



Bradford
Grammar
School

SPRING
2025

CHALLENGE 03-07
ARTS 08-11
COMMUNITY 12-15
LIFE 16-20
JUNIORS 21-32

Goal Age

Guarding
the goal –
honouring
the past

Year 7 pupil Ben C has showcased his goalkeeping talent on an international stage, representing Manchester City's Under-12s at the prestigious Premier League Christmas Truce Tournament in Ypres, Belgium.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 03

Feature



Bradford
Grammar
School

Welcome to this latest iteration of our termly magazine, Hoc Age.

Schools like ours are dynamic places where continuity and transformation have always been finely balanced.

Truth be told, a brief glance at our history reveals we've never been squeamish of change. New challenges and opportunities characterise the climate in which independent schools operate these days. Some of it uncomfortable, some of it exciting. But many things about BGS are age old and set in Yorkshire stone. This magazine speaks to these qualities and the abiding spirit of our pupils – hardworking, confident and capable, inclusive, loyal to and supportive of each other, eager to make a positive mark on the world, and ever ready to have a bit of fun.

Some things don't change. Some do however, and two long-serving and much-loved colleagues, who I'll be joining at an Old Bradfordians bash in an evening or two's time, have just sought my fashion (sartorial) advice for the occasion! The remit of the headmaster seemingly moves with the times too. Although my wife is stunned. Enjoy all that follows.

Simon Hinchliffe

Dr Simon Hinchliffe

LATEST BLOG ...

bradfordgrammar.com/simonsblog



APR/MAY

24 April
Junior Maths Challenge

26 April
Parents' Association Spring Fair

29 April
Leavers' Concert

May 01
Open Morning

May 01-03
Year 10 Silver DoE Practice Expedition

May 09-12
Year 9 Bronze DoE Assessed Expedition

May 15
Stay & Play

May 16
Year 7-9 Drama Production

May 16-19
Year 9 Bronze Assessed DoE Expedition

MAY/JUN

May 18-19
Year 9 Bronze Assessed Expedition 2

May 20
Brownlee Foundation Event

May 21
Year 12 Ainsdale Sands Biology Fieldwork

May 22-27
Rhineland trip

May 23
Year 7 Ilkley Walk

June 5
Year 12 Walk – Pen-y-ghent

June 10
Year 12 Higher Education Day

June 12-16
Year 12 Gold Assessed DoE Expedition

JUN

June 19
Summer Concert

June 20
Rainforest Roadshow

June 20
Year 11 Alton Towers Trip

June 21
Concert Band Evening

June 23-27
Trinity Guildhall Music Examinations and Associated Board Exams

June 25
Senior Sports Day

June 27
Speech Day

June 28-30
Year 10 Silver Assessed DoE Expedition

***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



More than just a football competition, the annual Christmas Truce Tournament blends sport and education, giving young Academy players a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made during the First World War while promoting friendship, teamwork and community.

On the pitch, Ben played a key role in Manchester City's defence, helping secure a 5-0 win against Bayer Leverkusen and a 2-0 victory over Liverpool, with the team narrowly missing out on the title after a 1-1 draw with Southampton. Off the pitch, Ben joined a wreath-laying ceremony at the Menin Gate and learnt about life in the trenches – a moving experience as his great-great-uncle lost his life in the war.

"It was amazing to represent City in Belgium. The matches were tough, but we were pleased with our performances," said Ben. "It was a great experience, and the cultural side of the tournament made it so special."

Ben, who began playing football at just four years old and was scouted by several clubs by the age of six, joined Manchester City's young player development programme, where his talent as a goalkeeper caught the eye of Giulio Romano, who is the club's Junior Academy goalkeeper coach.

He officially signed as a goalkeeper at Under-9 level and now serves as the club's goalie in the Under-12s team.

As part of City's hybrid training programme, Ben trains at the Etihad campus in Manchester three times a week and competes in matches on Sundays. He balances his football commitments with school life at BGS, where he also plays rugby for the Under-12s.

Dr Simon Hinchliffe said: "Ben's journey is a fantastic example of how talent, hard work and striking the correct balance can come together. It's not just about the matches he's played but also the character he's building – both on and off the pitch."



CAPTIONS

1 to 3 Ben outside BGS and on the training field

“...”

Ben's journey is a fantastic example of how talent, hard work and striking the right balance can come together ...

DR SIMON HINCHLIFFE



CAPTIONS

1 BGS U15 hockey squad

2 The girls showed great team spirit



U15 Girls Secure Impressive 4th Place Finish in ISHC Plate

Our U15 girls kicked off this year's ISHC with a thrilling end-to-end match against Mount St Mary's. Despite a strong performance, they narrowly lost 4-3, moving them into the plate competition.

Undeterred, the team bounced back with a dominant 4-1 victory over Wakefield Girls, with goals from Alice M, Amelia B, Annabel F and Lizzie P. Their momentum continued into the next round, where they secured a fantastic 5-2 win against The King's School, Macclesfield, with captain Amelia B earning Player of the Match.

The following rounds saw the girls triumph 3-2 over The Grammar School at Leeds and claim a hard-fought 3-1 quarter-final victory against The Grange School, Northwich, thanks to last-minute goals from Alice M and Katy H. This secured them a well-earned spot in Finals Day.

In the semi-final, the girls faced Charterhouse and held them to a 2-2 draw for much of the game.



However, their opponents' attacking strength proved too much in the final moments, resulting in a 6-2 loss.

The team then met their first-round rivals, Mount St Mary's, once again in the 3rd/4th place playoff. After an intense battle, they levelled the score at 2-2 by the final whistle, pushing the match to penalty strokes. Goalkeeper Aiza A delivered an outstanding performance, leading the game into sudden-death strokes. In a nail-biting finish, the girls narrowly lost 2-1, a tough way to end their incredible run.

Despite the heartbreak, the team can be incredibly proud of their efforts, securing a well-deserved 4th place in the U15 Girls ISHC Plate.

BGS Gymnasts Shine at Yorkshire Floor & Vault and Milano Championships

A talented squad of 16 gymnasts travelled to Headlands School in Bridlington for this year's annual Yorkshire Floor and Vault and Milano Championships, delivering outstanding performances across multiple age categories.

In the U11 Floor and Vault competition, our enthusiastic team showcased their skills, with Emerson G and Fergus G making their competitive debuts. The team performed exceptionally well, with Sofia B securing 4th place on floor and Emerson G finishing 6th on vault, earning them a well-deserved team silver medal. Meanwhile, the U11 Milano mixed team, Isla D, Niamh K and Emerson G, delivered a beautifully synchronised trio routine with excellent artistry, securing their spot at the National Finals in March.

The U14 Floor and Vault mixed team put in a stellar performance, claiming the overall gold medal and qualifying for the National Finals in May. Isaac R was a standout performer, achieving the highest floor and vault scores and earning three individual gold medals with a combined score of 30.10! Isla F placed 2nd on floor, with Bea J following closely in 3rd. On vault, Misbah N took 2nd place, while Ben A and Isla F tied for 3rd, an incredible team effort!



CAPTIONS
1 16 BGS gymnasts competed in the Championships
2 U19 gymnasts
3 U19 Milano girls' team
4 Gold medal success!

Building on their gold medal winning scores from floor and vault, the U13 Milano mixed team, Isaac R, Bea J, and Misbah N, performed a flawless trio routine, securing another gold medal and qualifying for the National Finals in March.

The U19 girls delivered elegant and original performances, with Charlotte D taking 3rd place on floor. Fia S dominated the vault event with an impressive score of 14.95, earning her the overall individual gold medal. The U19 Milano girls' team of Becky J, Charlotte D and Fia S, brought the same poise to their trio routine and, for the first time, finished in 1st place, claiming gold and securing their spot at the National Finals in March.

Overall, the competition was a tremendous success for BGS, with an impressive medal haul and a historic achievement, four teams qualifying for the National Finals! A truly remarkable performance by all.

MRS R PARKINSON, GYMNASTICS COACH. PE TEACHER. ASSISTANT HEAD OF ENRICHMENT.



Sports Highlights (Spring 2025)

CAPTIONS

- 1 Rugby 7s
- 2 The U13 Netball team reached the finals
- 3 The BGS Cross Country team
- 4 The U15 Hockey team

Since returning from the Christmas holidays there has been widespread sporting participation and performance across the age groups this term.

For the second year running, 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 some good performances, facing tough opposition, to finish 7th in Yorkshire. The U14s played superb netball throughout the day and equalled their 3rd placed finish from the previous year, narrowly missing out on National Finals qualification. All pupils and staff should be proud of their efforts. Off the back of this, the U13 team reached the finals day of the Sisters in Sport Cup at Loughborough University, which is a significant achievement to make the final 4 of this national competition.

The Rugby 7s season has started apace, with all teams having had tournament exposure. The highlight was the U13 VII winning their first two tournaments without losing a game against some of the strongest schools in the North East, before finishing runners-up in the St Peter's York 7s in another extremely competitive field.

The senior boys' tennis teams have moved through to the Year 11-13 Winter Cup Northern finals in Sunderland, with strong victories over GSAL, Stonyhurst, Birkdale, and St Peter's. In the opening week of the 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, with competitors from across West Yorkshire arriving at BGS to compete to be crowned champions.



There has been a plethora of action for our hockey players recently. The U15 girls made it to the U15 ISHC Plate finals at Nottingham, finishing 4th overall. The 1st XI girls mounted a brilliant run all the way to the semi-finals of the England Hockey Plate, agonisingly bowing out 2-1 to an excellent Uppingham side. Both the U15 and 1st XI boys reached the third round of their respective competitions. The former, having defeated Sedbergh, face the challenge of Repton in their next knock-out match.

The BGS Cross Country team has trained hard this winter, being duly rewarded with impressive results in league races. The Bradford Schools Qualifying Race at Northcliffe Park saw Elspeth H finish second Year 10 girl outright, with Olivia S finishing second in the Year 7 race, only narrowly pipped at the post by another girl. Olivia has recently been selected to run for Yorkshire. BGS has also seen success in the Bradford and Keighley School League races, securing podium finishes in tough and competitive races. A special mention must go to BGS's Years 8 and 9 girls who are increasing not only in numbers but in strength and speed, securing impressive team results across the board.

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



CAPTION

1 Venus collecting her award

Bowled over: Venus' standout season

Year 10 pupil Venus W has added more accolades to her growing list of cricketing achievements after an outstanding season with Lancashire CC.

At the Lancashire Women's County Age Group (CAG) presentation, Venus was named the CAG Player of the Year. She achieved the remarkable feat of taking two five-wicket hauls and finished as the highest wicket-taker in the country for her county age group.

Venus received her award from England wicketkeeper Ellie Threlkeld and former Lancashire captain John Abrahams.

A talented leg-spinner, Venus is part of the Thunder Academy – a regional pathway for elite female cricketers from Lancashire, Cheshire and Cumbria – and has consistently played above her age group, showcasing her skill and composure against older, more experienced players.

She said: "I'm incredibly grateful for all the opportunities and support Lancashire CC and Bradford Grammar School have given me. They've been a huge key to all my success, and I look forward to the years to come."

Headmaster Dr Simon Hinchliffe said: "Venus' talent and absolute commitment to her sport are very impressive. She's had an excellent season and we're excited to support her as she continues to flourish both on the pitch and in the classroom."

“...”

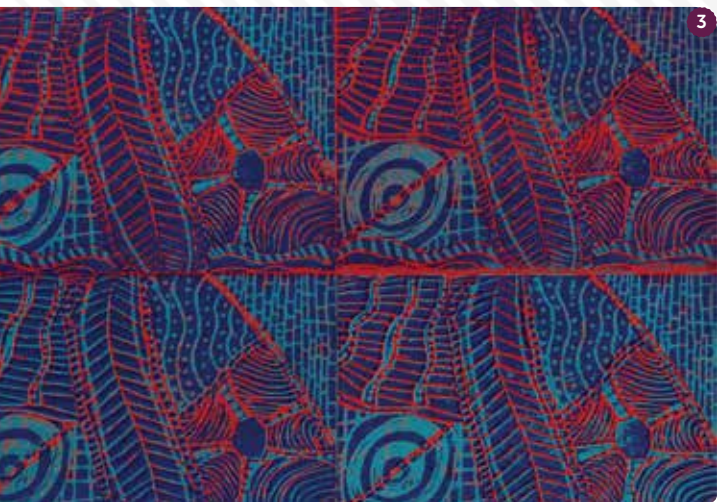
I'm incredibly grateful for all the opportunities and support Lancashire CC and Bradford Grammar School have given me.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9

Artists of the term ...

- 1 Izzy H, Year 12
- 2 Riya D, Year 12
- 3 Ishika S, Year 8
- 4 Mimi M, Year 7
- 5 Annebel W, Year 9
- 6 Daniel S, Year 10
- 7 Daniella P, Year 9
- 8 Florence A, Year 8
- 9 Aayat K, Year 10

Music Roundup

News from the Music Department

We begin this article by reflecting on the wonderful music-making that took place at Christmas, in the Price Hall and at Bradford Cathedral.

On the 11th December, our four school choirs and Senior Brass Group made the trip to Bradford Cathedral for our Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. The choirs sang a variety of music, both traditional and modern, during the service. Highlights included Handel's *And the Glory of the Lord* and Philip Wilby's *The Word Made Flesh*. The Senior Brass Ensemble truly wowed us with their performance of *The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba*; the skill and talent on display were incredible!

Our Christmas Concert, held on the penultimate day of term, was a brilliant way to round off the year. It was wonderful to see so many (700!) people in the audience for the concert, and it was an evening of fantastic music, laughter, and Christmas joy. The whole of Year 7 performed *Africa* by Toto, and the Junior Orchestra started the concert with their performance of *Mele Kalikimaka*. Our large ensembles impressed us with performances of music ranging from arrangements of musical medleys, Christmas classics, jazz numbers and an Elton John song featuring a stunning trombone solo.



3

CAPTIONS

1 Year 13 A level musician playing the trombone

2 Big Band at the Christmas Concert

3 Year 13 A level musician singing with Concert Band

Chamber Concert

Our Spring Chamber Concert, held on the 20th March, was a hugely enjoyable occasion.

Congratulations to all students who put themselves forward to perform solos to such a high standard. This concert showcases our small ensembles in school, and we were treated to music ranging from Mozart to Bluegrass Jazz, Bach to Michael Nyman. A special thank you must go to our music teachers, who put so much time into directing our school ensembles.

Choral Concert

Finally, a real highlight of this term was our Choral Concert. This concert was created to give our choirs the opportunity to sing more music and to flourish, and they did exactly that!

The first half of the concert featured our Junior Choir, Senior Chamber Choir and the Close Harmony Group, singing music ranging from classic choral items to pop and jazz numbers. The energy from the Junior Choir was infectious, and their performance of *Hey Dumba*, complete with rainforest sounds, was so atmospheric and evocative! The Senior Chamber Choir's performances of Mozart's *Ave Verum* and Bruckner's *Locus Iste* were beautiful.

Hearing *Cantique de Jean Racine* by Fauré whetted our appetites for the second half of the concert and the superb performance of the *Fauré Requiem*.

For this, the Senior Choir were accompanied by Mr. Graham Thorpe, Director of Music at Bradford Cathedral, on the organ, and a small Chamber Ensemble from the National Festival Orchestra. We welcomed back Old Bradfordian Miss Ruby Hendry to sing the beautiful *Pie Jesu* and Quentin Brown to sing the baritone solos so wonderfully. The Senior Choir rose to the challenge of singing the *Requiem* beautifully, and they have worked so hard in rehearsals, so it was wonderful to hear that hard work being rewarded. We also welcomed some 'friends of the choir' to sing with us, and we would like to thank them for joining us.



1



2



CAPTIONS

1 Ge M and James J

2 The first person dies: Will S, Ge M, Emilia B, Eva S and Georgie H

And Then There Were None

On January 30th and 31st, students treated the BGS audience to a murder mystery in the Hockney Theatre: the play version of Agatha Christie's most popular novel, *And Then There Were None*.

Set in 1930s England, the audience watched as ten strangers were gathered in a manor house on an island before being picked off, one by one. A challenging play, students had to deal with not only the emotional intensity of playing both suspects and detectives, but also the significant task of multiple onstage deaths. Each actor shone, working hard in rehearsals to create their unique and often humorous characters.

Will S's Lombard was a witty light as the darkness of the play progressed, and Ge M wowed the audience with her emotional turmoil as Vera Claythorne. James J's controlled and very powerful performance is not one the audience will forget any time soon. All the actors excelled and should be proud of themselves, particularly the Year 10s making their onstage debuts in a main school production.

The production would not have been the success it was without the superb contributions of the backstage crew: Mr Dutton and Mr Anwar surpassed themselves with the stunning atmospheric lighting and custom-made 1930s set. Thomas P put his engineering skills to work, successfully creating the first blood squib the Hockney Theatre has seen and enhancing the drama of the play's climax, and the sublime costumes were courtesy of Ms D'Arcy and her student costume team.

C BRUCE, TEACHER OF ENGLISH



“...”

Each actor shone, working hard in rehearsals to create their unique and often humorous characters.



CAPTIONS

1-4 The various locations BGS Drama students visited

Theatre Trips

This academic year, Drama students from Years 10-13 have been lucky enough to attend five theatre trips.

These were all to Leeds Playhouse – a fantastic resource to have just a short train ride from Bradford Grammar School. In September 2024, students saw Lorraine Hansberry's 'A Raisin in the Sun', a production created by Headlong theatre and directed by Tinuke Craig; our students raved about the performance of Doreene Blackstock as Lena. In October, to kick off half term in style, we went to see a very different production: Manjeet Mann's 'Run Rebel'. This production told the tale of Amber, an Asian girl who loved to run but whose family wanted her to pursue a traditional, family role.



The play was presented by Pilot Theatre and was a physical piece that combined projection with ensemble movement. In November our students not only saw PaperBird's 'Feel Me' piece on forced displacement, but they also enjoyed a practical workshop from the company in school the very next day. Finally, this half term, students have seen Frantic Assembly's 'House Party': a modern reworking of the classic 'Miss Julie' narrative with Frantic's trademark physical building blocks. A fantastic start to the year's theatre trips!

H STEELE, HEAD OF DRAMA AND TEACHER OF ENGLISH



Pulling together: BGS rowers smash target

The ROW2025 challenge at Bradford Grammar School (BGS) smashed all expectations, raising an astonishing £16,779.83 (£20,250 with gift aid) for Kidney Research UK.



CAPTIONS

- 1 Mr Darnbrough with James and Edwin
- 2 Students row for miles on the ergs

Led by England rower and Year 13 student Edwin VL, the week-long fundraiser saw BGS Boat Club, in collaboration with Bradford Amateur Rowing Club, row a collective total 3,916,765 metres – far surpassing their goal of 2,025,000 metres.

Notably, three senior members of the Boat Club – Tom V, Peter D, and Freddie W – each rowed an incredible 100km across the week, pushing themselves to the limit for the cause.

The event was inspired by Edwin's younger brother, James, who lives with a rare kidney condition, C3 glomerulonephritis (C3GN), a progressive autoimmune disease, which affects just one in a million people.

The challenge brought together over 140 rowers, including students, staff, parents, members of the local rowing community and wider friends and family across the UK and Europe. Participants rowed on ergometers at BGS or joined remotely, each contributing metres towards the ambitious goal of rowing the distance from Bradford to Africa.

Reflecting on the success, Edwin, the captain of the School's Boat Club, said: "We never imagined we would raise this much money. The support has been fantastic; it's a testament to the strength and unity of our rowing community. Seeing everyone pull together for Kidney Research UK has been incredibly moving."

James, a Year 10 student at BGS, added: "It's been really amazing watching so many people get involved. It's been tough living with C3GN, so it's been great to be part of something so positive. I certainly wanted to raise awareness of how important kidneys are, and hope the money raised leads to discoveries which help people suffering with kidney problems."

Their mum, Sarah, echoed their sentiments: "We are completely overwhelmed by the generosity and dedication of everyone who took part. It's been an emotional but uplifting experience for our family, and we're so proud of both Edwin and James."

Simon Darnbrough, Specialist Sports Coach (Rowing) at BGS, said: "I'm incredibly proud of Edwin, James and all the BGS rowers who threw themselves into this challenge with such determination and heart."

The ROW2025 challenge not only raised vital funds but also highlighted the unbreakable spirit of the BGS community. It's proof that, together, we can achieve the extraordinary."



“...”

... The support has been fantastic; it's a testament to the strength and unity of our rowing community...



Linda bids farewell to BGS after three decades of service

After more than 29 years of dedicated service, Linda Carroll has retired from Bradford Grammar School's catering team – bidding farewell to a long-standing career and a community she calls her 'family'.

Linda, 66, first joined the school in September 1995, working part-time alongside her sister, Susan. Over the years, she steadily worked her way up to the role of Catering Service Supervisor, where she managed a team, kept the canteen running smoothly and took charge of setting up for big events.

Reflecting on her time at BGS, Linda said: "One of my favourite parts of the job has always been preparing for school functions and balls. Seeing the hall beautifully decorated, knowing people would sit down to enjoy a special meal, that always gave me a real sense of pride."

Linda has witnessed the school evolve over the years, from the days of meal tickets to today's modern electronic cards. But for her, it's the people – staff and pupils alike – who have made her job special. "It is a true family here," Linda said. "I've worked with some fantastic people, and I'll really miss them. The school was incredibly kind to me when my husband, Ronnie, passed away, and that support meant the world."

CAPTIONS

- 1 Linda Carroll
2 Celebrations on Linda's final day



She has fond memories of serving meals to generations of pupils – including a young Alistair and Jonny Brownlee, now renowned Olympic athletes. "It's been a joy watching so many students grow up and go on to achieve amazing things," she said.

As Linda embarks on her retirement, she's excited to embrace a new chapter filled with travel, creative hobbies and family time. "I'm one of nine siblings, so family has always been a huge part of my life. I'm looking forward to holidays, spending more time with my sons and spoiling my granddaughter!" she said. "I'd also love to take up sewing and maybe flower arranging – something creative to keep me very busy."

“...”

It's been a joy watching so many students grow up and go on to achieve amazing things.



Olivia reunites with dad after epic Atlantic challenge

Year 7 pupil Olivia P had an unforgettable start to the year as she welcomed her father, Matthew, back from one of the world's toughest endurance races – a 3,000-mile Atlantic row.



Matthew, part of Team Graft, spent 39 days rowing across the Atlantic ocean, battling relentless waves, sleep deprivation and physical exhaustion. Rowing in two-hour shifts around the clock, the team endured storms that left them pinned down for hours, extreme heat and even a terrifying moment when a marlin pierced their boat's hull. Despite these hardships, they finished 4th overall and raised nearly £250,000 for Ronald McDonald House Charities UK.

But while he fought the elements, Olivia and her family faced their own challenge at home. "Christmas didn't feel right without him," Olivia said. "Dad is always the one making things fun, and not having him there made everything feel different."



Her mother, Steph, echoed this: "We had prepared for his absence, but the reality was harder than we imagined. Christmas was tough, but the support we had from friends, family and even people we barely knew was overwhelming. People were always checking in on us, making sure we were okay – it really reminded me how strong our community is."

During the World's Toughest Row, which saw Team Graft row from the Canary Islands to Antigua, Matthew found strength in daily satellite calls with his loved ones back home. "Hearing their voices kept me going," he said. "Out there, you realise what truly matters – family."

When the race finally ended, Matthew was met with an emotional reunion. Olivia, who had counted down the days until his return, ran to him in tears. "I squeezed him so hard; I just needed to know he was really there," she said.

“...”

It was tough, but I've realised how strong we are as a family. I'm so proud of my dad.



Matthew's efforts will provide vital support for families with seriously ill children, funding over 8,300 nights of accommodation at Ronald McDonald Houses across the UK. These houses offer a lifeline to families, allowing them to stay close to their children while they receive hospital care.

BGS Headmaster Dr Simon Hinchliffe praised Olivia's resilience: "Matthew's achievement is truly extraordinary, but what has stood out most is Olivia's resilience and maturity throughout this time. The entire Bradford Grammar School community is incredibly proud of them both."

Olivia reflected on the experience: "It was tough, but I've realised how strong we are as a family. I'm so proud of my dad."



“...”

Out there, you realise what truly matters – family ...



CAPTIONS

- 1 Olivia with her parents and little brother, William
- 2 Team Graft
- 3 Team Graft complete 3,000 miles
- 4 Celebrating 4th place
- 5 Team Graft on the water
- 6 Crossing the finishing line

CAPTION
1 Hugo M,
Arkwright Scholar

Meet our Arkwright Engineering Scholar

HUGO M, YEAR 12 STUDENT – 2024/25

We had the pleasure of catching up with Hugo, a rising star whose hard work and passion have earned him the esteemed Arkwright Engineering Scholarship. This incredible accomplishment paves the way for a bright future in innovation and technology.

What is the Arkwright Engineering Scholarship?

It's a scheme designed to help young people develop their passion and skillset to help propel them into the engineering industry. It is among the most esteemed scholarship schemes of its kind in the UK and is run by a charity called The Smallpeice Trust.

Scholars are assigned industry experts and mentors, and there are organised events where they can engage with leading professionals in the field.

What motivated you to apply for the Arkwright Scholarship? How has the school supported you?

I'm passionate about engineering and aspire to make a positive impact on the world. This scholarship seemed a great first step to take. I also wanted to challenge myself and explore the full extent of my potential.

My school and teachers have been really supportive throughout the application process, and they guided me every step of the way, helping me stay organised and on track. They even arranged mock interviews to ensure I was fully prepared.

What was the application process like?

The application process was highly competitive. It began with an online application, where I detailed my passions, past projects, and the career paths I aspire to pursue in the future. This was followed by a written exam, during which I was tasked with designing a viable product and solution to a given brief. Although the exam was stressful at first, once I got going, I thoroughly enjoyed using my creativity to develop a solution to the brief.

How did you feel when you learned you had won the scholarship?

I felt incredibly honoured to be recognised for my academic achievements and my potential to succeed in engineering. Winning the scholarship was a proud moment for me, and I'm truly grateful to the school for all the support they provided to help me reach this point.

Do you receive any benefits as a recipient of the Arkwright Scholarship?

Yes, as an Arkwright Scholar, I've been assigned a personal mentor, who I will meet virtually throughout the programme. I will also receive funding to support my own projects, provided by my sponsor, who will offer additional opportunities such as connect days and work experience. The scholarship spans two years, with the funding distributed between Year 1 and Year 2.



“...”

I felt incredibly honoured to be recognised for my academic achievements and my potential to succeed in engineering.

HUGO M, YEAR 12 STUDENT

In addition, I will have the chance to attend various networking events to connect with other scholars, alumni and industry professionals. The scholarship officially began in the first week of November with a networking event in Newcastle. This was a fantastic opportunity to learn more about the programme, meet fellow scholars and hear about their journeys, projects and aspirations.

How will you use your scholarship funding?

I plan to use my scholarship funding to support travel to connect days and engineering events. I also hope to take courses that will deepen my understanding of the sector and its inner workings. Additionally, some of the funding will go towards materials and equipment for future projects, as well as subscriptions to STEM-related media, such as aerospace or rail magazines, to stay informed and inspired.

Where did your passion for Engineering come from?

My passion for engineering started with my Grandad, who was a civil engineer and worked on incredible projects, like the Channel Tunnel. Seeing pictures of his work and hearing him talk about experiences made me think, 'I can do that too!'

I've also always been fascinated by how things work and enjoy coming up with creative solutions, especially when they can be applied to improve people's everyday lives in meaningful ways.

Can you tell us a bit about yourself and what you study?

I study Maths, Physics, Design Technology (DT) and Computing. I chose these subjects because I genuinely enjoy them, and they align perfectly with the skill set needed for a career in engineering.

Outside of my regular studies, I attend regular manufacturing sessions during lunch and after school. I'm also involved in several co-curricular clubs, such as LEGO Robotics and STEM Club. Last year, our team won first place in the UK for an innovation project in robotics, which was an exciting achievement!

Are you worried about managing this as well as your studies?

No, I think it will be well-balanced. For example, the mentor meetings are only once a month, so they're spaced out enough that they shouldn't interfere with my studies.

Since this is something I'm really passionate about, I know I'll enjoy it even if things get busy at times. Plus, my A-level subjects align closely with the scholarship, so it will feel like an extension of my learning rather than an extra burden. It's an exciting opportunity to deepen my knowledge beyond the classroom.

“...”

I've always been fascinated by how things work and enjoy coming up with creative solutions, especially when they can be applied to improve people's everyday lives.

HUGO M, YEAR 12 STUDENT

What are your plans for after BGS?

I plan to attend university to study engineering. I'm considering a general engineering course but am also interested in more specific fields like civil engineering or rail transportation. I also like the idea of a course split between business and engineering to open up more options for me in the future.

What advice would you give to anyone considering applying to Arkwright?

Go for it! It opens up so many opportunities, and if you're considering engineering, it is a good first step. There are so many routes and jobs available, you can tailor your engineering journey to suit you. Challenge yourself to solve issues and come up with better solutions to existing ideas, and most importantly, think about how you can apply your interest to the real world.

A word from Mr Taylor, Head of Design & Technology:

"Congratulations to Hugo! With his skillset, he has all the makings of an outstanding engineer. The Arkwright Scholarship marks the beginning of what will be an incredible career, and I have no doubt that Hugo will become an engineering leader of the future."

School Ski Trip to Folgarida, Italy

This February half-term, 50 students from Years 8, 9 and 10 travelled to Folgarida, Italy, for an unforgettable ski trip. The weather was perfect all week, with clear blue skies and excellent piste conditions, making it ideal for skiing.

Students spent the week in ski lessons, making very impressive progress. By the end, many students were skiing on black runs, showing just how far they had come. The trip wasn't just about skiing, though a packed programme of après-ski activities kept everyone entertained, including MaxFactor Karaoke, quizzes and a disco on the final night.

Awards were given out for various achievements. Among the winners were Oliver J, who was crowned King of the Hill, and Freddie B, who was named the Kindest Student for his constant encouragement and support of his peers throughout the week.

Overall, the trip was a fantastic mix of fun, friendship and personal achievement – one that will be remembered by all who took part!

S. DENBY, HEAD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREERS. TEACHER OF MATHEMATICS



CAPTION

1 Pupils proudly show off their medals after an incredible week of skiing fun in Folgarida, Italy.

Maths Challenge

CAPTION

1 A selection of Gold Certificate winners from the Intermediate Maths Challenge.

The United Kingdom Maths Trust is a world-renowned mathematics-based charity, whose competitions are sat by over 700,000 pupils worldwide. Bradford Grammar School's footing in these competitions has continued to go from strength to strength in recent years.



Thus far this year, we have had a combined 245 BGS pupils sitting the Intermediate and Senior Maths Challenges, with the Junior Challenge still to come. Of those 245 students, 158 have been awarded a Bronze, Silver or Gold certificate to recognise their achievements.

The highest achievers have been invited to compete in the selective follow-on rounds, including the British Maths Olympiad Round 1, sat by Year 13 students Richard W and Naglis R.

Particular attention should be drawn to Year 9 pupil Sasha P, who competed in both the Senior Challenge, aimed at Year 12s, and the Intermediate Challenge, aimed at Year 10s. She achieved a Gold award in both competitions and has been invited to compete in both the Senior Kangaroo and Cayley Olympiad.

As a department, we are proud of the mathematical prowess on display from our pupils, and we wish luck to the younger pupils who are competing in the Junior Challenge later this year.

L. WINSTANLEY, TEACHER OF MATHEMATICS

Senior Quiz Challenge

16 teams of Key Stage 5 students have signed up to be part of the inaugural Senior Quiz Challenge at Bradford Grammar School this year. Run by Mr Fordham, the society aims to take the keenest minds in Year 12 and 13 and then put them into a competition to prove once and for all who are the best quizzers.

The initial quiz saw a fierce and close competition between the entrants who were placed into their groups for the first stages of the contest. In true World Cup style, the winners of the groups will proceed to the knockout rounds until the Grand Final which will be held towards the end of this term.

The quiz matches are held on the buzzer in the University Challenge format – expect to see nervous faces being grilled in the DH room on Thursday lunchtimes. The group stages are now coming to a close after some fiercely competitive matches, with the fixture list for the knockout rounds being published shortly. All are welcome to come and view the knockout round matches!

A special BGS Student Varsity v BGS Staff contest was held in the Hockney Theatre in February. After going 75-0 down after the first three questions, things didn't look too good for the BGS Student Varsity, but a storming comeback, led by Team Captain Penny Brosnan, the students triumphed with a tense 170-145 victory over the staff. A rematch has already been demanded by both teams, so watch out for the announcement for round 2.

The deadline to apply has passed for this year, but if you think you have what it takes to be crowned Senior Quiz Champion then get revising for next years contest!

C. FORDHAM, TEACHER OF PHYSICS

Smash Hit! Anees wins volunteer award

Table tennis captain Anees K was named North East Young Volunteer of the Year at the Pride of Table Tennis Awards, recognising his dedication to both playing and giving back to the sport.

Year 8 pupil Anees picked up a paddle in Year 4 at a lunchtime club led by Mr. Crabtree, and now he is captain of BGS's U13 team. He balances schoolwork with training and volunteering at Baildon Table Tennis Club, part of the Bradford Table Tennis League.

His volunteer work extends beyond assisting with training—he plays a vital role in supporting players of all abilities, ensuring sessions run smoothly. Last year, he helped at the Bradford Bronte Rotary Disability Games, coaching less able-bodied participants in table tennis, an experience he described as "incredibly rewarding."

On receiving his award, Anees said: "It's an honour and has boosted my confidence. I enjoy helping others."

His mother, Noreen, added: "Bradford Grammar School has nurtured his talent, helping him grow as a player and volunteer. Knowing he values volunteering at this age will benefit his future."

Looking ahead, Anees hopes to play at a county or national level while pursuing his dream of being a pilot.

Headmaster Dr Simon Hinchliffe said: "Anees' story is a reminder that success isn't just about personal achievement — it's about also lifting others. His dedication to both his sport and his community reflects the values we champion at BGS."



1



2



3

CAPTION

1 Senior quiz staff versus pupils

2-3 Anees and his awards



BBC Young Reporters Festival 2025

On Tuesday 5th February, a group of Year 12 students spent the day at the University of Bradford participating in the 2025 BBC Young Reporters Festival. Held annually, Bradford was chosen as this year's location by the BBC because of its designation as the UK City of Culture.

1



2

Hosted by BBC presenters Amber Sandhu and Martin Dougan, the festival gives young people a chance to learn more about the creative and digital industries. Our students attended varied masterclasses and workshops about how to trust the news and the art of storytelling through various platforms. They also experienced conversation events with Bradford social media queen Katylee Bailey, who has over three million TikTok followers, the author A. A. Dhand, whose Virdee books have been adapted for television, and BBC Radio 1 presenters Vicky Hawkesworth and Nat O'Leary.

L HANSON, HEAD OF ENGLISH



3

CAPTIONS

- 1 Isabella Lindley and Evan Bowles quiz Radio 1 presenter Vicky Hawkesworth about how to become a broadcaster
- 2 BBC presenters Amber Sandhu and Martin Dougan
- 3 BGS Students at the Festival

“...”

It was a fascinating day learning how to forge a career in the industry.

Junior

2022

SPRING
2025

EVENTS
VISITS
LIFE



Bradford Grammar School





Bradford
Grammar
School
JUNIORS

Welcome from the Junior School Headmaster

This time last year, we welcomed our new Reception teacher and EYFS Lead, Laura Tapscott, ...

... to the Junior School in preparation for our new Reception and Year 1 cohorts starting in September 2024. It's incredible to reflect on just how much has happened since then.

Our state-of-the-art Early Years building and new outdoor play areas are now in daily use, providing vibrant spaces for learning and exploration. It has been a joy to see the strong academic foundations being carefully laid for their future learning.

The connections between all phases of the Junior School continue to grow, with Year 6 play leaders embracing their roles in supporting our youngest children. This sense of community reinforces the family feel that remains a cornerstone of BGS – a value that was at the heart of this project.

Life in the Junior School is as dynamic as ever, offering abundant opportunities for children to challenge themselves and immerse in the wide range of experiences available at BGS.

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

Mr Richard Ribeiro
Junior School Headmaster

APR/MAY

21 April
Bank Holiday
22 April
School re-opens
23-25 April
Residential Trip to the Lake District
26 April
Spring Fair
28-29 April
Yr 2 Residential Trip to Borrowdale
1 May
Open Morning
5 May
Bank Holiday
13 May
Stay & Play

MAY/JUN

14-16 May
Yr 5 Residential Trip to Beverley Park
20 May
Brownlee Triathlon
23 May
Break up for half-term
2 June
School re-opens
10 June
Sports Day
17 June
New Pupils' Day
24 June
Year 6 Production
26 June
Grandparents' Day

JUN/JUL

30 June
Year 6 to Year 7 Transition Day
1 July
Year 6 Leavers' Trip
3 July
Clock House Prize Giving (afternoon event)
4 July
Break up for Summer – 12.30

*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



CAPTION
1-2 BGS' contribution to National Poetry Day



National Poetry Day

This year, Bradford Grammar School took part in a Guinness World Record-breaking attempt for the largest multi-venue poetry lesson, alongside many other schools across the country.

“...”
We are now officially Guinness World Record breakers!

Children who participated in the record-breaking attempt gave suggestions for the poem that the host, Laura Mucha, had pre-written before the lesson. All attending children shared their ideas in the live chat, and the host selected some recurring themes. A vote was then held, allowing pupils to choose which ideas would make it into the final poem. The idea with the most votes was added permanently!

Pupils voted on many things, such as the title of the poem, whether a particular line should be included, and even the name of an axolotl!

This event gave everyone a chance to have a say in what did or didn't happen, offering the freedom to suggest any idea they could think of. This applied to all the other schools taking part in this spectacular event too.

Many pupils really enjoyed voting for their favourite ideas and shaping the poem to their will. We are now officially Guinness World Record breakers! We hope there will be more opportunities like this for pupils to participate in exciting events in the future.

BY SAMUEL L, JUNIOR JOURNALIST.

Clubs at Clock House

There are many different types of clubs at Clock House — from singing to sports, and from quietly figuring out math problems to laughing out loud with a game of football. All are opportunities for delight.

CAPTION
1 LEGO Club



Sports

Most clubs in the junior school focus on sports. Some require special kit to play, including swimming, hockey and rugby. A variety of sporting opportunities help both physical and mental well-being. Sports clubs also include fun activities and games.

Creativity

Other clubs focus on painting, shading and coding. STEM Robotics, LEGO Club and Art Club all share a passion for creativity. STEM Robotics is a mix of LEGO, science and coding. Art Club, however, focuses on projects and testing new ways to create artistic pieces.

Our clubs

As you can see, there are many clubs at Clock House, each with its own individual surprises. While some let you run around for fun, others are quiet and focused. All Clock House clubs are enjoyable and unique.

BY AYESHA A,
JUNIOR JOURNALIST, YEAR 6

Christmas in Clock House

In Clock House, we enjoyed lots of festivities, such as the pantomime for KS2. We went to see Pinocchio at the Alhambra Theatre in Bradford. It was very amusing, and they also included a fire show, which everyone loved; we were all in awe!

On December 11th, all the children in Clock House enjoyed an incredibly special Christmas dinner, which included pigs in blankets, roast potatoes, turkey, sliced carrots and stuffing alongside some gravy. For the halal option, there was turkey available, or you could choose vegetarian options instead, which included nut roast and Brussels sprouts. We all wore paper crowns.

On December 12th, we had the Christmas concert, with a new addition of the Year 3 children joining us. We sang a variety of songs, such as My Favourite Time of Year (which I highly recommend), How Many Nights till Christmas, Santa Claus is Comin' to Town, At the North

Pole, Decorating the Christmas Tree and Quand le Père Noël (which is a French song). Also the orchestra played a piece of music, which was amazing, and everyone loved it.

December 18th was the last day of school before the Christmas holidays. Pupils of Clock House spent the afternoon in classrooms with their teachers, and Year 6 watched a movie as a year group. Children were allowed to bring in snacks and eat them during the movie, which made them incredibly happy. For the rest of the day, we had lessons whilst sitting with our friends.

BY SAFA A, YEAR 6
JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Snow Day

During the first week of the spring term, a strange anomaly occurred – school was closed for the entire week due to a thick blanket of snow, covering the roads with layers of ice and frost.

To counterattack this, we were homeschooled. Tutors sent us assignments through Microsoft Teams, and we had to complete the tasks listed, such as solving maths questions, reading passages and working through comprehension exercises.

Many pupils said they enjoyed the week, as it allowed them to relax at home while still keeping up with their work. It felt like a smooth transition from the holidays back into school life.

Overall, it was a simple and yet enjoyable period for both pupils and tutors.

BY SAMUEL L,
JUNIOR JOURNALIST, YEAR 6



Opinion: The Need for Buildings in Bradford for Neuro-diverse Children

In Bradford, we have amazing places and landmarks such as Lister Park, great restaurants and the Science and Media Museum. But we don't seem to have a dedicated, beautiful space for neuro-diverse children. That is why I want to make a change and help them.

My family and I have to travel all the way to Harrogate for my brothers, and they just don't have the patience to sit in a car for an hour or more. It's a long journey, and I believe there should be a place much closer to home where they feel safe and calm.

In my opinion, neuro-diverse children need sensory activities to help them stay relaxed. Bradford has many, many restaurants, but not a single building designed for children with sensory needs. We need these spaces – they need these spaces. It would help them so much. And it wouldn't be just for neuro-diverse children – it could be open to everyone, free and inclusive.

The number of people with autism and Down syndrome has risen. There are 16.1 million people with special needs in the UK and 19% of the population in Bradford has special needs – that is a lot.

And yet, there are no buildings here to keep these children calm, happy, free and supported – something every child deserves. Right now, there is nothing in Bradford or nearby cities that provides this sense of peace.

These children don't have the same advantages as others, and I worry that in the future, life will be even harder for them. How would you feel if you didn't have the same patience as others? The same education? And if the one place that made you feel calm and safe was too far away to visit?

I would like the Bradford Council to address the needs of neuro-diverse children in our city.

BY AYESHA R YEAR 6

CAPTION
1 BGS in spring
term snow

KS1 Numeracy Days



At the beginning of term, our KS1 families were given an exciting opportunity by White Rose Education, in partnership with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, to take part in the *Family Numeracy Programme*.

The aim was to engage both adults and children in fun, practical activities designed to develop their number sense and understanding of place value. Whether using ten frames, dominoes or playing engaging card games, it was great to see how maths could be made more accessible to parents while fostering important home-school partnerships.

In each of the three sessions, our younger pupils deepened their understanding of key numeracy concepts alongside their parents and carers. Each family received a selection of games, strategies, and resources to take home, encouraging shared learning experiences. These sessions were a huge success, and it was fantastic to see our KS1 families so supportive of our mastery approach to learning maths.

J WEAIRE, JUNIOR SCHOOL TEACHER



Reception, Year 1 and 2 Nativity

We enjoyed the culmination of weeks of preparation on the day of our Nativity for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

The children responded brilliantly to the buzz of the audience and delivered a performance to be proud of. There was singing and dancing for all, and the costumes added to the fun. We especially enjoyed the humorous moments, including a Caesar Augustus with a megaphone!

CAPTIONS

- 1 An angelic line up.
- 2 Caesar Augustus (Penny) making us all laugh with her bossiest voice!
- 3 Everybody say "baaaa"!
- 4 Our three wonderful Wise Men following the star.
- 1 Monti T and Hashim R from Y2 explore number sense with ten frames.



Junior Gymnasts Showcase Talent at HMC Competition in Newcastle

A team of 21 enthusiastic Junior School gymnasts from Years 2 to 6 embarked on a long journey to Newcastle to compete in the annual HMC Gymnastics Competition.



In addition to their floor and vault routines, the pupils had the exciting opportunity to try trampolining and the tumble track, adding a fun and relaxed element to the event. This experience helped ease nerves, particularly for our less experienced gymnasts, which allowed them to perform with confidence in front of the judges.

The team represented the school brilliantly, delivering well-executed floor routines and demonstrating impressive flight on the vault. A huge well done to all the pupils who took part!

R.PARKINSON, TEACHER OF PE AND GAMES

CAPTION
1-5 BGS gymnasts compete in Newcastle

Year 1 trip to Bradford Industrial Museum

Year 1 had an exciting day exploring the Bradford Industrial Museum, where we stepped back in time to discover what life was like in the past.

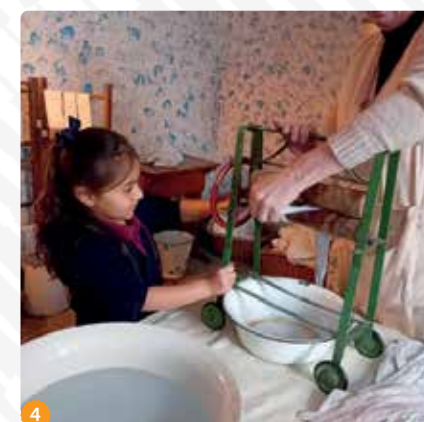
CAPTIONS

- 1 Year 1 teacher Mrs H Rayner with her class
- 2 Children learn about the washing facilities of the past
- 3 Making use of the wash tub
- 4 Learning how to use the clothes wringer



One of the highlights was getting "hands-on" with some traditional wash-day experiences in an authentic back-to-back house. We saw washboards, old-fashioned wringers and other tools that showed us just how much hard work laundry used to be!

It made us all very grateful for our modern washing machines – we definitely prefer those over tubs and soap suds!



Building Grit and Team Spirit – Year 4's Robin Wood Adventure

A Clock House education is a holistic one – alongside hard work in the classroom, we seek out opportunities to develop the whole child. To nurture independence, teamwork and problem-solving skills, our residential trips – starting from Year 2 – offer invaluable experiences.



CAPTION

- 1 The Crate Tower Challenge
- 2 The Trapeze Climb



Nothing builds “Northern Grit” quite like an outdoor adventure in the depths of January. Our Year 4 pupils put on their wellies, layered up in woollies and embraced their waterproofs for an action-packed trip to Robin Wood at Dobroyd Castle.

A standout moment of the visit was the much-anticipated *Piranha Pool* – an escape challenge that saw the children working together to solve clues before the “deadly fish” were released! Thanks to their excellent teamwork, they managed to successfully cross the pole above the pool and keep all their fingers and toes intact.

Mrs Tatham’s personal highlight was the *night walk* – an assault course where blindfolded pupils guided each other through tricky obstacles, including a few curious local squirrels!

Reflecting on the trip, Mrs Watson said: “Every child gave every challenge their all. I am so proud of them.”

Well done, Year 4 – a true display of *Hoc Age* spirit!

“...”
Every child
gave every
challenge
their all.
I am so proud
of them.



Round up of Life at Clock House

1. Reception – As part of their learning about measures, they built a giant balance scale.

2. and 3. Year 1 – Smoothie workshop – Year 1 enjoyed our unit of learning on smoothies, which involved tasting and evaluating the ones currently on the market as well as planning and blending our own taste combinations. Yum!

4. Year 2 – Thank you to Friends of Clock House for organising our Spring Disco!

5. Year 3 – In Year 3, a new residential to Buckden offered plenty of adventures.

6. Specialist art lessons are very much a highlight for all of our children.

7. and 9. Our gymnastics club continues to strive for success as they enjoy competition season.

8. Year 6 children make excellent mentors for younger pupils.







My career has taken me across different schools and regions before joining BGS in 2009 as a senior school PE teacher. I initially worked part-time, focusing on netball, but as my role grew, I became Head of Netball and later took on the role of coordinating the junior school PE programme in 2018.

The move to this role was certainly significant. It marked a shift towards a structured approach to Junior School sport. From Reception onwards, every pupil is taught by PE specialists, ensuring they receive expert coaching from the very beginning. This has created a consistent and progressive programme, laying strong foundations that pupils build upon as they move through the school.

The benefits of this are clear. Pupils develop fundamental movement skills earlier, gain confidence in different sporting environments and establish healthy habits that will serve them for life. Each week, junior school pupils have dedicated PE and games sessions, with access to co-curricular clubs and fixtures that enhance their experience. Within a school like BGS, where academic excellence is a major draw for families, we ensure both sporting excellence and inclusivity sit alongside academic achievement, providing pupils with a truly holistic education.

Looking ahead, we are continuing to refine our provision. With the introduction of Reception and Year 1, we can start embedding fundamental movement skills even earlier. By the time pupils reach Year 3, they are already prepared to engage in more structured sporting activities. The long-term benefits of this are huge – not just in terms of skill development, but also in building confidence and also a positive attitude towards physical activity.

Sport has been a lifelong passion, and I can't imagine my life without it. That's what I want for our pupils – to leave school with a love of sport, enriching their lives after they've moved on. Sport isn't just about winning; it's about growth, friendship and the confidence to take on whatever challenges life throws your way.

CAPTION
1 Georgina Jones, Head of Junior School PE & Games

Shaping young lives through sport

Georgina Jones, Head of Junior School PE & Games at Bradford Grammar School, shares her insights on the importance of sport in education, the School's inclusive approach to PE and her own journey in inspiring the next generation of young athletes

I've been at Bradford Grammar School (BGS) since 2009, and in that time, I've seen first-hand the power of sport to shape lives. As the Head of Junior School PE & Games, my role is to lead a dynamic and progressive sports programme from Reception through to Year 6, ensuring every child experiences high-quality physical education that is both inclusive and aspirational.

Our focus is upon creating opportunities – whether through competitive fixtures, skill-building sessions or broader participation in festivals. Every child who wants to represent the school has the chance to do so, and we celebrate both participation and performance. From traditional team sports like netball, hockey and cricket to activities like table tennis, swimming and gymnastics, there really is something for everyone. Fixtures are carefully structured so pupils can compete at a level that suits them, ensuring sport is both accessible and aspirational.