated us to some real show-stopping numbers by Nile Rodgers, Lin Manuel Miranda and Bret Zvacek. It was a wonderful evening – congratulations to all involved and to the hundreds in our wonderfully supportive audience!

“...”

We bid all our Year 13 musicians a fond farewell and hope they continue making music after school.

## Trinity and Associated Board Exam Results

At the end of the spring term, we had another wonderful set of Trinity and Associated Board exams.

A special thank you must go to our wonderful team of Visiting Music Teachers for their superb teaching. Over 400 music lessons are taught each week in school on all orchestral and band instruments, voice, theory, and organ.

Would you like your child to start learning an instrument at BGS? Please complete our online form if you would >> [bradfordgrammar.com/senior-school/music-lessons](https://bradfordgrammar.com/senior-school/music-lessons)



E WHITE, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



## The BGS Book Awards 2024

The inaugural BGS Book Awards were a triumph. Pupils and staff alike truly entered into the spirit of the competition, with logos designed by Year 6 Book Club and library displays curated by Mrs Park and Miss Heywood.

### CAPTION

1 The debut BGS Book Awards were a resounding success, with enthusiastic participation from both students and staff, fully embracing the spirit of the competition.



“...”

... Pupils were encouraged to review the nominations. Some were so popular that there are still waiting lists to read them!

The school community were asked to nominate their favourite books published in 2023. These were split into four categories: Junior, Year 7+, Year 9+ and YA/Staff. Voting went live on World Book Day (7 March), and the votes were soon pouring in. Bookmarks and posters were made, and pupils were encouraged to review the nominations. Some were so popular that there are still waiting lists to read them!

Voting closed on 12 April and an exciting morning was spent collating the votes. Some books were neck and neck, while others soared to a winning spot, leaving rivals in the dust.

The winners were announced on 23 April:

- Junior category winner: Wonka by Sibéal Pounder
- Year 7+ category winner: Percy Jackson and the Chalice of the Gods by Rick Riordan
- Year 9+ category winner: The Theory of Everything Else by Dan Schreiber
- YA/Staff winner: Yellowface by Rebecca F. Kuang

Thank you to everyone who helped make the awards a success!

**B HEYWOOD, SENIOR LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES ASSISTANT**



**CAPTION**  
1 Old Bradfordian Emile Cairess (2016) secured an impressive third place at the 2024 London Marathon, earning himself an automatic spot at the upcoming Paris Olympics. Photograph: Tom Jenkins, The Guardian.



# Emile's Epic Marathon Triumph and Old Bradfordian Celebrations

## Emile's Home Run

We are always immensely proud of our Old Bradfordians' (OB) achievements, and April brought us a shining example of 'Hoc Age' spirit in action.

Emile Cairess (2016) made headlines by securing a third place finish out of 53,000 runners in the 2024 London Marathon. This remarkable feat makes Emile the second-fastest British marathon runner ever, earning him an automatic spot in the Paris Olympic Games. We eagerly anticipate watching him compete in the Olympics in a few weeks and extend our best wishes to him from everyone at BGS.

## Old Bradfordian Events

The past three months have been a whirlwind of social events for our Old Bradfordians, featuring reunions, a swimming and water polo gala, hockey and cricket festivals, and culminating in rugby matches and the Ilkley 7s.

It has been wonderful to see so many OBs from various years participating and competing against our current students in these sports.

One standout event was May's London Social, where we celebrated 40 years of girls at BGS in collaboration with the Old Bradfordians Club (London). Assistant Head Jane Chapman was our guest of honour and attended with her family and over a hundred OBs to reminisce and share memories. As Jane retires after 35 years at BGS, she fondly recalled the early days of girls joining the school before it became fully co-educational, paying tribute to the 1,400 girls who enriched and shaped our school:

"Our BGS girls have always fully embraced Hoc Age and school life. From the moment they arrived 40 years ago, they have enriched and developed our school in so many ways, making it what it is today."

**A BROOK, DEVELOPMENT OFFICER – ENGAGEMENT**

“...”

Our BGS girls have always fully embraced Hoc Age and school life.



## BGS Handmade Club joins #knitthestripes

The BGS Handmade Club were delighted to be a part of the community project #knitthestripes run by Sustainability Sorted and The Little Craft House to show climate change in Bradford through knitted scarves. Jody and Fiz visited BGS in March to tell us about the project and 'cast us on'.

Together, BGS contributed 12 scarves to the project. The display was featured in Victoria Hall in Saltaire as part of the Arts Trail on 5-6 May, and it visually represents how the climate has changed in Bradford over the past 170 years – from the opening of Salts Mill by Sir Titus Salt in 1853 to 2023, using data collected by the Met Office in Lister Park, just opposite school.



Each scarf represents a specific year, and each year's colour depends on the average temperature that year. The darker the blue, the cooler the temperature; the deeper the red, the warmer the temperature.

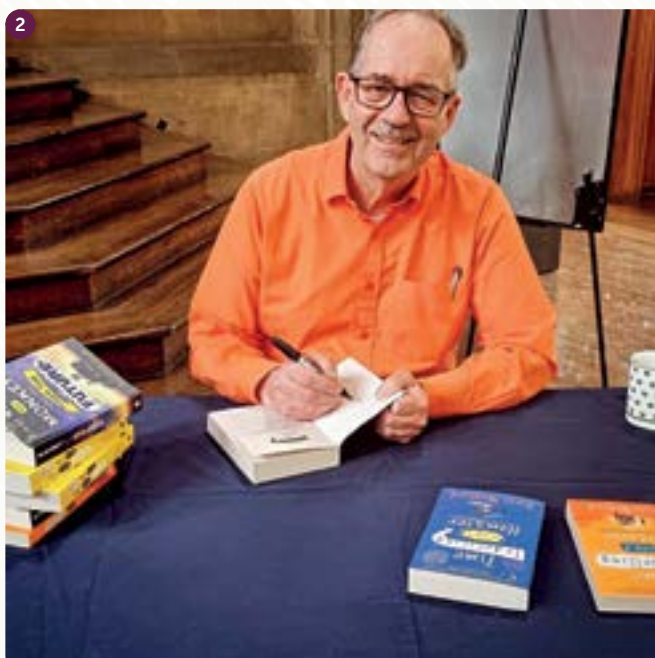
Pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed knitting their 166cm scarf and were wowed by the final piece. Did you see it? We are excited to get involved in our next group-based community project, for Bradford's City of Culture 2025. Watch this space!

**E TOMLINSON, HEAD OF YEAR 7 AND  
TEACHER OF MODERN LANGUAGES**

### CAPTIONS

1 The BGS Handmade Club were thrilled to contribute to the #knitthestripes community project.

2 We were delighted to welcome bestselling author, Ross Welford and 350 local schoolchildren to BGS earlier this term.



## A Morning of Magic and Literacy with Ross Welford

As part of our partnership with Ilkley Literature Festival, we had the pleasure of welcoming the esteemed bestselling children's author Ross Welford to Bradford Grammar School on Tuesday 16 April.

Over 350 pupils from our local primary and feeder schools came along and were thoroughly entertained with Ross's superb talk and presentation, sprinkled with many magic tricks – Ross is also a member of The Magic Circle!

Ross's new book, 'Time Travelling with a Tortoise', was a big hit and we look forward to another visit from Ross in the near future.

The pupils were spellbound with all they heard and witnessed, and hopefully the event helped inspire a love of literacy.





## Fashion Show 2024

This year's Netball Fashion Show, 'Dancing through the 2000s', was a huge success.

Our Year 13 netballers had an amazing time choreographing and planning the evening, even finding the time to teach our rugby boys a few moves! The show raised money for netball at BGS, as well as the mental health charity, Mind. Alongside our senior netballers, representatives from rugby, hockey and our younger netballers had the opportunity to get involved with the dancing and they did a fabulous job modelling the clothes donated by our incredible sponsors, Prom Den, Shoushi Boutique, Fig and Willow, Tog 24 and Mountain Warehouse.

The Fashion Show is a fantastic way to bring the netball community together – it can only go ahead with the dedication of our students, teachers, parents and supporters. For many involved, it also acts as a finale for BGS sport, as the year comes to a close and our Year 13s move on to their next chapters as adults.

It has been incredible to see so many people supporting our girls this year, and we look forward to another successful year ahead.

**L KELLY, ACTING SPECIALIST SPORTS COACH, NETBALL**

### CAPTIONS

**1** This year's Fashion Show raised funds for netball at BGS and the mental health charity, Mind.

**2 to 4** The sun shone down on a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon for this year's Leavers' Lunch.

## Leavers' Lunch 2024

Friday 10 May saw Year 13 come together one last time for a breakfast in the sun at the Brownlee Pavilion.

Their final assembly in the Hockney Theatre followed shortly after where more than a few emotional tears were shed as students enjoyed their traditional 'then and now' photo reel. Some warm and reflective words of acknowledgment and encouragement to our newest Old Bradfordians followed from Mr McOwen, then it was time to delve into the photo archives organised by Mrs Flaherty, which featured many highlights over the years. The assembly concluded with some outstanding musical contributions featuring Year 13's own rap duo, a poignant duet by Maryam M and Serena K, and two whole year group sing-alongs – one to a One Direction classic ('a whole lot of history', anyone?).



With Leavers' Yearbooks in hand, it was then time for a delicious barbecue lunch back at the Pavilion before joining parents on the Terrace and Governors' Lawn for the Leavers' Lunch, and another great BGS tradition – the inter form tug-of-war competition with Mr Pullen in his element at the helm.

As the Year 13 parents proved victorious against Year 13 in the finale, a vintage ice cream trailer arrived to surprise us, and slushies and ice creams were devoured as the sun shone down on a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon of celebration, and on the culmination of long and successful BGS school careers.

**R MCOWEN, HEAD OF YEAR 13 AND TEACHER OF MUSIC**

View the Flickr album for this event at >>  
<https://bit.ly/leavers-lunch-2024>





# Senior Ski Trip to the Rockies

It was pitch black when we finally arrived in Jasper, 30 hours after we had left school – we had no idea we were actually surrounded by the great Rocky Mountains!

We had come to experience all that Jasper had to offer and it didn't disappoint. Jasper ski resort is at Marmot Basin, in Canada's beautiful Jasper National Park in Alberta on the eastern edge of the Rockies. Despite warnings to prepare for the -20°C temperatures on the mountain, it rarely dropped below -5°C – the conditions were perfect throughout the week with blue sky skiing in a pristine wilderness.



## CAPTION

1 to 2 The Senior Ski Trip to Jasper, Canada was a trip to remember!

The skiing was fantastic, with a variety of runs for all levels. Highlights included runs like Spillway, Highway 16, Exhibition and Holy Guacamole.

One evening we took a fantastic trip to a wilderness location to make smores over a fire. We explored a frozen lake with a park ranger which overlooked Mount Edith Cavell. The ranger talked about the history of the park and educated us about the local wildlife.



We also went swimming, ice skating, watched a local ice hockey session, took trips into the town of Jasper, ate huge ice creams and chilled out in the outdoor hot tub.

Spending time with friends doing a sport you love is a real privilege and has created lifelong memories. Thank you to Mr Taylor who organised the trip and to all the teachers who made it so great.

**PENNY B, YEAR 12 STUDENT**

## “...”

One evening we took a fantastic trip to a wilderness location to make smores over a fire.



Opal Coast Trip

During the Easter holiday, a group of Year 7, 8 and 12 students embarked on a long weekend trip to the Opal Coast in northern France.

The adventure began at 5.30am and after a lengthy journey, we arrived in Desvres by 6pm. Our first evening was spent meeting our animateur Julio, being shown around the hotel grounds, unpacking, and enjoying our first French evening meal.

On the second day, we visited Le Touquet market with five euros per group to buy sandwich ingredients for a competition. Despite allegedly crafting the best sandwich, Year 12 lost the contest to Year 7. We then toured La Chocolaterie de Beussent, sampling praline chocolate and buying treats.

The highlight of the trip was the visit to the Sea Life Centre in Boulogne-sur-mer, where pupils enjoyed the sights and learned fascinating sea life facts. Afterwards, we visited La Coupole, a decommissioned Nazi missile bunker, which particularly interested our history enthusiasts.



On the final evening after the evening meal, pupils had the opportunity to taste some escargots. They were surprisingly popular!

On the final day, after breakfast and packing, there was a quick visit to a local art workshop where pupils made their own notebook. Thanks to a slow queue at passport control, we almost missed the ferry back to England but made it just in time thanks to our driver. A quick stop at a service station meant that we returned to Bradford by 11pm, concluding a memorable trip.

K WHYTE, HEAD OF FRENCH AND TEACHER OF MODERN LANGUAGES



Spotlight on ... Duke of Edinburgh's Award

After the lockdown years, the award is finally back up and running and thriving across all three levels.

The DofE Award has always attracted large numbers of students interested in gaining additional experiences and skills, and at BGS numbers are booming. The award now has three members of staff to manage the three different levels: Mr Hoath at Gold, Mrs Heywood at Silver and newly appointed Mr Winstanley is the leader of the Bronze Award.

The summer term was very busy with expedition season and this year we had over 200 students participating in the Bronze expedition to Brimham, Silver to Nidderdale and Kettlewell, and Gold to Kentmere and Buttermere.

The numbers of students showing the commitment and determination to complete their award has gone up tremendously over the years and we have almost 150 students who have received their Gold award to date. The most recent received their Gold Award certificates from HRH Prince Edward, The Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace in May.

S HOATH, TEACHER OF BIOLOGY AND DofE AWARD LEADER



CAPTIONS  
1 to 2 Years 7, 8 and 12 students enjoyed their trip to the Opal Coast during the Easter break.  
3 to 5 This term has been busy with Bronze (5), Silver (3) and Gold (4) DofE expeditions taking place.



# Junior



Bradford  
Grammar  
School

SUMMER  
2024

EVENTS  
VISITS  
LIFE







Bradford  
Grammar  
School  
JUNIORS

# Welcome!

The spirit of adventure is alive and well in the Junior School, with pupils embarking on their annual residential visits during this term.

Year 3 children led the way with their stay at Ingleborough Hall, followed by pupils in Year 5, who travelled to North Yorkshire to discover more about rivers and the ecology of the River Nidd. Finally, our Year 6 pupils visited Windermere for an activity-based trip with Carnegie Outdoors. These residential visits provide a vital opportunity to bring learning to life and for our pupils to work together, build confidence and of course, to have a lot of fun, whilst outdoors!

I continue to be impressed by our Junior School pupils and how they conduct themselves when representing the School. I was

delighted to hear that the YHA staff at Windermere told us that our children were consistently polite and well-mannered and that even during the excitement of visiting the tuck shop, the children lined up patiently and said please and thank you. Manners remain as important as ever.

In other news, the American President, John F Kennedy, is quoted to have said, "We choose to go to the moon, not because it is easy but because it is hard", which leads me to the Junior School's successful bid to bring moon rocks and meteorite samples to Clock House in April. These

samples were collected during the original Apollo missions and this 'once in a generation' opportunity enabled our pupils and their families to hold in their hands an actual piece of the moon!

I hope you enjoy reading more about life at Clock House this term and hearing from our budding Junior Journalists.

Mr Richard Ribeiro  
Junior School Headmaster

## SEPT-OCT

12 September  
Autumn Welcome Event  
17 September  
Open Morning  
5 October  
Open Day  
10 October  
Stay & Play Event  
(for Reception)  
15 October  
Founders' Day  
18, 22 & 23 October  
Harvest Appeal events

## NOV

12 November  
Open Morning  
27 & 28 November  
Parents' Consultations

## DEC

5 & 6 December  
Secret Santa events  
10 December  
Reception, Year 1 & 2  
Nativity  
17 December  
Years 3, 4, 5 & 6  
Christmas Concert

\*All events may be  
subject to change

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# Year 5 and 6 Conquer the Great Outdoors!

## Hoc Age on Hols!

Our school motto 'Hoc Age', meaning 'get on and do it', was embodied by Year 5 as they headed out on their residential to Pateley Bridge.

It was time for their first activity and one group started off with rock climbing in the beautiful Brimham Rocks. The team had fun, but at first, some children were slightly nervous. Ingrid W-W was unsure at the start of the rock-climbing activity, but her friends encouraged her which gave her more confidence as the activity progressed. It involved squeezing through small gaps, bouldering, and an obstacle course. In the end, Ingrid managed to do everything alongside her team, who congratulated her for her determination and courage.

Further school values were demonstrated by many of the Year 5 children and Finlay A's compassion and kindness in the dorms made sure everyone got involved, even if they were not friends at first.

We spoke to some individuals who were on the residential about how they would describe the site. One pupil said, "When I arrived, I instantly loved the look of the dorms, the climbing and the leap of faith. I couldn't wait to give it a go!"

Residentials are important to build character and friendships along the way. It is also vital to take time away from screens and to develop self-confidence. These visits are a lot of fun, and a broad experience for children to enjoy with their friends.

**BEN H AND ISHAAN S (YEAR 5)**



## In the Wilds of Windermere

On Wednesday 15 May, Year 6 embarked on a trip to rural Windermere. Pupils faced challenges of canoeing, walking a huge distance and climbing, yes, ... a huge hill! Windermere is famed for its vast lake which spans over 18km and its natural beauty.

Many would agree that the days were never-ending, filled with activities, laughs and endless enjoyments, described by one eager pupil as, "A really fun trip. I enjoyed it."

Groups were set off, equipped, ready for the adventure of a lifetime, with their friends by their sides. Whilst canoeing, the children met challenges including racing around their instructor, resulting in paddle pandemonium! During the walk, the children saw the serene Windermere Lake and cute looking lambs – a springtime treat for all involved! In climbing, they endured feats of climbing up steep and perilous mountains of rock, it was a nerve-racking seven meters high, enough to challenge even the most intrepid explorers.

Leaving was sad for the pupils, but they knew it wouldn't be too long until their next adventure at the start of Year 7!

**MARIAM A (YEAR 6)**

“...”  
A really fun trip.  
I enjoyed it.

### CAPTIONS

1 Year 5 had a great time visiting Pateley Bridge for their residential earlier this term.

2 & 3 Year 6 were sad to leave Windermere as they had so much fun on their residential in May.



# Shining Sportsmanship at Gymnastics National Finals!

**CAPTION**  
1 Year 5 pupils thoroughly enjoyed hosting their own stationery stalls as part of their PSHE Enterprise Module.

As I woke up trembling with excitement, my emotions were going on a scary roller-coaster! It was the day of the Floor and Vault National Finals in Stoke-on-Trent (21 April).

Our team consisted of five gymnasts, me (Misbah N, Year 6), Becky J (Year 9), Isaac R (Year 7), Ben A (Year 5), and Fia S (Year 9), and we performed incredibly well. By our side, our teammates supported us throughout the competition, including Bea J (Year 6), who unfortunately broke her arm just weeks beforehand and was unable to compete. She still encouraged each of us and gave us lots of support. The amazing Charlotte D (Year 11) filled in as coach for the day and created high spirits – she even made a team chant!

We were placed sixth overall out of fourteen schools – it was our first trip to the National Finals. There were notable performances from Fia who achieved sixth on vault, Isaac who individually came third overall and I was placed eleventh on floor. We were only 1.105 points away from getting a medal! It was an experience we will never forget.

**MISBAH N (YEAR 6)**



## Year 5 pupils turn classroom lessons into profitable ventures

Earlier this term, and as part of their PSHE Enterprise Module, Year 5 embarked on an exhilarating journey, hosting their own stationery stalls. From funding and planning to hosting, they were responsible for every aspect of their stalls.

During the preparation for the event, pupils engaged in an exciting game that taught them about investing. Ben H said: "I learnt how to make a profit and that sometimes in business you have to make risky decisions". The children found the game to be their favourite part of the experience, along with calculating profits and, of course, selling!

Ben, Emaad K and Abdullah I then wrote a persuasive letter to Mr Ribeiro, requesting a £150 loan to fund their stall, and explaining that the higher amount was necessary due to inflation prices.

After receiving approval, the pupils were ready for the hard work to begin. The trio carefully considered which products to sell, taking into account safety and market demand. To their amazement, they earned over £40 on just one product, the infinity pencil, in the first two sessions.

“...”

I learnt how to make a profit and that sometimes in business you have to make risky decisions.

Reflecting on their experience, Emaad described the journey as exciting, offering them a glimpse into running a business. He added how he felt like a 'mini businessman'.

The pupils managed to raise a profit of £117.38, which they donated to the children's charity, Make-A-Wish Foundation, exemplifying their commitment to giving back to the community.

Read the full article here >>  
<https://bit.ly/year-5-enterprise>





# Community Comes Together for Iftar



During Ramadan, with the support of the BGS Parents' Association, the school opened a fast together.

This was a lovely time for everyone, Senior and Junior pupils and families of all backgrounds and faiths! The community event was an opportunity for all to learn about why Muslims fast and Senior School pupils shared a talk to start the festivities.

This was the first time the school has held an Iftar event, and it was an enormous success raising over £365 for UNICEF. It was extremely popular, so much so that when the event was launched, all tickets sold out within two hours! People were exceedingly pleased with the event, which welcomed whole families including grandparents, aunts and uncles. The dining room was filled with eye-catching decorations. There were numerous delicious treats, and the room was bubbling with lots of overjoyed people and was filled with warmth!

We spoke to a Year 5 pupil who said, "During the school day, I was overflowing with excitement for the Iftar event. Some of my friends were going and they were also like volcanoes – about to erupt with joy! When the school day ended, I was thrilled for the Iftar to happen. After school, I went home and wore a red dress with little gems! When I arrived, I sat down and talked to my friends. The decorations were amazing, and the food was nice! I was incredibly pleased with the whole event and really enjoyed it."

MARYAM A (YEAR 6)

**CAPTION**  
1 Our first Iftar event was a huge success, bringing families of all backgrounds and faiths together and raising funds for UNICEF.

“...”  
During the school day, I was overflowing with excitement for the Iftar event.





**CAPTION**

1 Clock House pupils were given the opportunity to touch a 1.2 billion-year-old piece of Mars rock and a 4.3 billion-year-old nickel meteorite during a series of science lessons earlier in the term.

# “...” Rare space rocks land at Clock House

It was really enjoyable, especially the experiments.

Clock House pupils had a ‘once in a lifetime chance’ to get their hands-on rare samples of moon rocks and meteorites during a series of science lessons earlier this term.

Pupils were encouraged to learn more about the Universe during a week-long interactive experience of astronomy and were given the opportunity to touch a 1.2 billion-year-old piece of Mars rock and a 4.3 billion-year-old nickel meteorite – the latter of which had fallen to Earth from space. The lunar samples were collected in the late 1960s and early 1970s during some of NASA’s first manned space missions to the Moon.

During the manned space missions to the Moon, a staggering 382kg of material was brought back to Earth – mostly for use by scientists, but small quantities were used to develop educational packs.

Read the full story here >>  
<https://bit.ly/space-rocks-land-at-clock-house>



Year 4 pupil, Jacob L, said: “It was really enjoyable, especially the experiments. My favourite was the footsteps on the moon experiment with sand and flour.”

Amelia S, also in Year 4, said: “It was a once in a lifetime chance to have the moon rocks in school. We got to touch the Moon. It was really incredible.”



# Round up of life at Clock House

Welcome to a round up of life at Clock House during the term, including residentials, the Spring Fair and Bee-Bots!

1. Our Year 3 explorers enjoyed the outdoors during their residential visit to Clapham – gorge scrambling was one of the fun activities the children experienced!

2. We welcomed our new House Captains at the beginning of term – a collective highlight was leading their teams at Sports Day.

3. This year's Spring Fair was full of fun and fundraising! Ben A in Year 5 enjoyed diving (in slime) for sea creatures!



4. Clock House children across the whole school had a blast on the Governors' Lawn on a sunny day in May. Rolling down the hill was a popular activity!

5. In Science, Year 5 investigated air resistance and surface area by making paper airplanes and releasing them off the Price Hall balcony.

6. Our Year 2 children got hands on with practical programming in their IT lessons and enjoyed using the Bee-Bots.





**CAPTION**  
1 Lily's favourite sport is netball, and she loves the BGS sports barn as it means she can play whatever the weather!

# "There's loads on offer here – it's really cool and I'm very lucky"

We caught up with Lily T in Year 4 who shared her hobbies, dreams and accomplishments, and offered a glimpse into life at Clock House.

"I joined Clock House in Year 2. My sister Isobel was already at BGS and had just moved over to the Senior School. She's a few years older than me.

I'm now in Year 4 and Isobel is in Year 9. I think we'll both stay at BGS right to the end, as we both really love it here!

I get on the school bus each morning with my sister. I'm used to it by now, but I remember feeling a little nervous the first time I did it. It was nice to have Isobel with me to ease my nerves, but I had nothing to worry about! It's quite fun taking the bus to school. When we get to school, I walk up to the Clock House playground, where I play with my friends before we line up and go inside for registration. We usually play tig, stuck in the mud or families. My teacher is Mrs Watson, and she takes us for most of our lessons. We have specialist teachers for certain subjects like Art, DT and PE. Mrs Watson is really nice and sometimes she lets us have an extra playtime!

I enjoy all my subjects, particularly DT and PE.

We get to do loads of fun things at Clock House – we're doing different experiments in science at the moment, and in PE we're doing gymnastics and athletics. My favourite sport though is netball and having indoor courts in the sports barn means we can play whatever the weather.

There are so many clubs at Clock House. My favourites are netball on Monday lunchtimes and Irish Dancing on Thursdays. Netball is my absolute favourite. I play in the school team and for Oldham Netball Club U10s – we are called the Red Kites. I play up a year which means I'm one of the youngest in the team. My sister also plays netball, and it was my dad who encouraged me to also give it a go. He took me to Oldham, and I really enjoyed it. I've been playing for two years now and have made so many friends there. I train up to three times a week, plus we have matches on Sundays.



As I am a shooter, it's important to practise my shots as much as possible and I try to do at least 200 a day.

I have to make sure when I get any homework, to do it as soon as I can – I work it around when I'm playing netball and I always get it done on time!

Through school, I recently competed in the U11 North East Primary Schools Netball Championships and we won! I was super proud – especially because I scored the winning goal and was also awarded player of the tournament. My teammates were all in Year 6, so I was a little nervous at first, but the nerves soon went away, and we played really well together.

With my Oldham team, we recently won the ENG U10 Northern Cup Finals – I was also player of the

tournament and scored a long bomb on the final buzzer. It was an amazing feeling. We have now qualified for the national finals in April near London.

I really admire Eleanor Cardwell who plays as goal shooter for England.

She is very inspirational, and watching her play helps improve my gameplay. I'd love to play netball for England one day and be the next Eleanor!

I really like how big Bradford Grammar School is – that there's a separate Junior and Senior School but that we share lots of things like the sport facilities, DT rooms and library. There's loads on offer here – it's really cool and I'm very lucky."

Read more Junior School case studies here >>  
<https://bit.ly/case-studies-junior>





## “Being a buddy makes me happy”

David B is a Reading Ambassador and was a Buddy for another Year 6 pupil, Kit, when he joined the school. He talks about why he loves reading to the younger children and why he appreciated having a buddy.

You're one of the Junior School's Reading Ambassadors, David. What does it entail?

It's where kids from Years 2, 3 and 4 read to those who are in Year 6. They can choose a book from the library or bring one in from home. The younger ones like the Biff and Chip books which I used to love reading. I like the adventure part of them and how they meet different people, and you learn about their history. They're fun and educational. As they're reading to me, I ask them questions such as if they like the characters, if they've read other stories by the author or if they were in that position, what would they do? I try to get them to enjoy it and engage.

“...”  
Hector made a big difference. If it wasn't for him I wouldn't have known as many people – and he's my best friend now



Why did you volunteer to become a Reading Ambassador?

I volunteered because I have a little brother and I read to him before bed, and I like looking after him. He's only three. I think it's good for the little kids. It encourages them to read at home as well as school. It's really important to read because they learn new words and they use their imaginations.

You joined BGS in Year 5 and had a buddy, Hector. What difference did Hector make to your experience of joining the Junior School?

Hector made a big difference. If it wasn't for him I wouldn't have known as many people – and he's my best friend now! He taught me everything about the school. I felt welcomed straight away and everyone was really nice. He taught me people's names. He knew I liked playing football at my old school and he told me about the football club here and I joined it. He told me about the playtime rota and different objects you can play with. I joined the cricket club, the tennis club, the table tennis club and the rugby club. He came with me at lunchtime and showed me where to go and what to do. It was great.

You, in turn, were a buddy for Kit. What made you want to be a buddy and how did you try and help him?

I wanted to be a buddy because of my younger brother, I really like looking after him. Kit joined the Junior School in Year 6 when he was ten. I think he was nervous and he was a bit quiet at first. I told him everything about the school and I told him some jokes too. (My dad always makes me laugh and he tells them to me!) I introduced Kit to my friends and now he's friends with them as well and he's got his own friends.

What is it about the Junior School that makes it a welcoming school?

I would say that it's the teachers and the pupils. They're really nice and they're understanding. I enjoy doing different activities and I really like the sports. They're good ways to meet new friends. Having a buddy is a good idea because if you're coming to the school and you don't know anyone and you're shy, you can really make them feel welcome. It makes me feel happy being one.

Read more Junior School case studies here >>  
<https://bit.ly/case-studies-junior>



## Reading Buddies

Every week our Year 6 Reading Ambassadors go to the Year 2, 3 and 4 classrooms to listen to a buddy read.

They have the opportunity to listen to the little readers flourish and help them along their reading journey. These older children record their reading in a chart so that they can see how much their buddies have improved. The young readers try extremely hard to improve their fluency and are rewarded with house points.

The Year 6 Reading Ambassadors sign their partner's reading record with positive comments and offer tips about things that they can improve on. Years 2, 3 and 4 always look forward to when the Year 6 Reading Ambassadors arrive and cannot wait to show them how much they have improved.

“Absorbing comments and doing their very best to satisfy the Reading Ambassadors has really helped the children to progress,” says English lead, Mrs Robertshaw-Hughes.

Reading buddies are a huge part of the Clock House family and we are grateful for their dedication in nurturing our younger readers.

ABRESHMINA K AND ANNA R (YEAR 6)



### CAPTIONS

- 1 Year 6 pupil, David really enjoys being a Reading Ambassador.
- 2 Our Year 2, 3 and 4 children always look forward to their weekly visits with the Year 6 Reading Ambassadors.





## Earth Day Excellence

Chatter flowed through the classroom like an enormous tsunami as everyone discussed the effects of plastic use and a variety of facts quickly became well known.

Earth Day is held annually to raise awareness about the dreadful impact of things that affect our planet. The theme for 2024 was 'Planet Versus Plastic' and pupils were encouraged to participate in activities related to this annual theme. This included things such as a door decorating extravaganza and a birdhouse building workshop of wonders.

In the competition, pupils were encouraged to decorate their classroom doors with things related to the consequences of plastic use. Each class worked together to research and create their masterpieces and all the doors were extremely colourful after a few hours of demanding work, using basic, environmentally friendly supplies. They were viewed by special judges from the Senior School and eventually a winner was announced – 4AM!

The planet is benefiting from these yearly Earth Days, and we hope that they continue to keep our planet a lovely, clean place to live, and that pollution is reduced drastically over time to create a strong future for Clock House.

**SAMUEL L (YEAR 5) AND KIT E (YEAR 6)**

### CAPTIONS

**1** To celebrate Earth Day this year, pupils enjoyed participating in decorating their classroom doors.

**2** It's not just the children who are exciting about the latest Clock House developments, which include an outdoor performance space with amphitheatre.

## Junior Development Update

Significant progress has been made in the Junior School development project. The new Reception and Year 1 building looks spectacular and is beautifully situated within the School's campus, alongside the original Clock House.

The building's interior has been decorated and equipped with state-of-the-art fixed furnishings. It is a contemporary and spacious setting which draws in plenty of natural light and is a superb space in which our very youngest pupils will learn and flourish.

Ancillary works have progressed, including a brand-new playground complete with a challenging climbing structure, a tunnel, reading teepee and mini roadway for tricycles.

Outdoor learning, creativity and imaginative play are key to child development, and from September, pupils will have access to an



all-natural adventure playscape (complete with rope nets, swings and balance beams), an outdoor performance space with amphitheatre seating and a raised teaching deck in and amongst the trees in our woodland zone. These exciting new spaces are located behind the original playground and will be brought into everyday use

with the Junior School boundary extended into the woodland area.

Finally, we are now in the process of recruiting experienced teaching assistants to work with Mrs Tapscott and the teaching staff for our new Reception and Year 1 classes. We're delighted to start welcoming our

new families to view the building and outdoor spaces. Exciting times ahead for Bradford Grammar Junior School!

**R RIBEIRO, JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADMASTER**