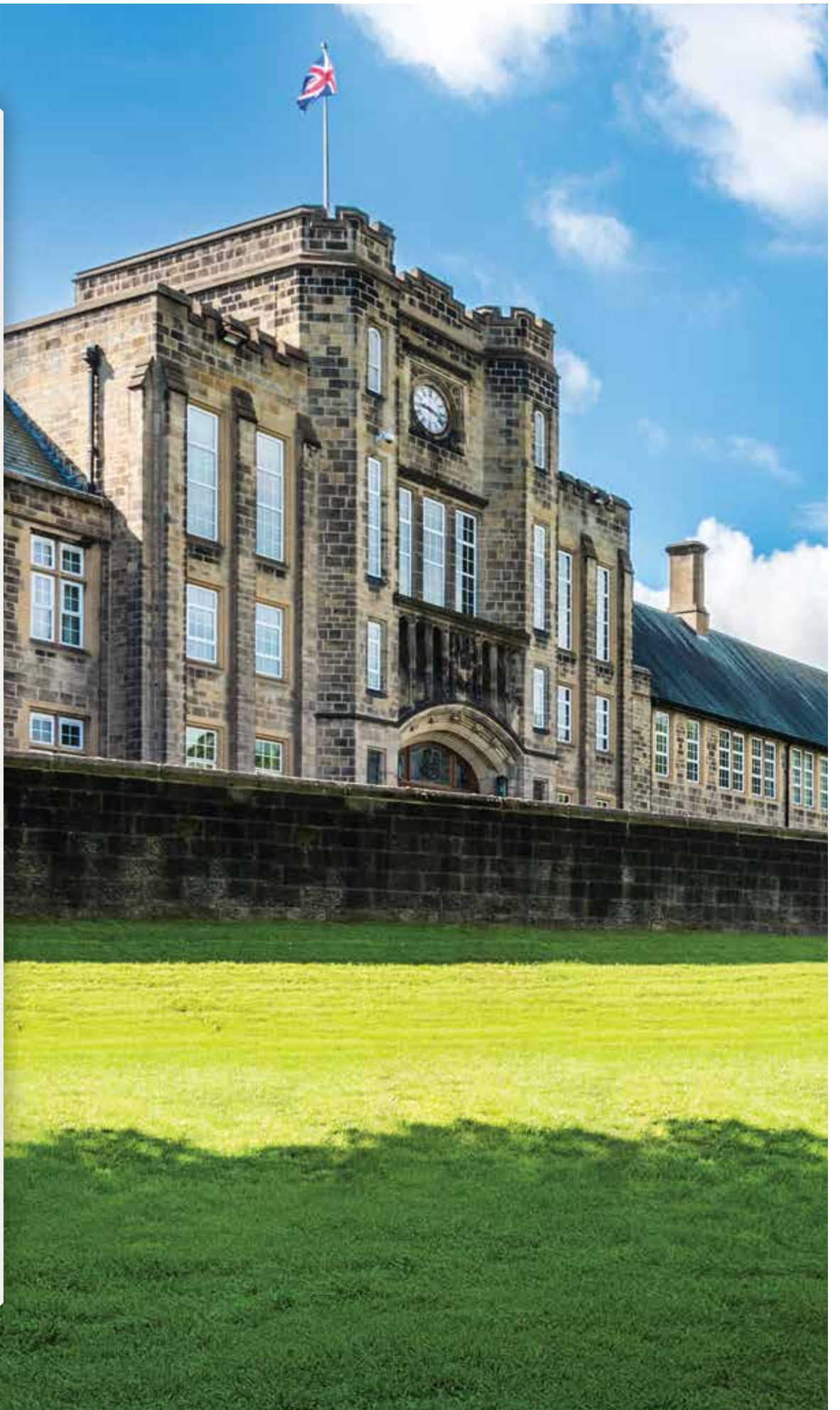




Bradford
Grammar
School

Issue 359 | Autumn 2025

The Bradfordian





Dr Simon Hinchliffe
Headmaster
Extract from Speech Day 2025

For the full speech
please turn to page 07

Our values underpin intentions and behaviour ...

... shaping who we are and
directing where we are going.

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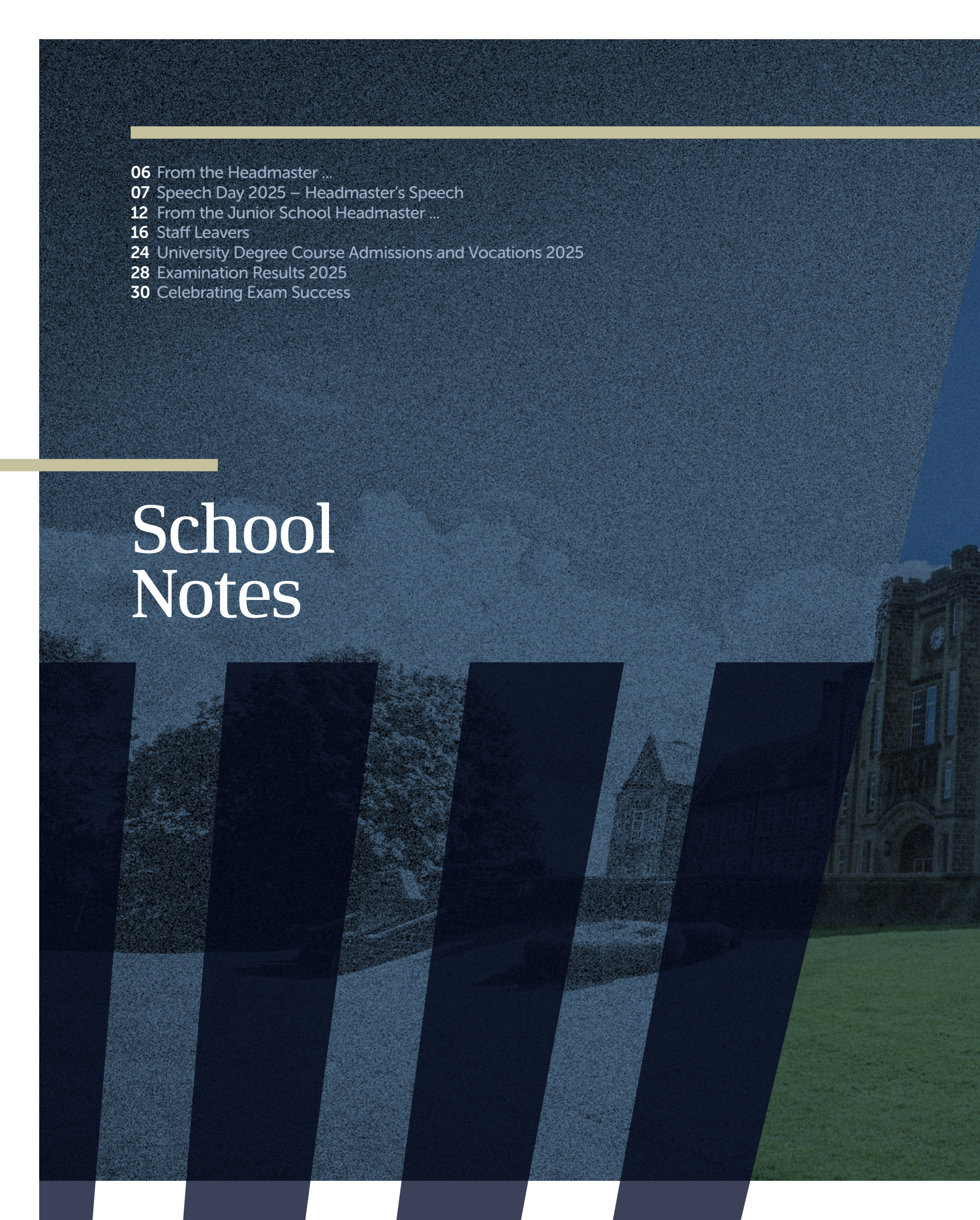
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School Notes



From the Headmaster ...

It is my pleasure to introduce this latest edition of our whole school magazine, *The Bradfordian*. I hope you enjoy all that follows as much as I did, and grateful thanks to everyone who has contributed to this excellent publication.

Like other successful and long-standing institutions, BGS has moved with the times. "Schools, like states, have to fluctuate between stability and change, as need arises," wrote Tony Moxon in his book *Hoc Age, Bradford Grammar School 1818 - 1996*, first published in 1999. He is right of course. BGS has evolved over the generations and we are doing so again, reflecting the opportunities and challenges of our time.

This is a moment like no other for independent education in the UK, and BGS is not immune to the prevailing ideological and commercial environment. Schools like ours are having to evolve and increasingly make a case for their virtues, and in some instances, survival. Moreover, the full effects of present conditions are yet to be felt by our peer group, or indeed in BD9.

Thankfully, when you walk the corridors of BGS, dip in and out of lessons, enjoy our glorious music and theatrical performances, revel in the activities of a myriad of co-curricular clubs and community volunteering opportunities, eyeball exam scores when signing-off end of term reports, pace touchlines with supporters, chat with pupils during lunch duty and so on, as I do, you cannot fail to get a convincing impression of a school living its best life. The crux of the challenge looking ahead is to safeguard the very special ethos, positivity and, as far as we can, breadth of activity at BGS when external pressures are mounting.

Rash reaction is not the way forward. Nor is stasis. An informed balance between continuity and evolution must continue to be struck. In terms of the former, we remain loyal to Bradford and district, continue to foster aspiration, agency and high achievement. We will endeavour to be relevant and of value in a changing world and make a difference to people and the environment on our doorstep and beyond. Our values underpin such intentions and behaviour, shaping who we are and directing where we are going. Defined succinctly, our values are:



Excellence We are at ease with excellence in a straightforward 'Hoc Age' way, show our character by overcoming challenges and ask more of ourselves than others.

Opportunity We embrace and enjoy life, broaden our understanding of the world around us and recognise we have a responsibility to help others and our environment.

Happiness We are respectful, treat everyone thoughtfully and act to address wrongdoing; in so doing we make the most of our opportunities, aspire to excellence and build the foundations for fulfilled and happy lives.

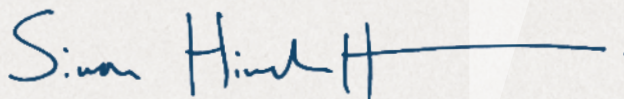
Articulated thus, our values can be traced back to that time when the modern grammar school began to take shape. The twin drivers of this transformation were the Forster Education Acts of 1869 and 1870, which the school adopted, removing governance from the hands of the church and placing it firmly in those of the local education authority; and also, the expansion of council funded scholarships, particularly in the 1890s.

These changes broadly coincided with the leadership of the reforming headmaster Dr William Keeling. His tenure brought a drive for higher standards, enabled in part by the School's newfound capacity to attract bright and ambitious boys from working-class families. It is from these developments, which accelerated when the Direct Grant was taken up in 1926 by the then headmaster, Dr W Edwards, that our commitment to *excellence* and *opportunity* became more overt.

Our value of *happiness* has become prominent in recent years. The move to coeducation in 1984 – the original architects of which were former headmaster, Mr D (Dags) Smith and the governing body of the time – coincided with wider societal and policy shifts that placed greater responsibility on schools to deliver pastoral care in tandem with academic tuition. The steady evolution of BGS in this area came to fruition when we received the national Independent School Wellbeing Initiative of the Year Award in 2020.

Our motto, Hoc Age, '*do this*', while not unique to BGS, is a familiar call to action – a command almost. Precisely *what we 'do'* is guided by our values, which will enable BGS to thrive long into the future, despite any obstacles that come our way, and sometimes because of them. Challenges are there to be met.

My grateful thanks are extended to pupils and parents, Governors, colleagues, Old Bradfordians, benefactors and friends of our School for everything they have contributed to BGS this past year. The pages that follow attest to our redoubtable Hoc Age appetite for life and abiding confidence in each other and our School. Enjoy.



Dr Simon Hinchliffe
BA, MEd, PhD, FRSA
Headmaster

Speech Day 2025 Headmaster's Speech

Good afternoon all – Vice Lord Lieutenant, High Sheriff, Jo, honoured guests, pupils, parents, Governors, Old Bradfordians and colleagues – please allow me to add my welcome to that of Lady Morrison. Thank you Lynne for those words of introduction that I will endeavour to build upon shortly.

A year has flown by. But as ever, this is a moment to pause, take stock and reflect. I'm getting on a bit in years now and frankly, for me, this is also an opportunity to enjoy a nice 'sit down'. I know, however, there will be some exercise coming later. Clapping counts as exercise, I think?! And I am, like you, very much looking forward to recognising and celebrating the hard work and achievements of our young people this afternoon.

Speech Day 2025

Headmaster's Speech

Our Speech and Prizegiving Day is always a lovely occasion, and we are fortunate to be joined today by Jo Quinton-Tulloch, passionate advocate for science and technology and Director of the National Media Museum here in Bradford. Jo is also a vocal supporter of our city and played an influential role in the successful UK City of Culture bid. We are delighted that Jo has agreed to be our Guest of Honour during this special year for Bradford and the National Media Museum which opens a new Sound and Vision Gallery this summer. Jo, we look forward to hearing from you in due course.

For a little while longer however, it's the warm-up act, and there are a few things I'd like to say.

Our focus, quite rightly, is on the young people in the room. But it is also our tradition to say thank you and goodbye to those colleagues who have made a substantial contribution to BGS and have left or are leaving this year. Unusually perhaps, this is where I would like to start, not at the end of my address, but rather to set the tone.

Nicola Beynon, Joanne Rutter, Sheila Shoesmith have collectively supported the wide spectrum of child protection, safeguarding and pastoral work at BGS, including through the pandemic. For this we record our thanks. And a special mention for Maariyaah Bibi who has done such sterling work during her time in the School Office.

Long serving colleagues in our catering team, Linda Carroll and Kuldip Kaur have together chalked up a little over 58 years of service at BGS. Both began working here in 1995 and have helped to dish up much delicious fayre over the years, and with great cheer. I hold them partly responsible for turning my once toned and athletic physique into this more rounded profile – such are the temptations of lunchtime in this place. Kuldip and Linda, many thanks.

Chriselle Nisbet (Design and Technology), Jonathan Green (English), Charlie Hailes (Classics) and Jenny Elkiss (Biology) have made valuable contributions during their fixed and short terms at BGS. We wish them every happiness and success as they move on to new opportunities elsewhere.

Steven Haslam (Chemistry) arrived at BGS in 2018. His wife once taught here too. Moreover, their young family has passed through our classrooms in recent times. The last two members of this BGS dynasty, one of them being Steven, depart at the end of the year. Needless to say, we wish them all well for the future.

Gail D'Arcy (English) retires after a long and distinguished career in teaching. Gail joined this School in 2001 and has played a full part in the teaching of her subject, inspiring many to take it to A Level and beyond. She has also been a staunch supporter of drama productions and a pupil-led publication, the BGS Bugle, among many other contributions to our School. Little wonder that everyone speaks warmly about Gail. A richly deserved long and happy retirement beckons.

Finally, in a gentle departure from tradition, I would like to offer a vote of thanks to one of our BGS parents, Gene Pine, who has served on the Parents' Association committee for five years, most of them as Chair. Gene breathed new life into the PA after the disruption of the pandemic and BGS is undoubtedly in a better place thanks to her efforts.

I am, of course, grateful to colleagues in all departments, support staff and teachers, whose ongoing commitment to BGS is commendable. Regardless of their role, each one makes an important contribution to the life and work of our School. So, please join with me to show our collective appreciation for all BGS staff, support and teaching alike, our leavers too, and not forgetting Gene, in the traditional way with a round of applause.

The BGS year is bookended by our Founders' and Speech Days, and the theme of gratitude is one of the threads that binds both together. They are also occasions when we remember our history, our purpose and reaffirm who we are. Our Founders' Day service takes place at Bradford Cathedral – a nod to our long history and deep roots in this city of Bradford.



Being grateful is part of our whole school behaviour. When I thank colleagues for their work – parents, Governors, Old Bradfordians and friends of BGS for their support – I mean it. Lip service it is not.

As we heard from Lady Morrison, we know BGS existed before 1548, but honestly, we don't know how far back our school goes. It could be the mid-1200s when the earliest Latin grammar schools were being established in our region. We do know that the infant BGS was part of St Peter's Parish Church, which is now Bradford Cathedral. So, the early school and St Peter's were once one and the same, located adjacently where the Cathedral stands today, our ancestral home.

The school nearly closed on many occasions during its early history, including the English Civil War of the mid-1600s – you can still see damage in the Cathedral walls caused by cannon balls fired in battle. A degree of security came to the school by dint of Royal Charter in 1662. From that date, we have gone forwards as the Free School of King Charles II in Bradford, our true name. Bradford Grammar School, BGS, these are abbreviations, although some historians would argue that's a bit of a cheeky assertion.

In 1820, The Free School of King Charles II left the Cathedral location and moved to a new home in Bradford city centre at Manor Row near Forster Square railway station. In the late 1800s, we were one of the first schools in the UK to adopt the various reforms of the Forster Education Acts and this took control of BGS away from the church and put it firmly into the hands of the state. It was around this time that the identity of the modern BGS began to be forged under the leadership of former Headmaster, Dr William Keeling. We moved home again and took up residence here in Manningham in 1949, but only after our building had been used as an army barracks during the Second World War.

This is our history. This is what our Founders' Day is all about. History and gratitude to our founders, benefactors and forebears.

Our school has a long history of benefaction, it goes back to our earliest times. And by way of a reminder to some of the younger folk in the room, benefactors are people who have given money, land, service and other forms of support to the school so that it can educate people like you, and so that it can employ people like me.

In our Founders' Day service, we say thank you to our earliest benefactors, local families like the Snowdens, Lacey's, Graves, Rawsons, Banks's, Northrops and Wades who paid rent on local farmland to cover the cost of a schoolmaster during the reign of King Henry VIII. We also say thank you to people like 19th century industrialist Sir Titus Salt and Sir Henry Price who in 1936 gave money for the construction of this magnificent hall.

The school continues to receive the support of its modern-day benefactors. Technology entrepreneur and OB, Mark Richer, is one such benefactor, as is fellow OB and former engineer Roger Bowers. The Shears and Keith Howard Foundations and Sovereign Health Care also donate significant funds to BGS, as does the Morrisons Foundation.

Their gifts are designated for means-tested Assisted Places to enable children from all kinds of backgrounds, irrespective of wealth, to attend BGS. In accordance with the wishes of our benefactors, their generous donations cannot be used for other purposes. Roughly one in ten pupils receive financial support to attend this School thanks to the generosity of others.

Assisted Places help BGS stay true to its mission. We recently hosted the Made in Bradford Gala Dinner in this Price Hall which raised approximately £140k for Assisted Places, £100k of which was generously gifted by the Old Bradfordians Association at this moment in time when their alumni activity folds into the work of our Development Department, a move that will sustain the OB community for future generations. An additional £120k has so far been raised following the Giving Day earlier in the year. The support we received for these events was incredible and we extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported them.



Continued overleaf ...

Speech Day 2025

Headmaster's Speech

We are grateful for our School and for the opportunities we all receive from its work. We are grateful for the dedication of colleagues and Governors, for the wisdom and generosity of our Old Bradfordians, founders, benefactors and wider networks. And we are grateful for the support of our BGS parents and families. In turn, we make the most of opportunity, we aspire to excellence and make a positive impression on the world around us. Which brings me to my final point.

This School has a positive impact. We make a difference. But we could do more.

The Sutton Trust recently published a report based upon data for 10 million people over 25 years, demonstrating that the 20 best performing constituencies for social mobility in England are located in London. The research contributes to a convincing body of evidence that articulates sharp differences in the life chances of young people depending on where they live.

We can view these findings through the lens of a 2023 publication of the Child of the North Group that revealed, on average, a school pupil in London received nearly ten per cent more funding than those in the North. These insights chime hard with an annual Institute for Fiscal Studies report of the same year, that concluded: "Areas with the highest levels of spending per pupil are located in inner London, particularly Westminster, Lambeth, Southwark, Haringey, Tower Hamlets, Islington, Camden and Hackney. In these areas, spending per pupil is close to 20 per cent or more above the national average."

Subtleties exist beyond these headlines that give rise to a more nuanced understanding of any north/south (or London) divide. Structural inequality is, however, undeniable. So, what to do about it?

The Direct Grant days are gone. But the Assisted Places scheme at BGS, alongside all the other various public benefit and partnership activities we enter into, could, at scale, reverse the downward spiral of national headlines about stuck and backsliding social mobility in the regions. If only the prevailing ideological conditions allowed schools like BGS to support even more young people in our communities. The potential is there – if only we were liberated to realise it.

We continue to do our bit regardless, including sweating the detail in a concerted effort to remain affordable and accessible to the 'squeezed middle'. BGS leadership will never shrink away from our responsibilities to hardworking families who make sacrifices to pay fees.

And our school mission remains clear. We seek to educate and empower our young people; we seek to elevate Bradford and our country. We make a difference. We could do more. Our sector could do more. But wings are clipped. And sadly, I reflect that some historic and much-loved peer group schools in our locality, and more widely, are closing their doors. I fail to see how this can be of benefit to any children in the UK.

I lead BGS in a dynamic climate – out of the pandemic frying pan and into the ideological and economic fire. But I do so with a measure of perspective and with optimism and confidence about our long-term future. I endeavour to lead responsibly, balancing various spinning plates and with a clear vision of where we are going and what must be achieved. I am proud of our School and this city and the county that I love. As JB Priestley once wrote, in a quote kindly shared with me recently:

"We have to go out and admire what we can admire and give our heart to it. We have to hope because despair is useless. And above all, we have to love. So, if anybody wants a short guide to a good life, let me offer this: we live by admiration, hope and love."

Congratulations to our prize winners and all who have applied themselves with good heart this year.

Thank you for listening to me and I wish you all the very best.



Dr Simon Hinchliffe
BA, MEd, PhD, FRSA
Headmaster



We have to go out and admire what we can admire and give our heart to it. We have to hope because despair is useless. And above all, we have to love. So, if anybody wants a short guide to a good life, let me offer this: we live by admiration, hope and love.

JB Priestley

From the Junior School Headmaster ...

Junior School Prize Giving 2025

Junior School Headmaster's Speech

It has been wisely said that "change is inevitable, but growth is optional."

I have chosen to frame my reflections on the academic year around these twin themes – change and growth – as both have been defining features of this year.

The 2024–25 academic year marked a bold new chapter in our School's story. We welcomed our first ever Reception and Year 1 cohorts and opened our new outdoor learning and play areas.

Two Year Groups!

With the addition of Reception and Year 1 classes, we now operate with all three Key Stages in place – from Reception (Early Years Foundation Stage), Years 1 and 2 (Key Stage 1) and of course, Years 3 to 6 (Key Stage 2).

We have all had to adapt as a result – to adjust to our new school structure, our amazing new EY building and play spaces, new curricula, new teaching staff, and new procedures and practices. We now have pupils as young as four years old attending our school assemblies each week and sharing many of the School's resources and facilities.

The Reception and Year 1 children have brought their infectious curiosity and wonder to the school and have quickly become part of Clock House.

Many of our Year 6 pupils have qualified as play leaders and often help by leading play activities in the Early Years playground. I thank all of our older children for their support during this transition – for smiling and waving at our youngest learners and for helping them as they begin their own BGS journeys.

The addition of two new year groups has represented a significant change, but also an opportunity for growth and development for all of us. The Reception cohort that started this year are history-makers. In a few years' time, they will be in your shoes – and so the journey continues.

An ambitious grounds development

The 2024–25 academic year has also seen us open our new outdoor learning and play spaces.

Pupils will remember that the playground used to stop at the end of the tarmac area, enclosed by slightly austere wire fencing.

Well, the fencing has been removed, and pupils now have more space and freedom to learn, explore, and play. The new outdoor spaces have enhanced learning across the curriculum and enriched play, with pupils exploring the adventure playground, creating incredible dens, and – more recently – designing ever more complex and amazing giant marble runs!

It has been a joy to see the new outdoor spaces in use throughout the year, across the seasons.

So, a year of impactful change and growth – but importantly, with our School values of Excellence, Opportunity, and Happiness very much intact.



School history

With School values in mind, I would like to share an email our Development Office received earlier this year during our recent Giving Day event from an Old Bradfordian who attended the School from 1943 to 1952.

"Whilst in touch with BGS – may I now record a 'special' bit of our School history? It is exactly 100 years ago this year (1925) since the entire 'Clock House Estate' was bought by the School? The purchase was (quote) "as an intended site for a new Bradford Grammar School" (my source: Charles Ogden's "History of Bradford", published in 1935).

As a pupil myself in 'Clock House' just after WW2 – I am particularly interested in this building and the Estate's general history."

This Old Bradfordian recounts the significant changes for the school back in 1925. This change, 100 years ago, led us to our current Frizinghall site which we continue to grow and develop today.

Highlights

There have been many positives this year, but I would like, if I may, to focus on a few particular highlights:

- Strong academic progress in the classrooms
- A superb end-of-year production of *Romeo and Juliet* by our Year 6 pupils in the Hockney Theatre
- The success of the new play leader scheme and strong connections between our oldest and youngest pupils in the Junior School
- Memorable family events, culminating in the Year 6 Leavers' fun event organised by the Friends of Clock House, and the pupil v parents tug-of-war competition!
- The increasingly popular LEGO Robotics Club
- An increase in the number of boys and girls cricket fixtures
- Notable success for Junior School pupils in the UK Junior Maths Challenge

These highlights embody our BGS values and set an example for those following in your footsteps.

Year 6, you will be a tough act to follow – but I am confident in the Year 5 pupils coming through, who are already demonstrating some wonderful qualities themselves – for example, compassion through charity work, and strong teamwork.

Junior School Speech Day 2025

Junior School Headmaster's Speech

Staffing changes

As is customary, I would like to take a moment to thank the whole Junior School staff team for their efforts in supporting the pupils and providing the opportunities for you, the pupils, to be the 'best versions of yourselves'.

Friends of Clock House (FOCH)

I would like also to take this opportunity to thank Friends of Clock House and our reps Victoria Wood-Williams and Victoria Gore for all you do to support the school. Victoria Wood-Williams comes to the end of her tenure as FOCH rep but I understand may have already been recruited by the PA as her daughter moves to the Senior School. Thank you both for your concerted efforts for the school.

Farewells

With the staff team in mind this year we say farewell to Mrs Buckley. After more than ten years of teaching at Clock House, we are very sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs Buckley. During her time at the Junior School, Mrs Buckley has been a dedicated form teacher for pupils in Years 3, 4 and 5 and has contributed in leadership positions, with learning support and outdoor education. Our sincere thanks and congratulations for your hard work, accomplishments and achievements during your time at Clock House, Mrs Buckley, we wish you well in the future.

I would also like to thank Mr Steere for providing maternity cover in 4S and being a calm and steady influence. In the words of one of the pupils in his class, Mr Steere is a very kind teacher.

Summary

Prizes will be handed out to some of you, and we will rightly recognise and celebrate these individual successes, but whether you walk on the stage today or not you have each played your part in the Clock House story this year.

So, enjoy this afternoon, be proud of yourselves and be proud of Clock House.



Mr Richard Ribeiro

Junior School Headmaster

Change and
growth
have been
defining features
of this year.

Mr Richard Ribeiro
Junior School
Headmaster

Staff Leavers



Ann Buckley

By friends and colleagues at Clock House

After more than ten years of teaching at Clock House, we are very sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs Buckley.

During her time at the Junior School, Mrs Buckley was a dedicated form teacher for pupils in Years 3, 4 and 5. With a keen interest in all things outdoors, she delivered Forest School expertly as a club event which provided an amazing opportunity for Clock House pupils to learn more about the outdoors and nature. She made it joyful and interesting and we hope to continue this activity for the Junior School with as much attention to detail and enthusiasm. Our children benefitted from several other clubs that Mrs Buckley led; including Science, Netball and Athletics; not forgetting the residential trips to Ingleborough, Buckden, Newlands, Windermere and Borrowdale, to name but a few, along with countless fixtures, fashion shows and various other school events. Mrs Buckley's commitment and care of our pupils was exemplary, always going above and beyond to make sure their time at school was valuable and meaningful. Her gentle patience and thoughtfulness were attributes that our parents particularly appreciated. She always recognised the importance of getting to know her classes and their families well, and applied these personal skills to ensure the children did their best work every day. This expertise came to the fore while Mrs Buckley adeptly led the Junior School's SEND provision, for over seven years.

Our sincere thanks and congratulations go to Mrs Buckley for all her hard work, accomplishments and achievements during her time at Clock House. Your colleagues became firm friends and we will miss your sense of humour and warm heart, immensely. We wish you all the very best in your new venture; you have a great deal to offer your new school and its fortunate pupils. We look forward to keeping in touch and hearing all about your exciting new challenge. We hope to bump into you at Park Run, even if we can't keep up with you! With all our affection and fond wishes.



Gail D'Arcy

By L W Hanson, Head of English and Drama

Gail had worked in the English and Drama Department since 2001 making her one of the longest serving members of BGS staff in the recent era.

Born in Prescot, near Liverpool, and educated at Leeds and Manchester, Gail had a love of language and literature and much Liverpoolian wit. Arriving here from Altrincham Grammar School, she was a superb colleague and teacher, and someone who has left an indelible mark across the wider life of the school. A teacher of deep intellect, creativity and compassion, Gail spent years, not just teaching English, but truly bringing it to life for her pupils. Always willing to share ideas and work collaboratively, Gail was integral to the shaping and creation of our Key Stage 3 curriculum and was a powerful advocate for creativity in the classroom. From lessons to the stage, to educational visits, she inspired many young people.

Whether co-directing a haunting *Dracula*, conjuring vivid imagination with *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, or leading students into the dark heart of *Macbeth*, her theatrical vision shaped a number of unforgettable productions. She was always ready to support from behind the scenes too and brought creativity to costumes and props for the performances of *What You Will*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Addams Family*, *My Fair Lady* and *And Then There Were None*. In past years, Gail was also Editor of *The Bradfordian* (2004–2008), in an era when it was the responsibility of a member of the teaching staff to compile this annual record of school life. As an ardent traveller, she was involved in a number of school trips taking students to various locations from Haworth to Dublin, from Stratford to Grasmere, and Germany, not to mention myriad theatre trips. At a personal level, I shall miss her humour, her support, and the sage advice she has provided for nearly 15 years. I hope she has a fantastic retirement, she deserves it. As Prospero says to Ariel in Act 1 Scene 2 of *The Tempest*: "Thou shalt be free / As mountain winds". Her revels are most certainly not ended.



Steven Haslam

By R Moody, Head of Chemistry

Steven joined the Chemistry Department seven years ago and had a hugely positive impact on both the staff and pupils he taught.

His enthusiasm for developing pupils' practical skills and understanding of the scientific method were particularly influential as we evolved our Key Stage 3 curriculum. He was also passionate about coaching and helping young people make informed decisions. He was a stalwart of Science Club, helping to introduce new and exciting challenges that inspired our young scientists. As well as this, he was a valuable member of the Sixth Form tutor team, helping dozens of students apply for and achieve places at universities across the country. He was an invaluable member of the department, never saying no while contributing to the intellectual and pedagogical evolution of the Chemistry Department. As was typical of Steven, his influence was often subtle and could go unnoticed, yet when people followed his advice, it always led to positive change. His thoughtful insights and energy will be missed as he moves on to a new role in the South of England.



Jenny Elkiss

By Z Thornton, Head of Biology

Jenny joined BGS two years ago as a maternity cover before the chance came up to become a permanent member of the Biology team.

Jenny was a dedicated and hard-working teacher, who was an asset to the department, and I am extremely sorry to see her go. Jenny was a reflective practitioner and was always keen to try something new and innovate. She went above and beyond to support her students, and fostered positive working relationships, both in and out of the classroom. Not only was she an asset to the department, but to the wider school community, taking on many extracurricular responsibilities, particularly pastoral roles. Jenny oversaw the running of the LGBTQ+ Society which thrived under her leadership, as well as running Student Voice. Jenny was also a Sixth Form tutor, supporting students through their A Levels and applications to university. I wish her luck with her future endeavours; I am sure she will thrive at whatever she sets her mind to.



Kuldeep Kaur

By D Crompton, Catering Manager

Kuldeep was a much-loved catering assistant and parent of two Old Bradfordians who gave nearly three decades of dedicated service to BGS.

She left behind a legacy of hard work, kindness and loyalty to her colleagues, students and the school community. Kuldeep was an easy-going, happy and dependable presence in our team, always going above and beyond. She was caring and kind, with a smile for everyone and rarely missed a day at work. It was a pleasure to work alongside her and she will be missed for her caring nature and her warmth and for doing her job so well. Enjoy your retirement Kuldeep!



Joanne Rutter

By J Watson, Assistant Head (Pastoral)

We bid a fond farewell to Jo, our school's first full time counsellor, whose compassion and attentive care profoundly shaped our community.

Having joined BGS seven years ago, Jo was a steadfast source of support, guiding countless students and colleagues through life's challenges with empathy and discretion.

Beyond individual counselling, Jo was a passionate advocate for mental health awareness, assisting our school's involvement in national campaigns such as World Mental Health Day. Her drive to embed wellbeing into the fabric of school life touched every corner of our community.

One of her most enduring legacies was her work following the introduction of Pastoral Prefects in the Sixth Form. Recognising the power of peer support, she was instrumental in their training and mentoring, enabling these young leaders to gain a Mental Health First Aid qualification; a significant achievement that will continue to benefit those students for years to come.

From mindfulness workshops to staff training and beyond, Jo helped create a culture where it was safe to speak out in our school community and where every voice matters.

As she leaves us to embark on new adventures in private counselling, we offer our heartfelt thanks. Jo Rutter departs with our deepest gratitude and good wishes, having helped build a kinder, more resilient BGS.



Linda Carroll

By the Catering Team

After more than 29 years of dedicated service, Linda retired from BGS's catering team – bidding farewell to a long-standing career and a community she called her 'family'.

Linda 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.

Linda witnessed the school evolve over the years, from the days of meal tickets to today's modern electronic cards. But for her, it was the people – staff and pupils alike – who 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."

We hope she enjoys a wonderful retirement as she embraces a new chapter filled with travel, creative hobbies and family time. She will be greatly missed.



Nicola Beynon

By J Watson, Assistant Head (Pastoral)

We bid a warm farewell to Nicola, our dedicated School Nurse whose calm expertise and kindness supported countless students since she joined the BGS Pastoral Team three years ago.

Whether treating everyday scrapes, offering quiet reassurance during moments of anxiety, or guiding pupils through health challenges, Nicola was a steady and compassionate presence at the heart of school life.

Her professionalism, good humour and gentle nature have left a lasting impression on staff and pupils alike. As she moves on to new adventures, we thank her sincerely for her devoted service. We wish her every happiness in the future.



Rachel Axnix

By L Daxner, Examinations Officer

Rachel, also known as 'The Queen of the Price Hall', joined us as a member of staff in 2014.

She soon proved herself to be a first-class invigilator who was confident in applying complex rules surrounding exam invigilation. Rachel was a key member of the team, friendly and outgoing, who brought much value to the School. After ten years, Rachel leaves us to take up a post in museum work in Halifax, her real passion. We wish her well.



Sheila Shoemith

By J Watson, Assistant Head (Pastoral)

We say farewell and extend our heartfelt thanks to Sheila, whose journey with us has been marked by dedication, adaptability and deep care for our students.

Beginning her time at BGS as a committed Pastoral Secretary, Sheila brought exceptional organisation and quiet diligence to supporting the day to day life of our Pastoral Team.

As the school's needs grew along with its safeguarding practice, her responsibilities became ever more vital, Sheila embraced change with characteristic calm and professionalism, evolving her role into that of Pastoral and Safeguarding Officer. In this capacity, she became a trusted point of contact for pupils, staff and families alike; offering reassurance, guidance and practical help whenever it was needed most.

Her work, often behind the scenes, underpinned so much of the support that keeps our community safe and thriving. Whether assisting with complex referrals, liaising sensitively with external agencies, or simply offering a kind word in a moment of need, Sheila exemplified quiet strength and compassion.

As she leaves us for pastures new, we reflect with gratitude on the professionalism, warmth and humanity she shared with us all. Sheila departs with our very best wishes and leaves a legacy of pastoral care that will long endure.



Jack Auty

By I Clint, Estates Manager

Jack had been part of the Estates team since September 2022 and joined the School as a Maintenance Apprentice, combining hands-on work with completing his Level 2 Property Maintenance qualification at college.

He very quickly became a reliable and cheerful presence in the team, always willing to muck in and learn his trade (and not afraid of getting his hands dirty).

After two years on the maintenance side, Jack moved over to Caretaking last September and slotted straight into that part of the operation. He soon became a key member of the caretaking crew, dependable, upbeat, and really easy to work with.

Outside of work, Jack was a lifelong Liverpool supporter (which sparked a few lively Monday morning debates), a keen gamer, and a proud pug owner.

Jack has now left to join a local kitchen company, a move that will suit his skills and love of practical work perfectly. We're sad to see him go but wish him the very best in this next chapter. Thanks, Jack, for all you brought to the School. You'll be missed, and no doubt talked about every time Liverpool have a good (or bad) result.



Ruby Smith

By K Hewitt, Head of Admissions and Marketing

Ruby joined the Admissions and Marketing Team in September 2023 as the Digital Marketing Officer and immediately made an impact.

Juggling college work and the demands of the office was not easy, but Ruby triumphed and went on to gain a Distinction in her apprenticeship! Her willingness to help where and whenever needed and her positive attitude made her an invaluable member of the team. Ruby left BGS for her 'dream job' with Adanola and we wish her every success in the next chapter of her career.

Thank you ...

... to the following staff for their
contributions to the School

Jonathan Green

Teacher of English

Charlie Hailes

Teacher of Classics

David Hogan

Peripatetic Music Teacher (maternity cover)

Emilia Kerr

Graduate Sports Assistant – Netball

Adam Rahman

Security Officer and Maintenance Assistant

Liam Ogden

Caretaker

Chriselle Nisbet

Teacher of Design and Technology

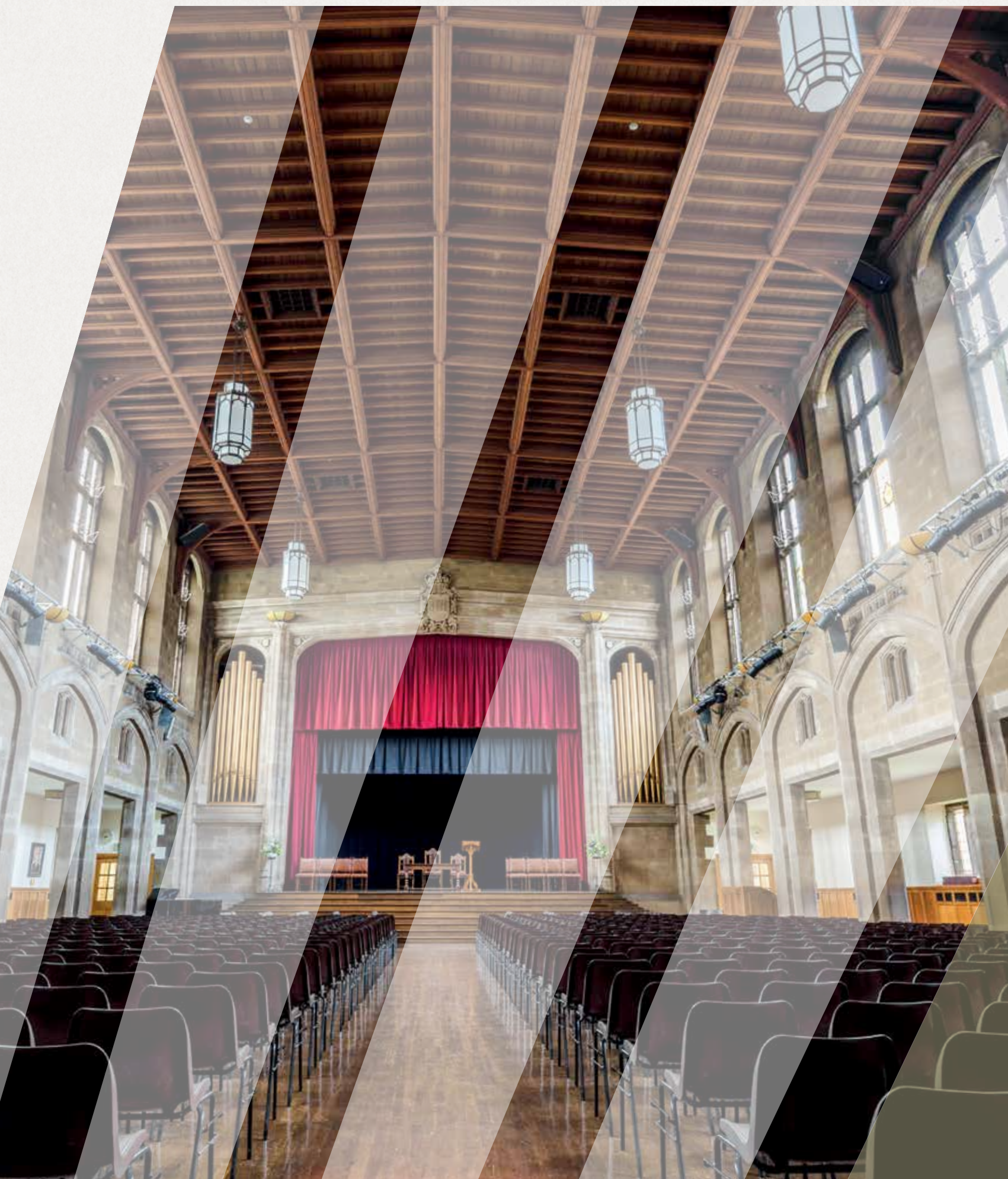
Shirin Chowdhury

Cleaner

Harris Craven-Moore

Caretaker





University Degree Course Admissions and Vocations 2025

A

Imran Akhtar

University of Leeds, Physics (Industrial)

Rania Imaan Akhtar

University of Birmingham, Mechanical Engineering with Industrial Year

Aaryan Ali

University of Bradford, Optometry

Mohammed Ismail Ali

University of Manchester, Aerospace Engineering

Lucas Allerton

Loughborough University, Sport and Exercise Science

Romana Amer

University of Sunderland, Pharmacy

Archie Ward Appleton

University of Oxford, Chemistry

Emaan Ayaz

Imperial College London, Chemistry with Research Abroad

B

Pavan Dev Basra

Goldman Sachs, Degree Apprenticeship

Hugo Baxter

Lancaster University, Software Engineering (with Industrial Experience)

Elise Beevers

University of Leeds, Advanced Psychology

Joseph Bentley

University of Lincoln, Forensic Chemistry

Samantha Bowie

University of Bath, Politics and International Relations

Dominic Anthony Brierley

UCL (University College London), Economics

Penny Brosnan

The University of Edinburgh, English Literature

Mustafa Burhani

University of Manchester, Mechatronic Engineering with Industrial Experience

Emilia Rose Burke

The University of Edinburgh, French and German

C

Harriet-Fay Daphne Clark

Durham University, Music

Hannah Elizabeth Coughlin

Loughborough University, Sport and Exercise Science

Alex Cuthbertson

University of Bath, Politics and International Relations with professional placement or study abroad

Kallie Czajka

University of Liverpool, History and Politics

We extend our congratulations to all of our
students on their achievements this year!

D

Dana Dagostino	Leeds Arts University , Art Foundation
Evie Elizabeth Davies	Durham University , Modern Languages and Cultures (with Year Abroad)
Aeryn Amelia Dawson	Nottingham Trent University , Psychology
Khadija Bushra Desai	University of Central Lancashire , Pharmacy
Aryan Dhaliwal	University of Leeds , Biochemistry
Caleb Dix	University of Manchester , Modern Language and Business and Management (Spanish) (4 years)
Samuel Edward Dixon	The University of Edinburgh , Interior Design

E

Megan Elizabeth Eldridge	University of Birmingham , Medicine
Ginikanwa Ene	University of Manchester , Economics

G

Elizabeth Gibbins	Durham University , Combined Honours in Social Sciences
Priya Gill	King's College London, University of London , Computer Science with Management and a Year in Industry
Alistair Robert Gomersall	University of Bristol , Medicine - MBChB Standard entry
Yuvraj Grewal	Newcastle University , Politics and Economics

H

Sanya Haleem	University of Cambridge , Medicine
Katie Louise Harrop	University of Sheffield , Economics
Reuben Hart	University of Bristol , International Business Management and French
Dhaya Hayre	Newcastle University , Bus Accounting and Fin (inc bus place) (4 yrs)
Benjamin William Thomas Hill	University of Leeds , Physics
Oscar Hobson	Newcastle University , Economics
Beatrice May Horsley	The University of Edinburgh , Architecture
Thomas Sebastian Hunt	University of Bristol , Design Engineering

I

Sulaimaan Ihsan

University of Wolverhampton, Biomedical Sciences

J

Martha Grace Jackson

Loughborough University, Sport and Exercise Science

Adam Jones

University of Liverpool, Chemistry with a Year in Industry

K

Serena Sahib Kaur

University of Liverpool, Medicine

Zeya Khan

Barclays, Degree Apprenticeship

Laibah Kheezar

University of Bradford, Psychology with Counselling

L

Amelie Lane

The University of Edinburgh, Biological Sciences

M

Alexander John Macdonald

The University of Edinburgh, Physics

Georgina Madeley

The University of Edinburgh, Philosophy and Linguistics

Zaara Mahmood

Newcastle University, Dentistry

Emma Makin

Leeds Arts University, Art Foundation

Charlie Mallik

Cardiff University, Accounting and Finance with a Professional Placement Year

Avinash Mann

Newcastle University, Modern Languages and Business Studies

Emily Alice Marchewka

University of Glasgow, Psychology

Ronan Massey

University of Stirling, Business Studies and French

Sean Alexander McCormack

Durham University, Natural Sciences

Saffa Mehmood

University of Liverpool, Medicine

Tia Merckx

University of Sheffield, History and Modern Languages and Cultures

Arul Brian Midgley

The University of Edinburgh, Business with Strategic Economics

Phoebe Elizabeth Midgley

Loughborough University, Textile Design (with placement year)

Clara Moisey

University of Sheffield, Psychology

Sebastian Thomas Murphy

Lancaster University, Marketing with Psychology

N

Hema Narang

University of Leicester, Law

Hannah Nawaz

University of Manchester, Fashion Management

O

Divine Amarachi Okonkwo

University of Bristol, Mechanical Engineering

P

William Palmer

University of Sheffield, Medicine

Jesse Pattinson

Durham University, Finance

Benjamin James Pine

University of Cambridge, Human, Social, and Political Sciences

R

Fergus Ramage

Durham University, Historical Archaeology

Naglis Ramsas

University of Oxford, Mathematics/Mathematics and Statistics

Jack Raynor

Leeds Beckett University, Business Management with Marketing

Ayesha Razak

University of Leeds, Medicine

Lucy Jane Robertshaw-Wareing

University of Bristol, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering

Melissa Louise Ryan

University of Birmingham, English Literature and Creative Writing

We have taken every effort to ensure this information is accurate. Should you come across any inaccuracies, please get in touch with us at marketing@bradfordgrammar.com and we will endeavour to rectify this on the online version.

S

Elliot James Sainsbury
Alfie Thomas Sanderson
Shriya Sharma
Aarti Sharma - Uppal
Shishir Shastry
Saman Shirazi Nejad Fard
Eva Shvitiel
Zahra Sultan
Amina Sumeer
William Swift

Durham University, Computer Science
University of Bristol, Geography
Durham University, English Literature
University of Leeds, Nursing (Adult)
Imperial College London, Physics with Theoretical Physics
University of Bradford, Computer Science
Newcastle University, Sport and Exercise Science
Aston University, Birmingham, Psychology
University of York, History of Art with Spanish (with a year abroad)
Newcastle University, English Literature with Creative Writing

T

Olivia Taylor
Sophie Jessica Temple
Taran Thandi
Lara Thompson
Tamarai Thurairajah

Newcastle University, Law
University of Nottingham, Classics
Durham University, Natural Sciences
Leeds Arts University, Art Foundation
Durham University, Philosophy, Politics and Economics

V

Edwin van Lopik

University of York, History and Economics

W

Alexander Louis Wade
Alfie Wadsworth
Qianrui (Richard) Wang
Lila Whiteley-Guest
Charles William Wilde
James Woodham

Durham University, Economics with Management
Lancaster University, Sport and Exercise Science
University of Cambridge, Natural Sciences
King's College London, University of London, Biomedical Science
The University of Edinburgh, French and Spanish
University of Cambridge, Geography

Examination Results 2025

General Certificate of Education (A Level) 2025

We have taken every effort to ensure this information is accurate. Should you come across any inaccuracies, please get in touch with us at marketing@bradfordgrammar.com and we will endeavour to rectify this on the online version.

A

Imaan Akhtar	Chemistry, Mathematics ^A , Physics
Imran Akhtar	Chemistry, Mathematics ^A , Physics ^A
Aaryan Ali	Biology, Chemistry, Psychology
Ismail Ali	Chemistry ^A , Mathematics [*] , Physics ^A
Lucas Allerton	Business, Physical Education [*] , Psychology ^A
Archie Appleton	Biology [*] , Chemistry [*] , Mathematics [*] , Further Mathematics ^A
Emaan Ayaz	Chemistry ^A , Mathematics [*] , Physics ^A

B

Dev Basra	Economics ^A , Mathematics [*] , Further Mathematics [*] , Physics ^A
Maya Basra	Biology ^A , Chemistry ^A , Psychology ^A
Hugo Baxter	Computer Science ^A , History ^A , Mathematics
Joseph Bentley	Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics
Samantha Bowie	Biology [*] , Chemistry ^A , Politics [*]
Dominic Brierley	Chemistry [*] , Economics [*] , Mathematics ^A
Penny Brosnan	English Literature ^A , History [*] , Politics [*]
Mustafa Burhani	Chemistry ^A , Mathematics ^A , Physics ^A
Emilia Burke	Economics, French ^A , German, Politics

C

Hajer Chaatouf	Biology, Business, English Literature, Psychology
Harriet Clark	Drama ^A , English Language, Music
Hannah Coughlin	Biology ^A , Physical Education ^A , Politics ^A
Alex Cuthbertson	English Literature ^A , History ^A , Politics [*]
Kallie Czajka	English Literature ^A , History, Religious Studies

D

Dana Dagostino	Classical Civilisation, English Literature, History
Evie Davies	Business ^A , French ^A , Psychology
Aeryn Dawson	History, Politics, Psychology
Khadija Desai	Biology ^A , Chemistry, English Literature
Aryan Dhaliwal	Biology ^A , Chemistry ^A , Mathematics ^A , Psychology [*]
Caleb Dix	Economics, French ^A , Spanish [*]
Samuel Dixon	Art [*] , Economics, Mathematics

E

Megan Eldridge	Biology ^A , Chemistry ^A , Geography ^A
Ginika Ene	Biology ^A , Chemistry ^A , Mathematics ^A

G

Elizabeth Gibbins	Art [*] , English Literature, Geography ^A , Politics ^A
Priya Gill	Computer Science [*] , Economics [*] , Mathematics [*] , Physics ^A
Alistair Gomersall	Biology ^A , Chemistry ^A , Mathematics ^A , Physics ^A
Yuvraj Grewal	Economics, Politics ^A , Psychology

H

Sanya Haleem	Biology [*] , Chemistry [*] , Mathematics [*] , Further Mathematics ^A
Katie Harrop	Economics [*] , Mathematics ^A , Psychology ^A
Reuben Hart	Economics ^A , French ^A , Geography ^A
Oscar Hobson	Economics, Mathematics ^A , Physics
Bea Horsley	Art [*] , Economics ^A , Mathematics ^A , Further Mathematics
Thomas Hunt	Design Technology [*] , Mathematics [*] , Further Mathematics ^A , Physics [*]

I

Sulaimaan Ihsan	Biology, Politics, Psychology
------------------------	-------------------------------

J

Martha Jackson	Biology, Physical Education [*] , Psychology ^A
Sidra Javed	Biology, Chemistry, Psychology ^A
Adam Jones	Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics

K

Falaq Khan	Biology, Chemistry, English Literature
Kinza Khan	Biology, Business, Chemistry
Zeya Khan	Business ^A , Computer Science, Economics ^A
Laibah Kheezar	Biology, Chemistry, Psychology

M

Alexander Macdonald

History^A, Mathematics*,
Further Mathematics, Physics^A

Georgina Madeley

Drama*, English Language, Religious Studies^A,
Spanish

Zainab Mahmood

Biology*, Chemistry^A, Religious Studies^A

Imaan Majid

Biology^A, Chemistry, Politics

Emma Makin

Art*, Mathematics, Physics, Politics^A

Charlie Mallik

Business^A, Economics, Psychology

Avi Mann

Business, Economics, Religious Studies

Emily Marchewka

History, Politics, Psychology

Sean McCormack

Chemistry*, Mathematics*,
Further Mathematics*, Physics*

Simran

McCormack

Economics, Mathematics^A, Physics^A

Saffa Mehmood

Biology^A, Chemistry, Psychology*

Tia Merckx

Classical Civilisation, German^A, History

Arul Midgley

Economics^A, English Language^A,
Mathematics^A

Phoebe Midgley

Art*, Business, Design Technology

Clara Moisey

Biology^A, English Language^A, Psychology^A

Rayan Munir

Biology, Chemistry, Psychology

Sebastian Murphy

Business, English Literature, Psychology

N

Hannad Nadeem

Biology, Chemistry, Psychology

Hema Narang

Business, Politics, Psychology

Hannah Nawaz

Business^A, English Language,
English Literature

O

Amarachi

Okonkwo

Chemistry^A, Design Technology^A,
Mathematics*, Further Mathematics^A,
Physics^A

P

William Palmer

Biology^A, Chemistry^A, Mathematics^A, Physics^A

Jesse Pattinson

Business, Economics^A, Physical Education^A

Benjamin Pine

Computer Science*, French, Geography*,
Politics*

R

Naglis Ramsas

Computer Science^A, Mathematics*,
Further Mathematics*, Physics*

Ayesha Razak

Biology^A, Chemistry^A, Economics*

Melissa Ryan

Classical Civilisation, English Literature,
Religious Studies

S

Elliot Sainsbury

Computer Science*, Mathematics*, Physics^A

Alfie Sanderson

English Literature^A, Geography, Music^A

Shriya Sharma

Biology^A, Chemistry^A, English Literature^A

Aarti

Sharma-Uppal

Biology, Chemistry, Politics^A,
Religious Studies^A

Shishir Shastry

Computer Science*, Mathematics*,
Further Mathematics*, Physics*

Saman

Shirazi Nejad Fard

Design Technology, Mathematics, Physics

Eva Shvitiel

Business*, Physical Education*, Psychology^A

Maria Suleman

Chemistry, Computer Science, Spanish

Zahra Sultan

Business, English Language, Psychology

Amina Sumeer

Economics, English Literature, Politics

William Swift

Drama, English Literature^A, German

T

Olivia Taylor

Business, English Literature, Psychology^A

Sophie Temple

Classical Civilisation, German, Latin

Taran Thandi

Chemistry, Computer Science*, Mathematics^A,
Further Mathematics

Lara Thompson

Art*, Design Technology, Latin

Tamarai

Thurairajah

Economics*, History*, Mathematics^A

V

Edwin van Lopik

Chemistry*, History^A, Mathematics*,
Further Mathematics^A

W

Alexander Wade

Chemistry, Economics, Mathematics^A

Alfie Wadsworth

Computer Science, Mathematics, Physics

Qianrui (Richard)

Wang

Biology*, Chemistry*, Mathematics*,
Further Mathematics*

Charlie Wilde

French, History^A, Spanish

James Woodham

Geography*, German^A, Mathematics^A, Physics

Celebrating Exam Success

GCSE and A Level Examinations 2025

Resilient Ayesha secures place to study Medicine

A teenager who has battled a debilitating chronic illness for years was overjoyed after securing the grades she needed to pursue her dream of studying Medicine.

Ayesha R, was diagnosed with Crohn's Disease when she was nine years old, which led to her being on lifelong medication, missing huge chunks of school and struggling with extreme fatigue.

But her hard work and resilience paid off when she discovered she'd been awarded an A* in Economics, A in Biology and an A in Chemistry to secure her place at Leeds University.

Reacting to her fantastic results she said: "I don't know how I did it as it was very difficult but I'm really happy with my results!"

Chron's Disease is a long-term condition where part of the gut becomes inflamed. It cannot be cured but medications can help.

"I missed a lot of school and when Covid hit, I had to take a term off in case I got ill," recalled Ayesha. "I get really, really tired and I struggle to put on weight. I'm on different medications. I used to have to administer my own injections, and I have to continue to go in for check-ups.

"In the times I wasn't in school I would try and revise at home. I don't think I would have become the person I am if it wasn't for BGS. The teachers, and the support I've received, have been fantastic."

Ayesha, who joined BGS in Year 3, has wanted to study Medicine since she was a young girl and hopes to be an ophthalmic (eye) surgeon one day.

Dad, Maroof Razak, said the family was so proud of her.

"The joy is incredible, it's hard to put it into words," he said. "She's had it really tough, not only physically but psychologically.

"But she's a fighter and she's come through it. She's very strong willed and her success is down to her, the support and guidance she's had at BGS and from her mum."

Dr Simon Hinchliffe, Headmaster at BGS, said: "Ayesha has shown such courage over the years, never swaying from her dream to work in Medicine, in the face of the toughest of health conditions. She embodies the BGS spirit and we're extremely proud of how hard she's worked and her fantastic results."



//

**The joy is incredible,
it's hard to put it into words.**





BGS 'Bubble School' cohort celebrate GCSE success

Five years after returning as the only students in classrooms during lockdown, Bradford Grammar School's 'Bubble School' cohort are celebrating an outstanding set of GCSE results.

Back in 2020, when Covid forced schools across the country online, Year 6 pupils at BGS returned to near-empty classrooms. Divided into four carefully controlled bubbles, they sat two metres apart and were taught by staff who divided the school into zones to keep them safe.

Felicity Robertshaw-Hughes, Junior School Deputy Head, who helped run Bubble School, recalled: "It felt like a lifeline. Having them back in the classrooms brought a sense of normality and purpose during such a strange time.

"We talk a lot about the impact of Covid on education, but these are the children we did everything possible to protect. We went through something unusual together, and that experience makes me especially proud to see how far they've come.

"Watching them today, collecting GCSE results, is incredibly special."

Among those delighted with their results today was William M.

"I'm very happy with my grades," he said. "It was a weird time during Covid. The classes were quite small, so we got to know each other really well. We all helped each other."

Olivia G was "really pleased" with her results and recalled the friendships forged during Bubble School.

"It was quite unique to anything we'd experienced before but the teachers made it really welcoming. We made friends with people and they've stayed throughout the school," she said.

Dr Simon Hinchliffe, Headmaster at BGS, said: "This year group has shown remarkable resilience. Their education was a priority throughout the disruption, and today's results reflect not only their determination and character, but also the dedication of our staff and the strength of our school community."

Top art grade in the country for Roop

A TEENAGER discovered she'd scored one of the top GCSE grades in the country for Art.

Roop H gained a fantastic ten grade 9s and one 8 alongside a note from the OCR exam board which said she was one of the country's top performers in GCSE Art and Design: Fine Art.

Jilly Duffy, OCR Chief Executive, had written: "Many congratulations to Roop and to your school/college for this impressive achievement. May I wish Roop all the best for their next steps."

Roop, of Rawdon, Leeds, said: "It's quite overwhelming. Everyone in our year group put a lot of effort into their art and it's hard to judge who has the best work because it's all so different. It feels incredible to get this grade. It's definitely given me more confidence for the future."

Roop, who is looking to study Art in the Sixth Form at BGS, likes to draw in pencil and explored screen printing and textile work for her GCSE.

"There are so many art mediums to choose from at BGS and because everyone chooses something different it pushes you further to do better," she added.

Sarah Horsfield, Head of Art at BGS, said: "Roop is incredibly sophisticated in the way she thinks about her ideas. She has a fantastic skill set naturally and works really hard and explores new techniques, such as her work with textiles. She's a real trooper and has displayed true Yorkshire grit!"



Fantastic five achieve straight grade 9s

Five students at BGS were overjoyed after each achieving grade 9s across the board in their GCSEs.

Rufus B, Liberty P, Anna S, Abraham T and Navjot S were delighted when they opened their results and each discovered a string of outstanding grades.

Their joy was just one part of the celebrations taking part at the school, where more than half the GCSE grades awarded were at grades 8 or 9.

Rufus admitted he was 'quite terrified' going to collect his results until he saw he had eleven grade 9s.

"I was very happy. The teaching here has been second to none and there's also a great community atmosphere."

Liberty said: "I felt I hadn't done as well in these exams so when I opened the results and saw all the 9s I felt like I was going to cry!"

Navjot said: "I feel really happy. A lot of hard work went into it and I'm relieved to get these results. I'm looking forward to joining the Sixth Form."



Anna, whose sister Leah, a Team GB swimmer, went to BGS, added: "I was quite nervous going in to collect them but when I saw what I'd got I was relieved. I'm very happy."

Finally, Abraham said: "I felt nervous beforehand but as soon as I opened the slip it all went away. It reflects all of my hard work and the resources we were able to access."

Dr Simon Hinchliffe, Headmaster at Bradford Grammar School, said the performance of students walked in lock step with the high standards of previous years and he was delighted for them all.

"It's heartening to be able to celebrate such wonderful outcomes, across sciences, humanities, modern and ancient languages and the creative arts, and to acknowledge the healthy uptake of a broad range of subjects during Bradford's City of Culture Year."

"Bradford Grammar School has for generations enriched the Bradford civic and national scene with alumni such as artist David Hockney, composer Frederick Delius, entrepreneur Sir Ken Morrison and triathletes The Brownlees. It's exciting to contemplate who our latest cohort of young high achievers might become."



It's heartening to be able to celebrate such wonderful outcomes.

Howzat! Fast bowler Alex nets Durham University place

U19 ENGLAND cricketer Alexander W celebrated A Levels which secured his place to study Economics and Management at Durham University.

The 18-year-old, who is continuing his rise as one of the country's most exciting young fast bowlers, gained the grades he needed in Chemistry, Economics and Maths.

Alexander had combined his academic studies with a burgeoning cricket career that has seen him sign with Yorkshire County Cricket Club and represent England Under-19s. Known for his pace – regularly bowling at over 80mph – he has set his sights on becoming one of the fastest bowlers in the world.

He said: "The course at Durham is world-leading, and the cricket facilities are the best of any English university. I'll be able to train regularly while travelling back to Headingley to work with my Yorkshire coaches and players, who are some of the best in the country and extremely supportive."

This summer, Alexander is hoping to make his first-team debut for Yorkshire CCC, alongside selection for the England Under-19 squad for the series against Bangladesh in September. Further ahead, he has his sights set on the England Under-19 winter tour of the West Indies and the 2026 Under-19 World Cup in Africa.

The sport star has already enjoyed a string of career highlights, including selection for the England Under-19 tour of South Africa and training alongside Yorkshire's first and second teams on their pre-season camp in Abu Dhabi.

BGS has been central to Alexander's cricket journey, where he has represented the school team since Year 6 and developed under coach Simon Kellett, a former professional cricketer.

Alexander credits his time at BGS for instilling the discipline and ambition needed to succeed both on and off the field.

"Every training session and game I play, I give more than 100 per cent – and that drive comes from Bradford Grammar," he said. "The school has taught me to aim high, push myself and always give everything to be the very best I can be."

Headmaster Dr Simon Hinchliffe said: "Alexander's achievements encapsulate what we strive for at BGS – academic achievement alongside the pursuit of personal ambitions at the highest level. We wish him every success at Durham University and in his cricket career."



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-

Junior School



Arts and Performance

National Poetry Day

– SPRING TERM 2025

By Samuel L, Junior Journalist

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

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.



“

We are now officially
Guinness World Record
breakers!

Pottery keepsakes for BGS's first EYFS cohort

– SUMMER TERM 2025

By L Tapscott, Junior School
Teacher, and Isra K, Year 6

We welcomed Laura from the Salt
Pots team into our EYFS classroom
for a special creative session.

As this is the first-ever BGS EYFS cohort,
we wanted to create a beautiful keepsake
for each child, as well as a piece to display
in the EYFS/Year 1 development – to mark
the significance of our first home-grown
students at BGS.

Laura brought all the materials needed
for the Salt Pots workshop, and each child
worked in small groups to create their
own pottery piece. She supported the
children brilliantly, helping them feel
proud of their creations and teaching
them some key tips and tricks along
the way.

"It was a joy to watch the children explore
a new skill with the very talented expertise
of Laura, who helped guide our session.
I know as a parent this will be a treasured
memory that they will hold onto as they
grow up."



“

It was such a joy to watch the
children explore and engage
in new skills.

Communities, Societies and Activities

Harvest highlights from Junior School Council

– AUTUMN TERM 2024

Our Harvest Festival is a highlight of the school calendar, and this year, we celebrated with our annual bake sale to raise funds for Action Aid. Pupils from Years 2 to 6 contributed a wide variety of baked goods, including cakes, cookies, sweet treats, samosas and chaat. There were also fun games on offer, such as target practice and 'guess the name of the teddy'.

The event was a huge success, with Senior School pupils generously spending their pocket money. Thanks to everyone's support, we raised an impressive £1,000 for Action Aid. This money will go towards sponsoring children in Mozambique, Ghana, India and Uganda, providing them with essentials such as food, clothing, education supplies and shelter.



The Reading Ambassador

– AUTUMN TERM 2024

By Finlay A

In Year 6, some enthusiastic children have taken on the exciting new role of Reading Ambassador!

As part of our role, we read with children from all year groups across the school. We aim to help the younger pupils improve their reading skills, such as pronunciation and expanding their vocabulary.

For our Reception and Year One children, we focus on helping them learn how to read. This role also helps us practice our own reading, as we need to ensure we read clearly and understand the vocabulary in the books we share.

Reading is a very important part of our school day, and all the children, both older and younger, really enjoy it!



A big welcome to our new pupils and teachers for this academic year!

– AUTUMN TERM 2024

By Wahaaj-Ali H, Ayesha A, Ayaan N, Zoya K and Zaynab R from Year 6.

We wanted to interview some of our new pupils and teachers to learn about their daily routines of learning and teaching.

Mrs L Tapscott, Reception

What school have you worked at before?

I've worked at schools in Newcastle, South Kensington and Surrey.

How do you feel about working at Bradford Grammar School?

It has a family feeling; I really like it.

What were your first impressions of Bradford Grammar School?

It felt like a big family, and very big! I am not used to the secondary school pupils being on the site, so that was lovely.

What is your favourite part of the school day?

Probably the morning when we are doing phonics or maths learning.

What three words would you use to describe Bradford Grammar School?

Family, happy, adventure.



Mrs H Rayner, Year 1

What school have you worked at before?

I worked in a community primary school in north Halifax.

How do you feel about working at Bradford Grammar School?

I love it! It's a big change, and the new classrooms are lovely. The teachers are so friendly.

What were your first impressions of Bradford Grammar School?

I remember thinking that the building was impressive, and the gardens were well looked after. All the classrooms were really quiet!

What is your favourite part of the school day?

Lunchtime, because the dinners are so delicious.

What three words would you use to describe Bradford Grammar School?

Inspiring, welcoming, historic.

Mrs C Brass, Year 2

What school have you worked at before?

I worked at Rishworth in Halifax for 17 years.

How do you feel about working at Bradford Grammar School?

I love it! I waited a long time to find a new position, and it was the right decision to move to Bradford Grammar. I like the grown-ups and the children.



What were your first impressions of Bradford Grammar School?

I thought the buildings were beautiful, and all the children were friendly and helpful.

What is your favourite part of the school day?

My favourite part of the day is lunchtime!

What three words would you use to describe Bradford Grammar School?

Friendly, inviting, exciting.

Reception and Year 1

Penny

"I like phonics and music. I am happy my mummy works here. School is fun, and I enjoy it."

Hannah

"I like playtime and playing on the scooters. School is tiring, fun and full of friendship."

Aida

"I like being in my classroom, and I like maths. I think school is fun and has good learning."

Mohammed

"I like football, cricket and rugby. I think school is fun, with lots of new things and reading."

Leena

"I like my classroom and the coloured seats and signs on the doors. I think the playground and learning are fun."

KS1 Numeracy Days

– SPRING TERM 2025

By J Weaire, Junior School Teacher

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.



Opinion: The need for buildings in Bradford for neurodiverse children

– SPRING TERM 2025

By Ayesha R, Year 6

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 neurodiverse 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, neurodiverse 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 neurodiverse children – it could be open to everyone, free and inclusive.

The number of people with autism and Down's syndrome has risen. There are 16.1 million people with special needs in the UK and 18 per cent of children and young adults in Bradford have special needs – that's 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 Bradford Council to address the needs of neurodiverse children in our city.

Reflecting on the launch of Early Years at Bradford Grammar Junior School

– SUMMER TERM 2025

September 2024 saw an important moment in the history of Bradford Grammar Junior School as the doors opened for the very first Reception and Year 1 pupils. It followed a £2 million investment in facilities, curriculum and staff, and marked the start of a new chapter for the school.

The new Early Years children were welcomed into Clock House, a bright, spacious and carefully designed setting with direct access to outdoor learning areas. Class sizes are deliberately small (with a maximum capacity of 20), and the aim from the outset has been to create a calm, well-resourced environment in which children can thrive.

Over the course of the year, pupils have become confident and independent learners, exploring a curriculum designed specifically for their age and stage. They've taken part in outdoor construction and play, learning about the natural world, art, music, early reading and writing, maths and science-based activities – as well as developing the social and communication skills that form the foundation of a happy and successful school experience.

Mrs L Tapscott, Early Years Foundation Stage Lead, joined the school ahead of the launch and helped shape many aspects of the provision during its first year.



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It's been exciting to see everything come together. The children have really thrived.



“It's very rare in a teaching career to get the chance to create something from scratch,” she said. “From resourcing the classroom and planning the curriculum to establishing our approach to assessment and admissions, it's been exciting to see everything come together. The children have thrived and it's been a privilege to be part of the beginning of something new.”

Throughout the year, the strong relationships between staff, children and families have been a key feature. Parents were invited to an induction meeting before term began and were given tips on how to prepare their child for school life. A daily handover system and the use of the online Tapestry learning journal have helped to keep communication consistent and supportive too.

“Tapestry has been a lovely way to share each child's learning journey,” Mrs Tapscott explained. “It gives parents a window into the classroom and lets them contribute too – whether it's a video of their child riding a bike for the first time or a photo from a family day out.”

Now, at the end of their first year, the children are well-prepared for the transition into the next year group. As the next cohort prepares to join, the school is proud of how the Early Years has settled into the wider life of BGS.

“The children's enthusiasm, curiosity and sense of belonging have really stood out,” said Mrs Tapscott. “This first year has gone quickly, but it's been full of growth – not just for the pupils, but for the provision as a whole.”

Mr Richard Ribeiro, Headmaster at Bradford Grammar Junior School, said: “Introducing Early Years has been one of the most significant developments in recent years at BGS. We've created a learning environment that is calm, purposeful and full of joy – and we've seen the children grow in confidence, independence and enthusiasm. This first year has laid strong foundations, and we're looking forward to building on them as our youngest pupils continue their journey through the school.”



Adventurers conquer Welsh Peaks for charity

– SUMMER TERM 2025

By L Marsden, Junior School Teacher
Year 5 pupil Rafe and his friend
Henry took on a formidable
challenge over the half-term break
to raise funds for the Leeds Rhinos
Foundation.

Accompanied by their dads, the boys
attempted the Welsh 3000s – a gruelling
trek across all 15 Welsh mountains over
3,000 feet, spanning approximately 30
miles through Snowdonia National Park.

The route includes iconic peaks such as
Snowdon, the knife-edge ridge of Crib
Goch, and the rugged Tryfan. The team
aimed to complete the challenge within
48 hours, relying on months of training,
sheer determination and a generous
supply of sweets. Their fathers played
a crucial role as navigators and support
crew, carrying gear and also keeping
spirits high.



However, the adventure hit a setback on
day two, when gale-force winds forced
the group to descend for safety.
Undeterred, the boys returned the
following weekend to complete the
remaining peaks – finishing what they
started with renewed resilience and pride.

Their efforts not only showcased
remarkable endurance for such young
climbers but also raised awareness and
support for a worthy cause. A true
testament to teamwork, perseverance,
and youthful ambition.

Junior Maths Competition

– SUMMER TERM 2025

By Ayesha R, Year 6

A small selection of students from Year 5 and Year 6 were chosen to take part in the Junior Maths Competition (JMC) alongside Year 7 and Year 8 pupils from the Senior School. This is a national competition run by the UK Maths Trust, designed to encourage mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency.

The BGS pupils sat the 60-minute competition in the Price Hall on 1 May. We are so very proud of all our entrants from Clock House, but especially those who scored highly enough to earn a bronze, silver or gold certificate.

A special mention must go to Teddy K, who scored joint-highest in our school and has been invited to the follow-on round in June.

Clock House pupils displayed enthusiasm and courage during the JMC, and have shown that they have a bright future in this subject. A sterling effort by all!



Eco Council acts on food waste and wildlife

– SUMMER TERM 2025

By E Green, Junior School Teacher

We started off the year in Eco Council by discussing areas we could focus on. The Year 4 class reps brought to the meeting the problem of food waste, after noticing food being thrown away in the dining hall. Over the weeks, the class reps spoke with their classes, and we also contacted Mr Clint, Head of Estates.

We realised that some children were rushing their food to get onto the playground quickly, so it was decided that equipment would be available from 12.30pm. This meant everyone could enjoy eating their lunch with their friends without having to rush. We gave an assembly to explain the problem of food waste to the whole school.

At the start of the year, through consultation with the classes, we chose to continue our support of a WWF endangered animal using the funds raised by Eco Council last year. This year, we decided to give money to adopt a tiger.

"It has been brilliant working alongside such enthusiastic and committed Year 4 class representatives who have brought super ideas to meetings in order to improve our environment."

“

It has been brilliant working alongside such enthusiastic and committed Year 4 class representatives.

Trips and Events

Bradford to Drax: an insightful energy journey

– AUTUMN TERM 2024

By Ishaan S, Year 6

In October, Year 6 at Bradford Grammar School visited Drax Power Station, the largest power station in the UK, to learn about energy production. This was the first time BGS had visited Drax Power Station and I'm excited to share my personal experience.

Drax Power Station is located on the River Ouse, between Selby and Goole in North Yorkshire. It is the UK's largest renewable power station, using biomass (small pieces of wood from the USA and Canada) to generate electricity. The energy produced is sold to various electricity companies.

Upon arrival, we were guided by staff to a building that resembled a classroom, where we dropped off our bags and sat on benches. We began by answering some questions before learning about the process of turning biomass into electricity. We were also told that the wood used is renewable because the trees are replanted. As we would be entering a noisy area, we learned some hand actions to help us understand each stage of the process.

Next, we played a few fun mini-games, such as filling a city with electricity using blocks and making a fan spin. After lunch, we boarded a bus that took us to the main station. As the station came into view, we spotted the large domes, which we were later told were made from the same material as bouncy castles. These domes are inflated with fans and have concrete and steel inside to support them. We also saw a turbine on display.

Our group was then split in half for a minibus tour, which I really enjoyed. The tour guide explained the entire site to us, and we had the opportunity to ask questions about Drax, electricity and power generation.

Finally, we entered the main building. On the way, we saw trains transporting biomass to the station. Before going inside, we made sure to put on all our protective gear, especially headphones, to protect our ears from the extreme noise levels. Inside, we were able to see most of the processes in action.

We ended our fantastic journey with a group photo and then returned to drop off our protective gear. We answered the same questions from earlier to see if our opinions had changed. It was a magnificent journey, one I'll certainly remember.





Local MP visits Bradford Grammar School

– AUTUMN TERM 2024

By Ayesha R, Year 6

This week, our school had a special visit from our local MP, Naz Shah. I was so excited because I got chosen to ask her a question! It was a big moment for me and I felt proud that my teachers picked my question.

This amazing event was held in the library, in the debating area where normally only Sixth Formers can go. This made me feel like a VIP!

When we met Naz Shah, we learned she had faced many challenges in her personal life but managed to overcome them and succeed. This shows that anyone can achieve their dreams if they work hard, have resilience and believe in themselves.

Naz Shah told us about her work in Parliament. Her busy schedule includes voting, debating and discussing important topics.

When it was my turn to speak, I felt nervous but excited. My dream is to help create an inclusive society for neurodiverse people. I asked if there would be more access to wellbeing centres and sensory rooms for neurodiverse people in Bradford. Naz Shah listened closely and answered thoughtfully.

Meeting our MP was a great experience, and I hope there are more chances like this for students in the future.



I was so excited because
I got chosen to ask
Naz a question!

Christmas in Clock House

– SPRING TERM 2025

By Safa A, Year 6

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 11 December, 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 12 December, 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.

18 December 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.



Reception, Year 1 and 2 Nativity

– SPRING TERM 2025

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!



Year 1 trip to Bradford Industrial Museum

– SPRING TERM 2025

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.

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

– SPRING TERM 2025

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.

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!



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

Adventurers embark on an unforgettable experience in Cumbria

– SUMMER TERM 2025

By C Brass, Junior School Teacher

Year 2 pupils recently embarked on a thrilling overnight trip to the Cumbria Outdoors Centre in Borrowdale, nestled in the heart of the Lake District.



The journey began on the morning of 28 April, with Mrs Robertshaw Hughes at the wheel, safely transporting the excited group to their destination. The adventure kicked off with Ghyll Scrambling in Whinlatter Forest, an exhilarating outdoor pursuit where the children navigated rocky streams and climbed through cascading water – an experience that tested both their courage and teamwork skills.

On Tuesday morning, the young explorers took a hands-on approach to their meals, preparing their own packed lunches before embarking on another memorable activity. The group then took to the water, canoeing across Derwentwater to St Herbert's Island. There, they engaged in 'Treasure Island' activities, an imaginative and interactive experience inspired by classic adventure tales, igniting their curiosity and enthusiasm for exploration.

The trip provided a perfect blend of adventure, teamwork, and outdoor learning, leaving the children with cherished memories and a newfound confidence in their abilities.



Year 5 has an action-packed adventure at Bewerley Park

– SUMMER TERM 2025

By L Marsden, Junior School Teacher

Excitement and courage were in abundance as Year 5 pupils embarked on an unforgettable outdoor adventure at Bewerley Park from 14 to 16 May. The trip was a perfect blend of challenge and camaraderie, offering students the chance to push their boundaries while forging lasting friendships.

One of the standout activities was the thrilling 'Leap of Faith', where pupils bravely ascended a towering platform before taking a heart-pounding jump, securely harnessed yet filled with exhilaration. The challenge tested their confidence and resilience, leaving them with sense of achievement.

Beyond the adrenaline-fuelled moments, the group enjoyed a scenic trek through Trollers Ghyll, immersing themselves in the stunning landscape and uncovering the beauty of nature along the way.

The adventure continued with an energetic clamber across Brimham Rocks, where students navigated the ancient formations, adding an element of exploration to their outdoor escapades.

Throughout the trip, smiles were abundant, laughter echoed across the grounds and memories were made that will stay with pupils and staff for years to come.



Pupils tackle the great outdoors in Windermere residential

– SUMMER TERM 2025

By E Green, Junior School Teacher

Year 6 pupils embarked on an unforgettable residential adventure from 23 to 25 April, staying at Windermere Youth Hostel. The trip was packed with outdoor thrills, with highlights including canoeing on the stunning Lake Windermere and gorge scrambling in Langdale.

Setting off on Wednesday morning, the group arrived at the youth hostel just in time to enjoy lunch outside in the spring sunshine before diving straight into activities. The hostel itself provided an unexpected point of interest, with rooms redesigned through the hit TV show *Interior Design Masters*, adding a unique touch to the experience.

From navigating the waters to conquering rocky terrains, pupils embraced the challenges with enthusiasm, strengthening friendships along the way. The trip provided not only adventure but also a chance to appreciate the beauty of the Lake District, leaving the explorers with lifelong memories.



Sporting Achievements

Junior Gymnasts showcase talent at HMC competition in Newcastle

– SPRING TERM 2025

By R Parkinson, Teacher of PE and Games

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, and 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 flights on the vault. A huge well done to all the pupils who took part.



Shaping young lives through sport

– SPRING TERM 2025

Mrs G Jones, Head of Junior School PE and 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 and 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.



My career took 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 specialists, ensuring they receive expert coaching from the very beginning. This has created a consistent and progressive programme, and has laid 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.

NEJS Athletics success at the University of York

– SUMMER TERM 2025

At the University of York Athletics Stadium, young athletes from schools across the North East gathered to compete in the North East Junior School (NEJS) Championships, one of the most anticipated events on the Junior School's summer sports calendar.

Among the outstanding performances were two of our very own rising stars who proudly represented Clock House.

Ethan P made his mark in the U11 Long Jump, delivering an incredible personal best of 4.14 metres – an impressive leap which earned him first place and secured him the title of NEJS Long Jump Champion. His jump was eight centimetres further than the second-place athlete from RGS Newcastle.

Ethan didn't stop there – he also showed off his speed and determination on the track by qualifying for the final of the 100m sprint, proving he's a force to be reckoned with in both field and track events.

Nura A also delivered a strong and inspiring performance in the U11 800m race. Competing against some of the best young middle-distance runners in the region, she held her own and achieved a top ten finish – a brilliant result that speaks to her grit and future potential.

We congratulate them both on their achievements and look forward to watching them continue to reach new heights – literally and figuratively.



Clock House Day of Sport 2025: A celebration of talent, teamwork and tenacity

– SUMMER TERM 2025

This year, our Clock House Day of Sport was reimagined – and what a day it turned out to be! With fine weather, a packed schedule and enthusiastic participation from children, staff and parents alike, the 2025 edition was a true celebration of everything that makes our school community special.

For the first time, the event was adapted to include our youngest pupils from Reception and Year 1, allowing them to take part in a meaningful and memorable way. Mrs Jones, inspired to make the day more inclusive, wanted it to be more than just a sports competition – she envisioned it as a showcase of the skills and progress the children have made throughout the year.

The morning began with Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 proudly demonstrating their talents in gymnastics and swimming, encouraged by their families. From confident strokes in the pool to balance and agility on the mats, it was clear that these young learners have come a long way.

Meanwhile, the older pupils took to the cricket pitches, representing their house in a spirited inter-house cricket competition. The matches were as exciting as they were competitive. The sportsmanship and teamwork on display were a credit to all involved.

In the afternoon, the whole school gathered on the athletics track with all children participating in races. KS2 pupils also competed in long jump and javelin, demonstrating both technique and determination. The support from parents and peers added to the unique BGS atmosphere as races were won, jumps were measured, and javelins soared through the air.

Notably, school records were broken by Ethan P and Ben H in Year 6, and Lucas T in Year 4.

Bradford House was crowned the Sports Day Champions of 2025! Their combined effort, spirit, and support for one another led them to a well-deserved victory.

A huge well done to every pupil – whether they set a record, tried something new, or simply gave it their best. The Day of Sport was not just about the results; it was about recognising effort, building confidence, and bringing our school community together.

And to all the parents and carers who came to support and cheer: thank you for helping to make the day even more special.

Until next year – on your marks, get set, go!

Exceptional growth and success for Junior Gymnastics

– SUMMER TERM 2025

This year has been an outstanding one for Junior Gymnastics at our school, with an unprecedented number of pupils getting involved. A huge influx of participants has resulted in 36 pupils proudly representing the school in competitions, more than ever before. With such enthusiasm and talent, we've entered a record number of gymnastics events this season.

Back in January, our U11 Mixed Acro team achieved a remarkable milestone by qualifying for the National Finals. Competing against an exceptionally strong field, the team gave an impressive performance and secured 13th place nationally. This was a fantastic accomplishment and a testament to their dedication and teamwork.

In May, the team travelled to Hipperholme for a practice Key Steps competition. For some of our gymnasts, it was their very first taste of competitive gymnastics. This valuable experience set the stage for our debut appearance at the official Key Steps competition, held at Utopia Gymnastics Club in Brighouse.

The competition saw participants from Year 3 and 4 and Year 5 and 6 pupils across both Advanced and Foundation levels. Every gymnast delivered their routines with both precision and confidence. Their vaults were particularly impressive, showcasing powerful take offs and solid landings.



Our teams achieved outstanding results:

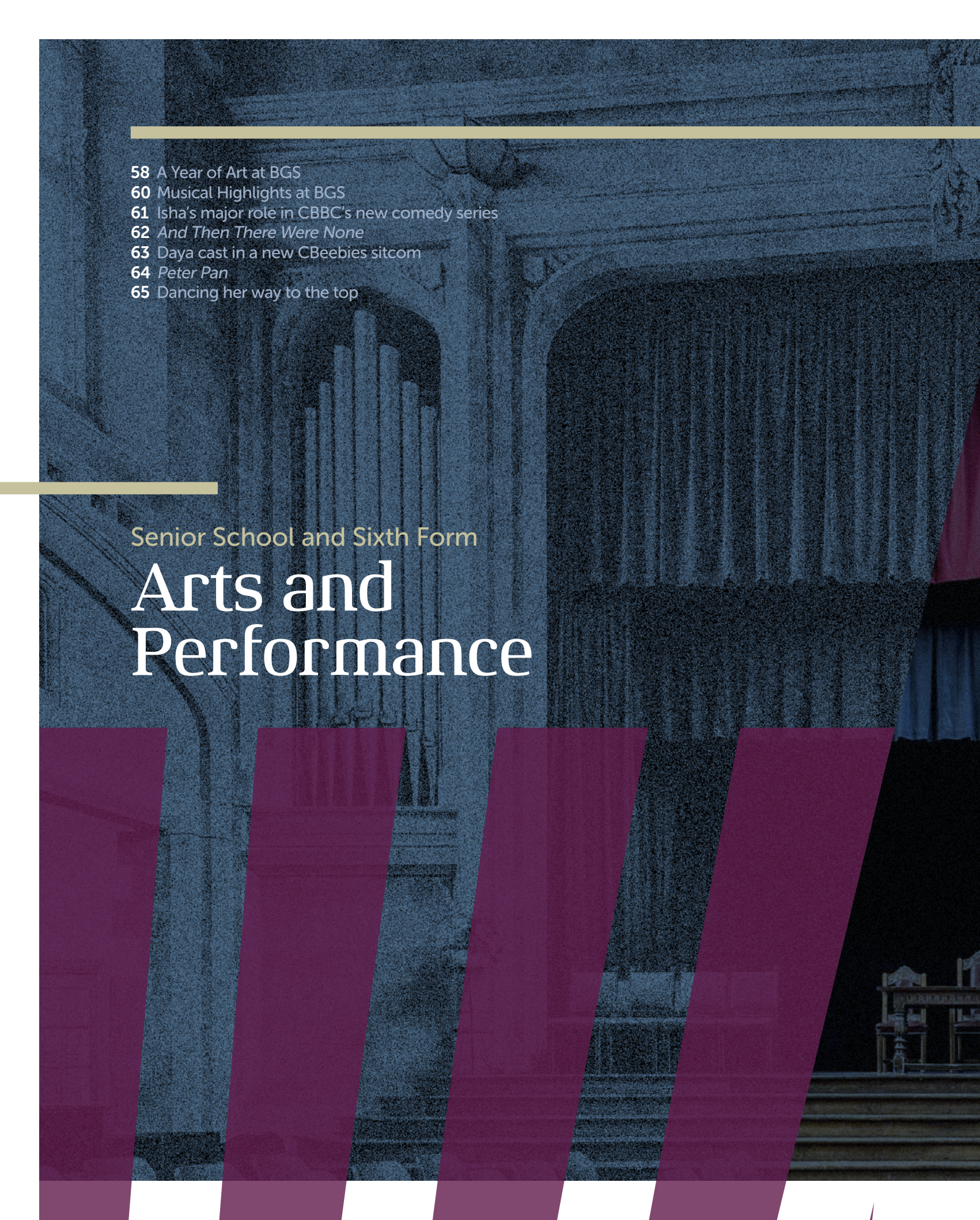
- Years 5 and 6 Advanced Team – second place
- Years 5 and 6 Foundation Team – third place
- Years 3 and 4 Advanced Team – third Place
- Years 3 and 4 Foundation Team – second Place

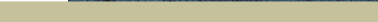
These results highlighted the superb progress our gymnasts made this year and the strength of our school's gymnastics programme.

Looking ahead, the team is now hard at work preparing for the English Schools Acro Competition, taking place at the end of June. With the momentum and spirit shown so far, we're hopeful for even more success.

Well done to all our Junior Gymnastics stars, you've done your school proud.



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Senior School and Sixth Form

Arts and Performance





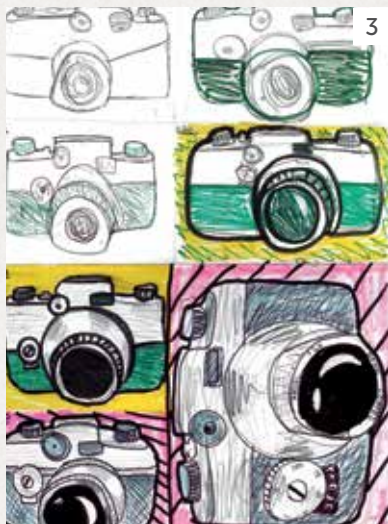
Arts and Performance



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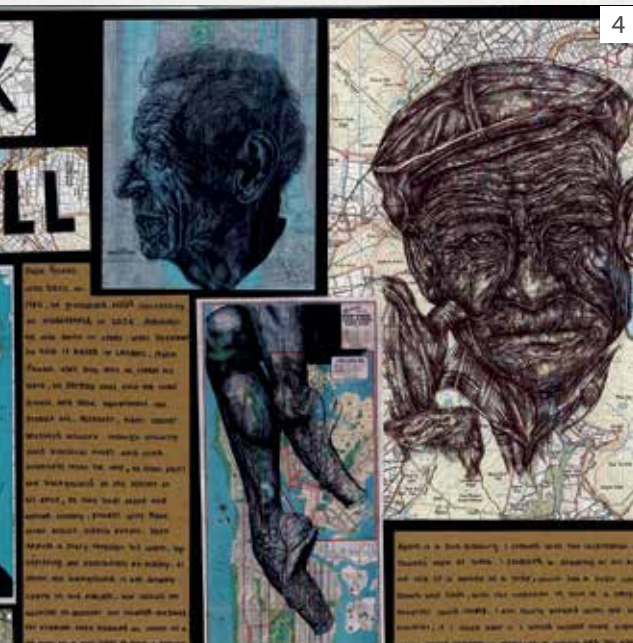
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A Year of Art at BGS

1. Annabel W, Year 9
2. Sachin P, Year 9
3. Eva H, Year 8
4. Sophie L S, Year 12
5. Eva H, Year 8
6. Mimi M, Year 7
7. Danniella P, Year 9
8. Issy H, Year 12
9. Kashfia M, Year 11
10. Florence H, Year 13
11. Addison S, Year 10
12. Isabelle S, Year 11
13. Lila W-G, Year 13



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Musical Highlights at BGS

Autumn 2024

Senior Choir provided the music for our **Founders' Day** at the Cathedral, singing Howells' *Jubilate (Collegium Regale)*, Paul Mealor's *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* and leading the hymns. It was a privilege and pleasure, as always, to sing in Bradford Cathedral.

After half term, our Tuesday evening **recital series** started with beautiful performances from our pianists, prepared by our school's three piano teachers. We were treated to a variety of music with 20th century composers featuring heavily and a great variety of both jazz and classical music performed. Our guitar concert was also another enjoyable evening and showed the strength of Mr Cook's pupils, with, once again, a wide variety of music on display and fantastic performances from our guitar ensembles. The **Autumn Chamber Concert** provided another platform for our most advanced instrumentalists and singers to perform solos as well as our small ensembles. Starting the concert off with the Junior Brass Ensemble performing music by Robbie Williams followed by a Buxtehude Chorale Prelude really showed the variety of music performed in the concert.

Congratulations to three of our Senior School pupils, Travis Y, Beth A and Oliver M who successfully auditioned for a place in the **National Children's Orchestra** and Reuben A who performed with **Opera North** as part of the children's chorus in their production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*.

Meanwhile, five of our Senior School cellists, Ayla M, Sebastian R, Martha J, Fred D and Eleanor C took part in a cello workshop with Catherine Black, one of the country's leading cello teachers, mentors and arrangers of cello music.



We ended the year with our two biggest events of the year, our **Nine Lessons and Carols Service** in Bradford Cathedral and our Christmas Concert. Our four school choirs and Senior Brass Group made the trip to Bradford Cathedral for the service. The choirs sang a variety of music, both traditional and modern. 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 an evening of fantastic music, laughter, and Christmas joy. All 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.



Spring 2025

Our **Spring Chamber Concert**, held on 20 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 real highlight of the term was our **Choral Concert**. The 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 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 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. They had 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.

Summer 2025

Our Leavers' Concert this year was a magnificent evening of music, featuring performances from our large instrumental ensembles as well as solo and small ensembles from our departing Year 13s. The evening started wonderfully with Junior Orchestra performing Couperin and Purcell, setting the tone for the excellent music-making we would enjoy over the next two hours. The Wickermen and Soul Band entertained us with their high-energy sets and Senior Orchestra wowed us with their performance of the Rimsky-Korsakov Trombone Concerto, highlighted by stunning trombone playing from Alfie S. Our other three ensembles in the second half – Big Band, the Dixieland Crackerjacks and Concert Band – featured many Year 13 soloists who have given so much to the Music Department. Some of our Year 13 musicians performed their final solo at BGS, reminding us of their significant contribution to music-making at school. Highlights included a brilliant rendition of *Ra Ra Rasputin* by the Senior Brass Group, complete with body percussion, Michael Nyman on piano and wonderful performances of *Losing My Mind* and *Con te Partirò*.

All 22 students who sat their Trinity or Associated Board Music Exams passed with flying colours and 16 exams were graded as either a merit or distinction. A special thank you to our wonderful team of visiting Music Teachers for preparing the candidates so well.

On 14 March, our Junior Choir travelled to Skipton to take part in the Skipton Music Festival. They performed in the Year 9 and Under Youth Choirs category, singing two songs: *Hey Dumba*, a traditional Brazilian song, and *Seasons of Love* by Jonathan Larson. The choir was awarded the highest mark possible, the exceptional category – a distinction never awarded at the festival, making it incredibly special.



Isha's major role in CBBC's new comedy series

– AUTUMN TERM 2024

Actress and Year 9 pupil, Isha A, is set to feature on our screens in CBBC's eagerly anticipated new comedy series, *High Hoops*.

The show, which is set in Halifax and follows the adventures of a girls' basketball team at a secondary school, is expected to air early in the New Year.

Isha said: "Landing this role was exciting and another achievement to add to my CV. It's nice to be involved in a project for an older audience."

Isha plays the role of Zara, the school basketball captain who she described as "a bit nerdy with her own charm".

Isha's acting journey began at the age of five. Over the years, she has built an impressive resume, performing in feature films, advertisements and the popular CBeebies programme *Biff, Chip and Kipper*, where she portrayed Anneena. She dedicates at least 12 hours a week to her drama and dance commitments around her studies at BGS.

Her extensive work to date includes adverts for Scruff-a-Luvs, Children in Need, Facebook Portal and Morrisons, along with voicing Frankie the cat in the award-winning *Pip and Posy* animation on Channel 5.



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Landing this role was exciting and another achievement to add to my CV.



And Then There Were None

– SPRING TERM 2025

By C Bruce, Teacher of English

On 30 and 31 January, 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.



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



Daya cast in a new CBeebies sitcom

– SUMMER TERM 2025

Year 8 pupil Daya S A has secured a role in the upcoming CBeebies comedy series *The Football Fantastics*.

The ten-part show, set in Yorkshire, follows six children who attend a lively and often unpredictable weekend football club, led by an enthusiastic coaching team and a nature-loving groundskeeper.

Daya plays one of the central characters, described as a solid footballer with a mature outlook and a humorous side. He said: "The character felt quite close to who I am. I was told he had a bit of Ross from Friends or a young Gareth Southgate about him – sensible, but with a streak of goofiness!"

Filming involved long days, on-set tutoring and close collaboration with the cast and crew. The young actors lived together during production, forming strong bonds. "Everyone became like a big family and we really looked out for one another," said Daya.

Balancing schoolwork alongside filming was a key part of the experience. "My teachers sent work via Teams and I had a tutor on set. One of my classmates even sent me photos of her books to help me keep up."

Daya's mother, Raj, described the experience as both rewarding and revealing. "It was a joy to watch him working so hard and handling everything with such maturity," she said. "He managed the time pressures, schoolwork and learning his lines with real tenacity."

She also expressed her appreciation for the School's support: "While this was a unique opportunity, school remained the priority and we're grateful for how supportive and encouraging BGS has been throughout."

Daya is no stranger to the spotlight. He voiced Mark Clump in the Sky Original children's series *The Brilliant World of Tom Gates*, and his diverse portfolio includes appearances in McDonald's and Royal Navy adverts, as well as Channel 4's *The Secret Life of 5 Year Olds*.

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Everyone became like a big family and we really looked out for one another.





Peter Pan

– SUMMER TERM 2025

On 16 May, 30 Year 7, 8 and 9 students took part in a one-night-only performance of J M Barrie's children's classic, *Peter Pan*.

To a sell-out audience, the cast created the Victorian nursery of the Darlings, the underground home of the Lost Boys and the ominous pirate ship of Captain Hook. The applause was well deserved, especially as this was many students' first production at BGS. A special thank you goes to our magnificent Peter (Anna R) and Wendy (Linda W) who had their first experience of 'flying' through some very brave lifts! As always, the show was representative of the whole school and included a backstage crew made up of Year 10 and 12 volunteers, a technical team of students, and co-director Charlotte D from Year 12. True theatre magic was created, and we can't wait for next year.



Dancing her way to the top

– SUMMER TERM 2025

Year 11 student, Erin B, continues to make her mark on the competitive dance circuit, reaching the semi-finals in Latin at this year's British National Ballroom and Latin Championships in Blackpool.

Held across two days in April, the championships brought together some of the UK's top amateur dancers. Erin qualified months in advance – in Latin back in September and in Ballroom by November – and competed in as many as five routines across both disciplines. Despite this being her first time dancing with new partners following a recent change of dance school, Erin delivered confident and polished performances.

"The atmosphere was amazing," she said. "Reaching the Latin semi-final was a real highlight – it felt like a reflection of how far I've come."

Erin's interest in dance was sparked early by her mother, who also competed in Blackpool, finishing fourth in her Ballroom final. Erin began lessons at the age of four and was competing by the time she turned five. She now trains at Kirsty Marshall's Academy of Dance in Brighouse, where her schedule includes up to four hours of training on Tuesday evenings, private coaching and additional rehearsals throughout the week.

Alongside her demanding dance commitments, Erin balances her GCSE studies at Bradford Grammar School. "It can definitely be a challenge at times, especially with training or competitions falling just before an exam," she said. "But I've learned how to use my time effectively – even small gaps between lessons or training can be useful!"

Erin's next major dance competition is the Sequence Championships, also in Blackpool, in October, and she remains focused on improving and pushing towards a place in the finals. "It's always in the back of my mind when I'm training," she said. "That's the next goal."



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Senior School and Sixth Form

Communities, Societies and Activities





Communities, Societies and Activities

BGS launches charity's first Junior Committee

– AUTUMN TERM 2024

Bradford Grammar School has become the first school to establish a Junior Committee for Action for Sport, a Bradford-based charity that provides underprivileged children with sportswear to encourage participation in sports.

Leading this initiative is Head of Year 7, Mrs E Tomlinson, who was recently appointed as a Brand Ambassador for the charity.

Mrs Tomlinson's leadership and the formation of the new Junior Committee represent a deepened commitment to supporting Action for Sport's mission, with a focus on expanding the charity's reach within the community.



She said: "Action for Sport aligns perfectly with our whole school characteristics of empathy, social responsibility and giving back. Through this partnership, our students aren't just donating kit; they're learning about equity in sport, environmental sustainability and how accessible resources can truly change lives."

Since 2020, BGS has supported Action for Sport through various fundraising activities, including Year 7's annual Christmas bake sale and end-of-year sponsored walk to Ilkley, raising thousands of pounds for the charity.

The new Junior Committee will give students the opportunity to take the lead in fundraising and awareness efforts, as well as assist in sorting and distributing donated kit. Mrs Tomlinson is also exploring the installation of permanent donation bins on campus and incorporating volunteer work into the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme to further enhance student involvement.

Serving up success

– AUTUMN TERM 2024

BGS and Skipton Tennis Centre's winning partnership

As Skipton Tennis Centre (STC) undergoes significant expansion, including two new canopied padel courts, its partnership with Bradford Grammar School remains central to its vision.

Together, they are not only providing opportunities for people of all ages to play both tennis and padel, but also building a vibrant community grounded in shared values and a commitment to overall wellness.

Since its inception in 2008, STC has grown into a premier sports facility, featuring five tennis courts and becoming one of the first clubs in the UK to introduce a padel court. Today, the centre serves over 500 players and supports a further 1,400 individuals through its outreach programme.

The close relationship with BGS remains a cornerstone of STC's success. It's founder, Adam Cox, said: "Our collaboration with Bradford Grammar School has not only amplified our reach but also deepened our impact within the community. Together, we're not just teaching tennis and padel, we're building a community where everyone can thrive."

For BGS, the partnership offers students opportunities to engage in high-quality tennis programmes, and sport leadership opportunities, while for STC, it provides a platform to reach a wider audience. BGS has supported STC by providing access to its facilities and helping with events, further enhancing the club's outreach.

Dr Simon Hinchliffe said: "Our partnership thrives because our values align, and together we share a vision for encouraging people to be active and benefit from competitive sport."



Our collaboration with
Bradford Grammar School
has not only amplified our
reach but also deepened
our impact within the
community ...



Link up letters

– AUTUMN TERM 2024

By R Parkinson, Teacher of PE and Games

Five Sixth Form pupils from BGS recently joined the celebration for 'Link Up Letters,' a heartwarming community initiative that has secured lottery funding to support its growing demands. The event highlighted the project's remarkable work connecting people through handwritten letters.

'Link Up Letters' involves volunteers writing monthly letters to residents of care homes and supported living accommodations across the Bradford District, many of whom have limited contact with the outside world. With 20 BGS pupils already involved, the project offers a wonderful opportunity to give back to the community and foster meaningful connections.

Ray, the project lead, praised the pupils' involvement, saying: "The pupils were a credit to the school and their contribution was tremendous." The lottery funding will help 'Link Up Letters' expand its reach and continue its vital work combating loneliness and isolation.

This initiative reflects the kindness and community spirit of young people, demonstrating how simple acts of compassion can brighten lives and create lasting impact.

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The pupils were a credit to the school, and their contribution was tremendous.

Nicky raises £3,200 in memory of grandpa

– AUTUMN TERM 2024

Nicky W has raised an impressive £3,200 for Manorlands Hospice in memory of his late grandfather, Graham Staines.

The Year 8 pupil took on the 'Zip the Cow' challenge – a daring zip wire ride from the top of the iconic Cow and Calf Rocks above Ilkley, descending 270 metres down Ilkley Moor at speeds of up to 35mph.



When asked about his inspiration for the fundraiser, Nicky said: "My grandpa was really nice and supportive. He passed away at Manorlands Hospice, and they were so kind to him. I wanted to do something to help them."

Supported by family, friends and the local community, 12-year-old Nicky's fundraising efforts earned him the title of Top Fundraiser at the event, which was staged by healthcare and bereavement charity Sue Ryder. His achievement was rewarded with a ride in a gyrocopter, flown by Old Bradfordian Robin Wright.

"It was really exciting," said Nicky. "I'm not scared of heights, so I enjoyed every minute of it!"

Nicky is already planning his next challenge. He has signed up for the Sue Ryder Manorlands PaintRush 2025, a 5km colour run on Father's Day next year.

"I think my grandpa would have been proud of me," Nicky added. "It feels good to give back."



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I think my grandpa would
have been proud of me.



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



BBC Young Reporters Festival 2025

– SPRING TERM 2025

By L W Hanson, Head of English

On Tuesday 5 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.

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 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.



Well done and thank you to
all the teams that took part
and congratulations once
again to *The Warmen!*

Senior Quiz Challenge Final 2025

– SUMMER TERM 2025

Friday 4 April saw the final of the 2025 Senior Quiz Challenge. Two teams battled through the group stages and knockout rounds to reach this stage, seeing off fierce competition at every step.

Bled Bros (Elliot S, Sean M, Reuban H and Alfie S) were the wild card entry. They are superb quizzers who obtained the 8th place qualification after the group stages. They brought a fierce competitiveness to their matches, combining quick buzzer speed, sporting knowledge and a no holds barred attitude to their performances. Defeating Quantum Pendants in the quarter finals and obtaining a close fought victory over Appropriate Name in the semis, they were the first team to make it through to the final.

The Warmen (Ben M, Eliza S, Harry W and Henry S) were undefeated in the group stages, racking up 450 points – the highest total of any team.

They showed superb quiz ability, eclectic knowledge and a lack of fear on the buzzers, frequently interrupting questions to give the correct answers. Having sailed through tough opposition in the quarter finals against Keatz, they emerged victorious from their semi-final against the formidable Macapacas.

A full DH room was the venue for the final, with nervous looking faces at the buzzers. The start of the match saw some close competition, but, as the questions continued on, The Warmen began to nudge ahead before building up an unassailable lead. The Bled Bros fought valiantly, but were ultimately beaten by an on-form Warmen side who were superb.

The final result was a resounding victory for The Warmen who take their place as the inaugural BGS Senior Quiz Challenge victors. They will be returning next year for the Senior Quiz Challenge 25/26 to defend their title – maybe your team could be the one to take their place?

Sign-ups for the Senior Quiz Challenge 25/26 are open to teams of four in Years 12 and 13 and will take place in September 2025.

LEGO® champions go global

– SUMMER TERM 2025

A team of Bradford Grammar School students has returned from the USA with an international award, after representing the UK at the FIRST® LEGO® League International Invitational in Florida.

The Incredilegos – a team of students from Years 7 to 12 – were crowned UK champions earlier this year, earning them the chance to compete on the world stage against 96 teams from across the globe.

After three intense days of competition in Florida, the BGS team were nominated for three awards and placed second in the Innovation category – one of the four core judging areas and a major accolade at international level.

The global challenge develops vital STEM skills in coding, robotics and innovation. This year's theme, Submerged, tasked students with designing and programming a LEGO robot to complete ocean-related missions, and presenting a high-quality project to expert judges, including developers from Bosch.

Mr N Asghar, Head of Computer Science and LEGO Robotics club lead, said: "It has been an absolutely brilliant week. To come second internationally in one of the key judging areas is just phenomenal. The students showed incredible resilience, creativity and teamwork throughout. I could not be more proud of them."



As well as competing, the team took part in cultural exchanges, forged friendships with teams from across the world, and made many memories to last a lifetime. Their success has also drawn praise from the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), which runs the LEGO League in the UK.

Hannah Rees, Senior Education Manager for FIRST® LEGO® League UK and Ireland, said: "We've seen remarkable growth confidence, and skill development from all participants – especially from Incredilegos, who triumphed at the UK final in Harrogate and went on to represent us at the Florida International Open."

Reflecting on the journey, Year 12 student Harry W said: "To go from lunchtime club sessions to competing internationally has been amazing."

The Florida event followed a series of standout performances by the Incredilegos, including victories at both the Manchester regional heat and the UK national final. At each stage, they were recognised for their robot design, innovation and collaborative spirit.



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It has been a brilliant week. To come second internationally in one of the key judging areas is just phenomenal.

"This competition is about so much more than robotics," added Mr Asghar. "It gives students a chance to immerse themselves in real-world engineering challenges and develop problem-solving and presentation skills. Our lunchtime LEGO Robotics club has grown into something really special, and this global success shows what's possible when talent is supported."



Duke of Edinburgh's Award – not only milestones reached, but records set too

– SUMMER TERM 2025

The DofE Team Mr Hoath, Mrs Heywood and Mr Winstanley

Since launching the Duke of Edinburgh Award at Bradford Grammar School during 2001, the scheme has grown enormously. We are proud to currently have record numbers of students registered: 116 for Bronze, 50 for Silver and 36 for Gold.

Completing any of the DofE awards requires great determination, dedication and commitment.

We congratulate every one of the 120 certificated Silver Award students and the 140 Gold Award students who received their awards at Buckingham Palace from The Duke of Edinburgh himself.

This academic year, BGS celebrated a landmark moment as the 1,000th Bronze Award certificate was presented.

Our students also made a significant impact through the volunteering section of the award. In the 2024/25 academic year alone, they completed over 2,500 hours of volunteering. Their efforts spanned a wide range of activities, including helping at local food banks, charity shops, care homes, raising funds for various charities and supporting disadvantaged children – demonstrating their commitment to making a real difference in their communities.



Congratulations to all students involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Keep up the outstanding work.

Action for Sport Fundraising

– SUMMER TERM 2025

The Action for Sport Junior Committee and Year 7 pupils have had a great year supporting Action for Sport.

The group set up 'Donation Stations' in school and we were able to hand over lots of kit which was distributed to those in need in our local area. As well as collecting unwanted sports kit, we fundraised. The Year 7s held a Christmas Café and completed the traditional end-of-exams sponsored Ilkley Walk, while the Junior Committee raised funds at the Spring Fair. Together we raised over £5000 which we were delighted to be able to present to charity co-founder Clive Michallat during a Year 7 assembly. Thank you very much to all who donated kit or money. It meant such a lot and made a huge difference.



BGS Interact Club raises £3,000 for charity

– SUMMER TERM 2025

Interact is a club for young people aged 12 to 18 who want to have fun while making a positive impact through service projects and learning about the world. Interact clubs organise various projects and fundraising events throughout the year.

Each year, we elect three charities to support: one benefiting our local community, one national charity and one promoting international understanding. With more than 15,000 Interact clubs in 142 countries, Rotary is inspiring the next generation of socially responsible and globally conscious leaders.

This year, our Interact Club raised a fantastic total of £3,000 for Debra, Martin House and Médecins Sans Frontières.



At our recent Charter Party, we celebrated our 9th anniversary, appointed our new President and Secretary and elected the charities we will support in the coming year. Our chosen charities for the next year are MNDA, British Red Cross and WWF.

We were delighted to welcome John Guest from the Rotary Club of Bradford, who joined us for the Charter Party.

Freya B will be our new President
Lily B will be our Secretary
Fern M will be our Treasurer

Debating Club triumphs at Durham Schools Competition

– SUMMER TERM 2025

Bradford Grammar School's Debating Club celebrated major success in May when five teams travelled to the prestigious Durham Schools Debating Competition – the world's largest residential school-level debate event.

Two BGS teams reached the semi-finals of the novice competition, and one went on to win.

"Winning our category was a big shock – it was so unexpected. It showed all the hard work and dedication put in over the last year was worthwhile," said Year 12 student and Senior Debating Club Secretary, Hugo M.

"Getting the chance to represent BGS, go up against schools from across the country and see how others debate at such a high level – it's genuinely exciting. Those experiences push you to be better and give you memories that stick." The Senior Debating Club, open to Years 11–13, meets weekly after school and follows the British Parliamentary format. Sessions are student-led, with members selecting their own motions from global affairs to quirky hypotheticals.

Hugo said debating had become a highlight of his school life. "It was just meant to be something to try out, but it ended up being a really unexpected way to build confidence."

Club supervisor and Teacher of Mathematics, Mrs Denby, sees debating as a great way to develop confidence, communication and critical thinking.



"Students pick topics they care about and learn to speak passionately and persuasively," she said. "It's a great space to explore ideas not always covered in lessons, and it really supports those applying for competitive university courses."

Debating thrives further down the school too. Junior Debating, led by Mr Norton, Teacher of English, meets every Friday lunchtime and attracts more than 20 students. "The society is very much student-led," he explained. "Our chairs, Ciaran M and Isabel T, propose weekly motions and organise the speakers. Alongside formal debates, we run training sessions and games like *Just-a-minute* or *If I ruled the world* to build persuasive skills in a fun way."



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It's a great space to explore ideas not always covered in lessons, and it really supports those applying to competitive university courses.

Cadets awarded Colours for the first time

– SUMMER TERM 2025

For the first time in Bradford Grammar School's history, Colours have been awarded to members of the Combined Cadet Force (CCF), recognising the dedication, service and leadership of its young cadets.

The School Colours system honours pupils who have demonstrated sustained commitment to co-curricular activities such as sport, drama, music and debating. This year, the programme has been broadened to include the CCF.

Mr Merckx, Assistant Head (Development), said the request to include the CCF came directly from the pupils.

"The cadets approached myself and Contingent Commander, Squadron Leader, Chris Conley (OB) and made a strong case for why their commitment should be recognised in line with other major school activities outside the classroom," he said.

Rather than grant the request outright, the cadets were invited to formally present their argument to school leaders. Cadets Johan N and Bilaal A led the presentation, which was also observed by an external CCF officer.

Their case was compelling, and the school introduced Club Colours for cadets who have shown sustained commitment and exemplary conduct over a period of years.

Year 11 student Johan said: "It was a privilege to be part of the team that put our case forward for what the CCF represents. It was amazing to see cadet commitment recognised with school Colours; it's a big step forward for all of us."

Cadet Forces provide structured challenge, discipline, training, education and, importantly, fun. Cadets and their adult volunteer instructors gain new skills and qualifications that enhance their education and future employment opportunities.

"The cadets consistently demonstrate leadership, teamwork and resilience – core values we seek to instil across all areas of school life," said Contingent Commander Conley. "It's fantastic to see their efforts acknowledged alongside other co-curricular achievements. This award reinforces the important role CCF plays within BGS. It can have a life-changing effect on the confidence that young people need for their futures."

Currently, cadet Colours are awarded at the Club level, with the possibility of Full Colours being introduced in future if competitive opportunities develop across the CCF programme.



As with other activities recognised under the School Colours system, recipients are eligible for a Colours tie or brooch, and awards are made twice a year. Club Colours are celebrated at year group assemblies, while Full Colours are marked with a dedicated ceremony attended by parents and staff.

Bilal said: "It feels great to finally be recognised – knowing our hard work and dedication paid off and we were able to show we're more than capable of wearing our cadet colours with pride."

Recipients of CCF Junior Club Colours 2025:

Year 11:

Abraham T

Bilal A

Daniel X

Johan N

Kumail R

Muhammad I

Ronit R

Yasir C

Year 12:

Aadam Q

Paddy R

Ruqaiyah A

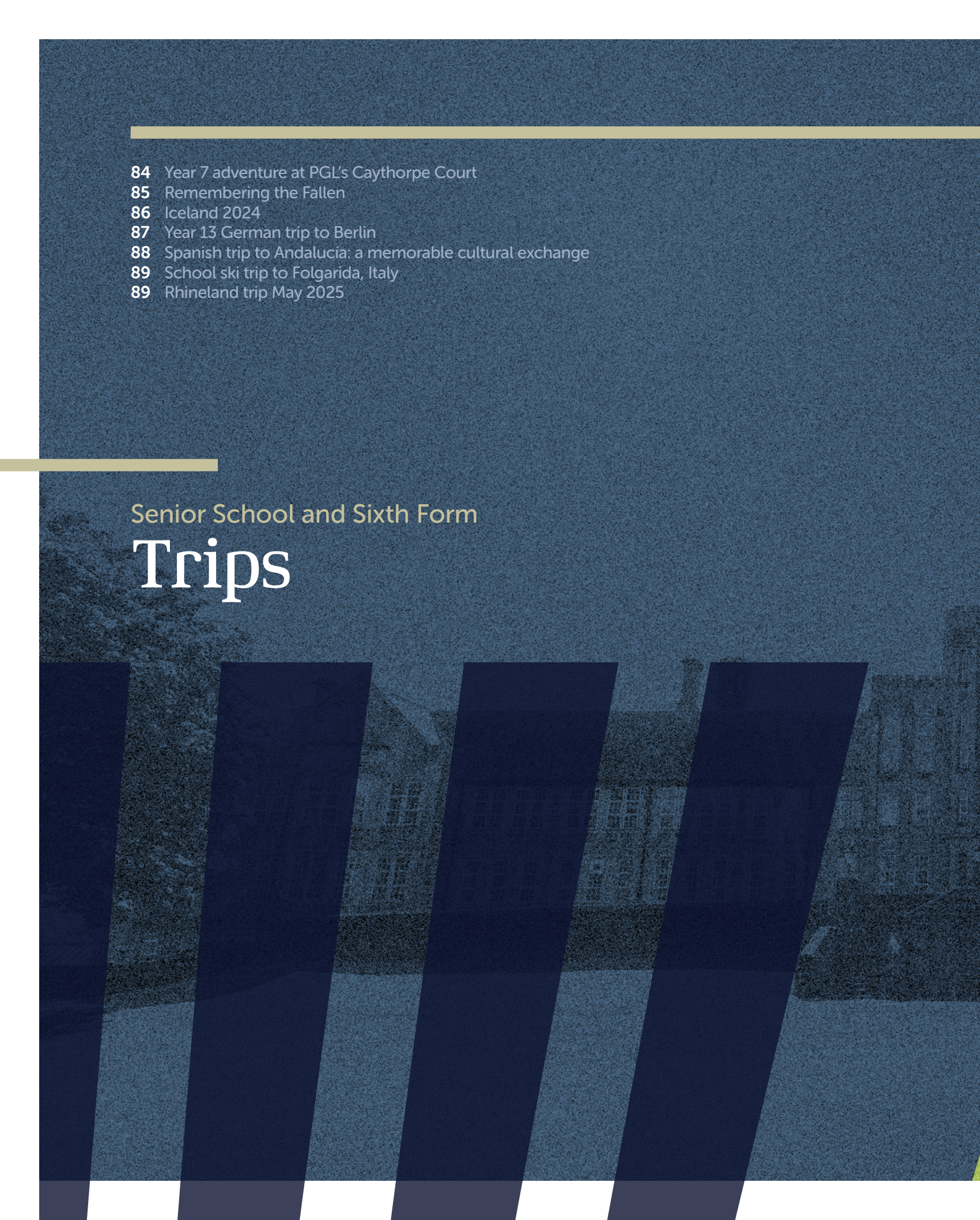


**It feels great to finally
be recognised – knowing
our hard work and
dedication paid off ...**

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Senior School and Sixth Form

Trips

The background of the page features a dark, textured image of a large, multi-story building, possibly a school or university hall. Overlaid on this image are several thick, dark blue diagonal stripes that run from the bottom left towards the top right, creating a modern, architectural feel.



Trips



Year 7 adventure at PGL's Caythorpe Court

– AUTUMN TERM 2024

By E Tomlinson, Head of Year 7

In September, our Year 7 pupils embarked on an exciting three-day residential trip to PGL's Caythorpe Court, designed to ease their transition into Senior School and help them forge strong connections with their peers.

Set in the heart of the Lincolnshire countryside, the trip offered a blend of adventure, camaraderie and independence, with pupils immersed in thrilling outdoor activities like axe throwing, abseiling, canoeing and survival skills.

For many, it was their first time tackling such daring challenges, and the sense of accomplishment was palpable. One pupil shared, "I had so much fun and feel proud I got the axe in the target." A highlight was the 'survivor' challenge, where pupils practised bushcraft skills like fire-making and shelter building, working as teams to overcome obstacles. The orienteering activity, 'Passport to the World,' saw pupils navigating the grounds by map in the dark, fostering problem-solving and teamwork.

Evenings were equally memorable, spent in a tented village with no electricity. Pupils toasted marshmallows, shared stories and sang songs under the stars an experience they'll treasure for years to come.

Our Year 7 boys and girls embraced this opportunity, impressing us with their 'Hoc Age' spirit by giving their best and making new friends. I'm proud of their strong start and excited to see what they will achieve next.

Remembering the Fallen

– AUTUMN TERM 2024

By Charlie W, Saif A K and Jumana A

During the October half-term, the History Department took 57 Year 11 and Year 13 students to the Battlefields of France and Belgium.

From the dignified Bradford Pals memorial at Serre to the extraordinary Monument at Notre Dame de Lorette, the group reflected on the sacrifices of not only old boys of the school but also those of all nationalities who fought so bravely and made the ultimate sacrifice during World War One. The significance of remembrance is perhaps best expressed through the voices of the Year 11 students themselves.

One thing that resonated with me from the trip was visiting the memorial of the Battle of Neuve Chapelle, the first British offensive against the Germans in the First World War. This memorial commemorates 4,700 Indian soldiers with no known graves who gave their lives fighting for Britain in March 1915.

A key feature of the site was the inscriptions on the central pillar, written in Arabic, Hindi and Punjabi, the languages of the holy scriptures of the Muslim, Hindu and Sikh soldiers who fought in this battle and throughout the war. These inscriptions represent significant respect from the British towards their soldiers from across the Empire, fostering a sense of unity and expressing gratitude for their contributions.



A particularly moving experience was the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate. This monument, inscribed with the names of 54,896 British Empire soldiers who died in the battles around Ypres and have no known graves, serves as a solemn reminder of their sacrifice.

Each night, at precisely 8pm, traffic is halted, and a memorial service is held to honour those who gave their lives. This ceremony has taken place every evening since 11 November 1929, except during the Nazi occupation from 1940 to 1944. It is a powerful tradition that continues to this day and will continue, every night without fail, to honour those who served.

In the words of war poet Laurence Binyon:

"At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."

It was a true honour to do just that.



Iceland 2024

– AUTUMN TERM 2024

By D Alcock, Teacher of Geography

Over the October half-term, 26 enthusiastic Year 10-13 Geographers embarked on an unforgettable adventure to the 'Land of Ice and Fire.' Accompanied by Mr Alcock, Mr Thompson and Mrs Tomlinson, and expertly guided by our lively tour guide Ray; the group tackled an action-packed itinerary showcasing Iceland's incredible natural wonders.



The trip was a geographer's dream, with highlights including witnessing the dramatic behaviour of molten rock at the Lava Show, hiking to the crater of an extinct volcano and exploring the striking fault lines between the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates. Water stole the spotlight in its many forms: cascading down majestic waterfalls, crashing against the coast, shooting skyward at Geysir and bubbling to life in geothermal hot springs and pools four of which we were lucky enough to enjoy a soak in!

Looking skyward, the group was mesmerised by the Northern Lights, while below ground, we gained fascinating insights into geothermal energy during a visit to the Hellisheiði Geothermal Power Station.

The Geography Department is proud to have offset the trip's carbon emissions through Discover the World's Greener Growth programme, reflecting our commitment to sustainable travel.

The students returned inspired by the monumental forces shaping our planet, their bonds with peers strengthened and their curiosity for the natural world renewed.



Year 13 German trip to Berlin

– AUTUMN TERM 2024

By P Sugden, Head of German,
Teacher of Modern Languages

We landed in Berlin full of excitement, ready to dive straight into our cultural adventure. The city did not disappoint, with its first-class transport network smoothly taking us from the Bundestag to the Olympiastadion, passing through Lichtenberg and Prenzlauerberg along the way.

The DDR Museum was a highlight, especially the Trabi exhibit and the interrogation cell, which gave us a fascinating glimpse into life in East Germany. At the Wall Museum, the eccentric host shared captivating stories from his time amidst the spies of Berlin during the Cold War.



The poignant Holocaust memorial and the tribute to the Roma and Sinti provided a solemn opportunity to reflect on the freedoms we often take for granted and the ongoing importance of fighting persecution.

Our experiences of 'Kaffee und Kuchen' and 'Bierkeller' gave us an authentic taste of traditional German culture, while our 'Döner' lunch illustrated the impact of migration on Berlin's rich multicultural fabric.



On our final day, we had the privilege of meeting Wladimir Kaminer, author of Russendisko (our A Level text). In an engaging interview, he shared insights into the inspiration behind his book, responding to our questions with remarkable sincerity and depth. Being able to pose our questions and interview this renowned author in German not only enhanced our understanding of the text but will also stay with us for life, enriching our A Level studies and beyond.



Spanish trip to Andalucía: a memorable cultural exchange

– AUTUMN TERM 2024

By B Cuesta González, Head of Spanish

In October, a group of 35 pupils, along with three members of the Modern Languages Department, embarked on our annual trip to Spain. This year, we stayed in the stunning, historic city of Córdoba, immersing ourselves in its rich heritage and culture.

One of the highlights of the trip was our visit to Colegio Calasancio, a local secondary school. The staff and students there gave us an incredibly warm welcome, organising a joint excursion to Zuheros, one of Andalucía's iconic 'pueblos blancos' (white villages). This enchanting village, with its whitewashed houses and breathtaking scenery, offered an ideal setting for our pupils to practise their Spanish skills and engage with their local peers.

Throughout our time in Córdoba, our students had numerous opportunities to practise conversational Spanish, bond with Spanish pupils their age and gain a deeper appreciation of Spanish culture, history and daily life. Some students formed lasting connections and continue to keep in touch with their new friends.

This was truly a fantastic experience for everyone involved, offering both linguistic and cultural enrichment that will stay with our pupils for years to come.



School ski trip to Folgarida, Italy

– SPRING TERM 2025

By S Denby, Head of Higher Education
and Careers, Teacher of Mathematics

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!



Rhineland Ttrip

– SUMMER TERM 2025

By L Kingsley Head of Modern Languages, Teacher of Modern Languages

Thirty eight excited Year 8 pupils and their teachers set off on Thursday night after school for the long journey to Germany. We travelled by coach and ferry through France, Belgium and the Netherlands, switching languages – and radio stations – along the way, before reaching our destination of Boppard, a picturesque little town on the banks of the river Rhine.



During our stay we visited two castles, a mechanical musical instrument museum, enjoyed a boat ride and a trip on a cable car and spent an afternoon at the zoo, observing big cats, penguins, crocodiles and taking selfies with goats (the weather having forced a change of plan from tobogganing). We practised our language skills while shopping for ice creams and souvenirs in the beautiful towns of Rudesheim and Cochem. The last day was spent at the ever-popular Phantasialand theme park, enjoying the exhilaration of the roller coasters.

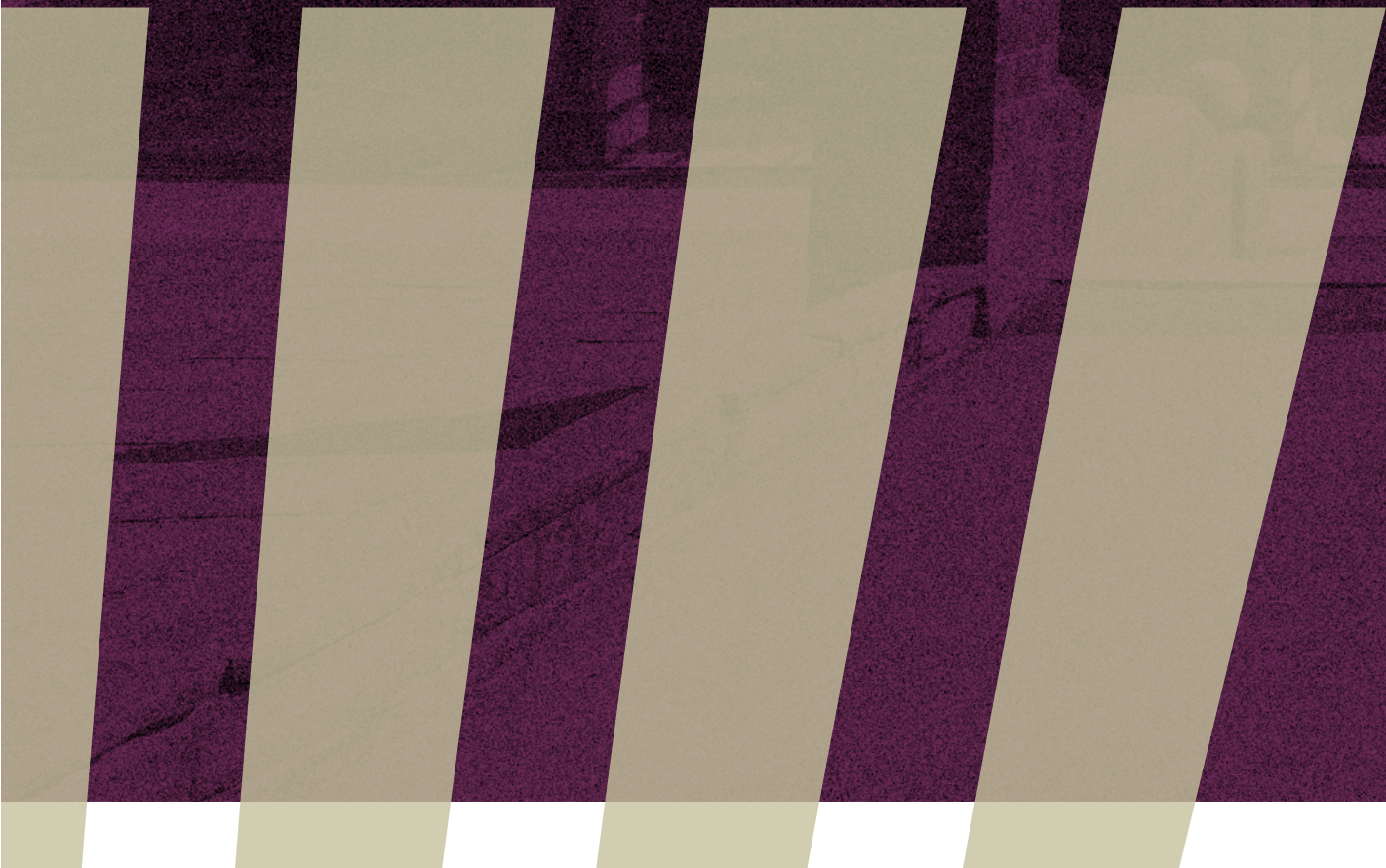
All of the pupils made the most of this wonderful opportunity to discover German culture and put their language skills to the test. They were great company and a credit to BGS.

Thanks go to trip leader Mrs Sugden for her meticulous planning and attention to detail, along with her entertaining commentaries during the coach journey.

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Senior School and Sixth Form

Events and Visiting Speakers





Events and Visiting Speakers

Jo Quinton-Tulloch

– SUMMER TERM 2025

This year we welcomed Jo Quinton-Tulloch, Director of the National Science and Media Museum, to speak at BGS's annual Speech Day.

Jo has held a wide variety of roles in public engagement and science communication, focusing on the development and delivery of galleries, exhibitions and events in museums.

She became the director of the National Media Museum in 2013 and led the major relaunch of the renamed and rebranded National Science and Media Museum.

Jo is passionate about science and technology, has an honours degree in Biological Sciences from University of East Anglia, a master's in Science Communication from Imperial College, London and an honorary doctorate from the University of Bradford, in recognition of demonstrating significant impact in the city and beyond.

She is a Fellow of the Royal Society for the Arts, a Board Member for the UK Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC), the National Coalmining Museum for England (ex officio), a member of the University of Bradford Council and an Advisory Board Member for the National Videogame Museum.

She also sat on the Steering Group for the Bradford UK City of Culture 2025 bid, and most recently led the museum through its new £6million Sound and Vision Project, which includes two new permanent galleries to showcase the museum's world-class collections.

Jo spoke to our pupils about her life and interests, encouraging them to consider a future working withn STEM. She also inspired us to see the potential and cutural capital within our city district and be champions for Bradford and the North.



Senior School and Sixth Form
Events and Visiting Speakers



Leavers' Lunch 2025

– SUMMER TERM 2024

We bid a fond farewell to our Year 13 students as they celebrated with friends and family at our annual Leavers' Lunch in May.

Students signed their shirts and had their final BGS assembly before enjoying lunch and, later, ice creams and a tug of war in the beautiful sunshine. We wish them every success beyond BGS. Hoc Age!



Giving Day Success

– SPRING TERM 2025

By A Friis, Head of Development

March brought incredible energy to the BGS campus as our alumni, staff, students and partners united for the 2025 BGS Giving Day, raising vital support for our 1662 Campaign for Assisted Places.

Over two energetic days, the Governors' Lawn transformed into a playground – complete with giant inflatables that invited every pupil to join the fun. Donors also had the chance to leave a lasting legacy by purchasing a tree to be planted on school grounds, creating roots that will grow for generations.

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of the BGS community, an extraordinary £133,000 was raised – enough to fully fund an additional Assisted Place for posterity at our school. This achievement reflected the deep commitment of our community to widen access and nurture future talent.

From all of us at BGS, thank you for your unwavering support and belief in what we can do together.



Crafting Comedy: Jeremy Dyson's inspiring workshop

– AUTUMN TERM 2024

As part of the school's sponsorship of the Ilkley Literature Festival, renowned British writer, musician and director Jeremy Dyson visited to share his journey into the world of writing. Best known as a co-creator of *The League of Gentlemen* and co-writer of the hugely successful play *Ghost Stories*, Jeremy captivated students with insights into his career, his writing approach and the creative process.

The workshop, designed specifically for Sixth Form English students, gave them the opportunity to learn directly from Jeremy's extensive experience. He spoke candidly about the hurdles he faced while trying to make his mark in the industry, highlighting the struggles many writers encounter when starting out. Jeremy addressed common challenges, such as self-doubt and writer's block and offered practical advice for overcoming them. "A well-kept journal is the key to writer's block. It's the single most powerful tool as a writer," he said, encouraging students to develop habits that nurture creativity.

Jeremy also discussed the power of comedy writing as a way of processing life's difficulties, sharing personal stories of how he draws from real-life experiences. One particularly memorable example was the fate of his childhood pet tortoise, which met an unfortunate end. Jeremy explained how he turned this upsetting event into a comedic horror scene, creating a character a veterinarian who unintentionally kills every animal he treats. In one scene, the veterinarian tries a new method to treat an elderly woman's tortoise, with comically disastrous results. "A bit of truth at the heart of it brings the scene to life," Jeremy noted.



The creative writing workshop was a highlight, guiding students on how to unlock their own storytelling potential using tools like mind mapping and drawing on their personal experiences. Jeremy emphasised the importance of boldness and self-discovery in writing. When asked for advice on breaking into the industry, he said: "You start by reading, anything, and everything. Learn and pay attention to what you love. Be bold in trial and error, tune into your passion and understand who you are."

He also encouraged students to discover their own voice by exploring films and literature that deeply resonate with them. "Writing is based on what you love," Jeremy explained, adding that by following what excites or moves them, writers will naturally find their unique style. "Learn what you love and become a scholar at it," he advised.

Jeremy's visit left a lasting impression on the Sixth Form students, many of whom left the workshop feeling inspired to continue developing their writing skills and pursue their creative ambitions.

We extend our thanks to Jeremy Dyson for taking the time to visit BGS and sharing his insights and experiences with our students. His passion for storytelling and dedication to nurturing young writers will undoubtedly inspire the next generation of creative talent.



Olivia reunites with dad after epic Atlantic challenge

– SPRING TERM 2025

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."

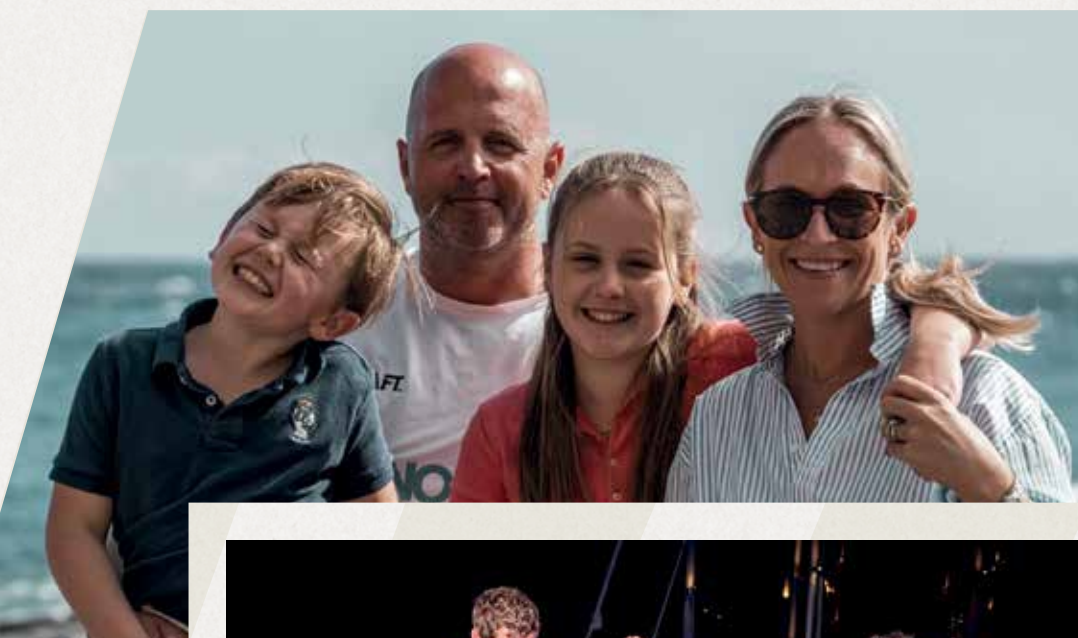
Her mother, Steph, echoed this: "We had prepared for his absence, but the reality was harder than we imagined. Christmas was tough, but the support we had from friends, family and even people we barely knew was overwhelming. People were always checking in on us, making sure we were okay – it really reminded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

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."

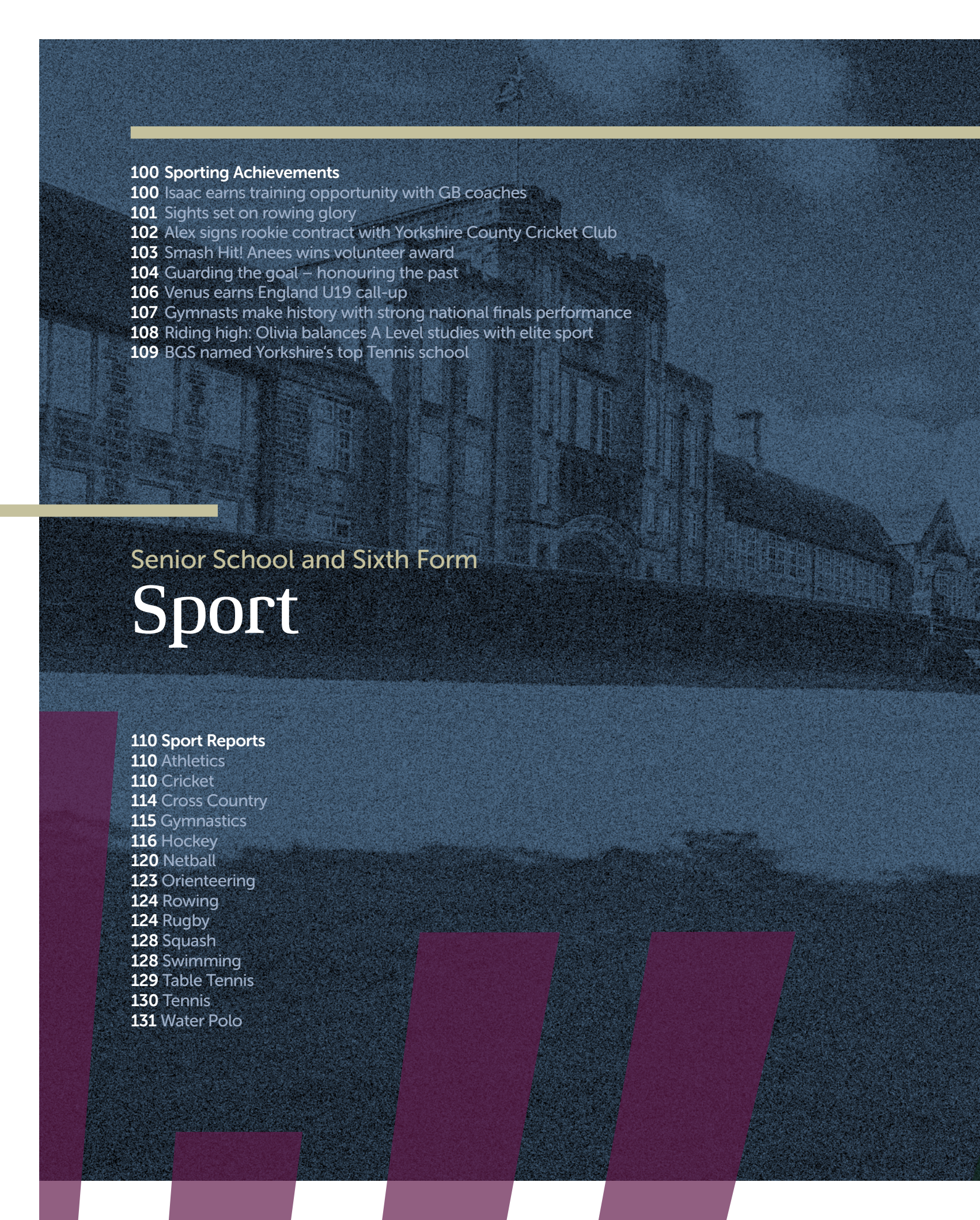
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It was tough, but I've realised how strong we are as a family. I'm so proud of my dad.

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Out there, you realise what truly matters – family.





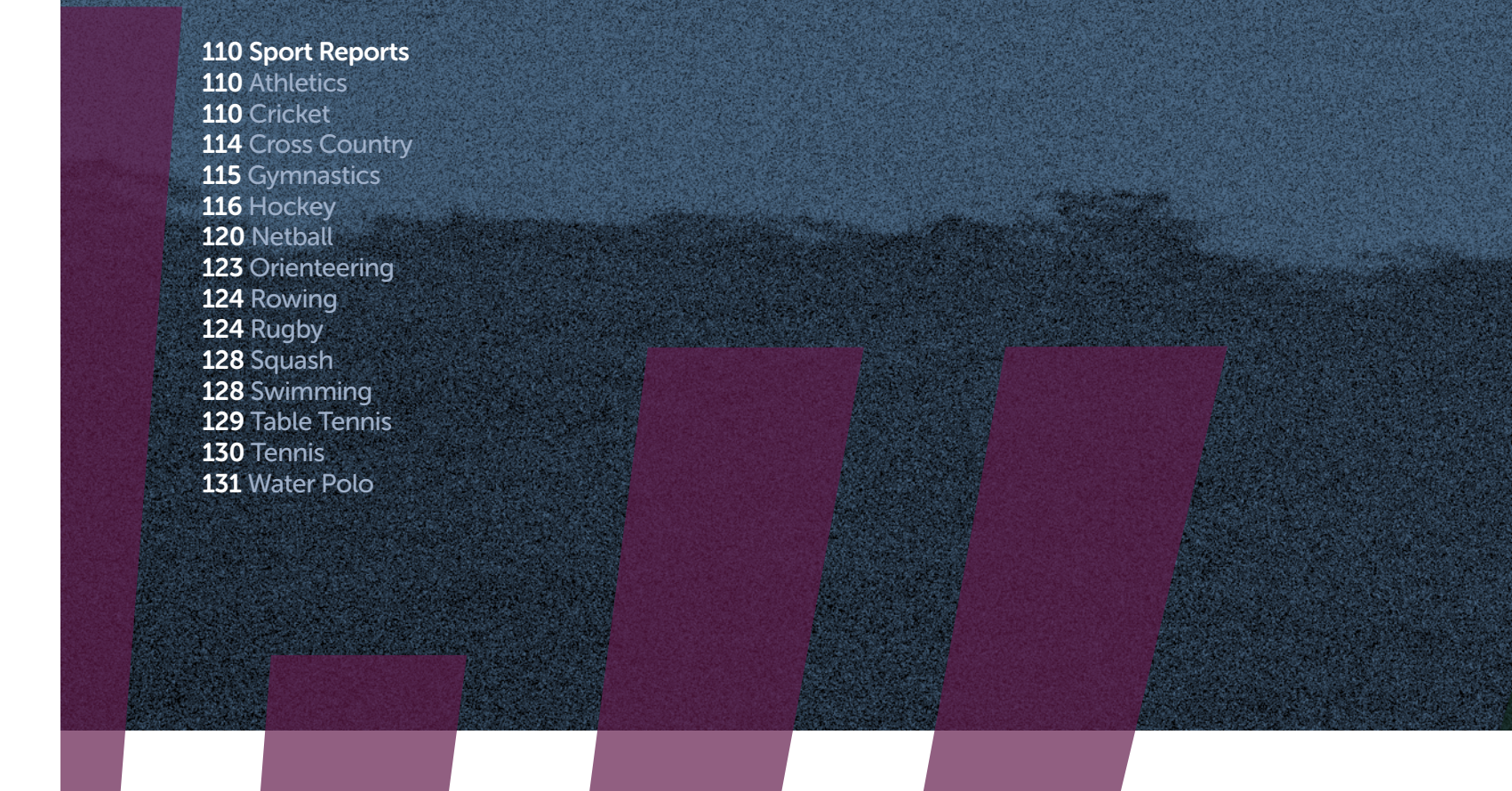
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Senior School and Sixth Form

Sport

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Sporting Achievements



Isaac earns training opportunity with GB coaches

– AUTUMN TERM 2024

Talented gymnast Isaac R secured an exciting opportunity to train with British Gymnastics coaches, following his team's gold-medal victory at a national championship.

The 13-year-old Year 8 pupil competed in the Men's Artistic National Setworks Championships at Telford International Centre in early November, representing Yorkshire.

Isaac's impressive performance placed him among the top six gymnasts in his age category, contributing to the Yorkshire team's gold-medal finish. Isaac said: "It felt great. We won the year before, so we maintained our title!"

As a result, he was invited to train with top national gymnasts under the guidance of GB coaches at the National Sports Centre in Lilleshall in December. Isaac added: "They have high standards, so it will be amazing to be amongst them and to learn from them."

Isaac began gymnastics at just four years old. Training at Diamonds Gymnastics Club in Halifax, he now dedicates 18 hours a week to perfecting the six male disciplines: floor exercise, horizontal bar, parallel bars, rings, pommel horse and vault.

Looking ahead, his next goal is to qualify for the English Championships in March.



Isaac's achievements are a testament to his dedication and passion for gymnastics.

He balances an intense training schedule with his school commitments and sets a fantastic example for his peers. We look forward to seeing all he will accomplish both in and out of the gym.

Dr Simon Hinchliffe

Sights set on rowing glory

– AUTUMN TERM 2024

England rower and Year 13 student Edwin VL has his sights set on the highest levels of competitive rowing. The BGS sports scholar has ambitions to compete at the Senior World Championships for Offshore Rowing and represent his university in prestigious events.

Edwin has already made a significant impact on the international rowing scene, securing second place at the British Rowing Beach Sprint Championships and representing England at the 2024 Home International Rowing Beach Sprints.

He's also an academic highflyer, with predicted A* grades in A Level Maths, Further Maths, History and Chemistry, and wants to continue rowing competitively at university.

Edwin's passion for rowing began when he joined BGS in Year 7, quickly developing a love for the sport that now sees him training six days a week, both at school and with Bradford Amateur Rowing Club. In addition to his rowing commitments, he is a talented musician, actively involved in the school's concert band, brass band, big band, soul band and orchestra. He is also a member of the National Youth Brass Band.



Edwin said: "My proudest accomplishment so far is balancing my commitments to rowing with my other priorities. Being able to row at a high level, maintain strong academic results and enjoy music is something I'm really proud of."

“

My proudest accomplishment so far is balancing my commitments to rowing with my other priorities ...



Alex signs rookie contract with Yorkshire County Cricket Club

– AUTUMN TERM 2024

Rising cricket star Alex W has been awarded a two-year rookie contract with Yorkshire County Cricket Club (YCCC).

The signing, in October, followed Alex's memorable debut for the England U19 Young Lions in the ODI Tri-Series against Scotland and Ireland.

The Year 13 student, who plays league cricket for Bradford and Bingley, said: "It's a dream come true! It's what I've been working towards for a long time, and I'm really excited for the future."

Alex's standout moment in the Tri-Series came in the final match against Scotland, where he opened the bowling and claimed the key wickets of three top-order batsmen.

Alex's cricket journey began at the age of eight with Olicanian Cricket Club. His rise through the ranks of regional cricket started when he represented Yorkshire at U10 level. In recent years his development has accelerated, highlighted by his selection for the English Schools Representative side against the MCC at Lord's in 2023, and his participation in the prestigious Super 4s tournament this year.

BGS has played a significant role in Alex's cricketing journey. He has represented the school's cricket team since Year 6 and developed under the mentorship of coach Mr Kellett.



Alex, who trains six days each week around his A Level studies in Chemistry, Economics and Maths, added: "Balancing county cricket and school commitments can be tough, but whenever I get the chance to represent BGS, it's something I really enjoy. The support from my coach and teammates has been brilliant, and it's special to share those moments on the field with friends I've known for years."

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... The support from my coach and teammates has been brilliant ...

Smash Hit! Anees wins volunteer award

– SPRING TERM 2025

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.”

Guarding the goal – honouring the past

– SPRING TERM 2025

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.



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.



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

Dr Simon Hinchliffe

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."



Venus earns England U19 call-up

– SUMMER TERM 2025

Venus W has been selected for the England U19 squad for this summer's international series against Scotland.

The Year 10 student, a talented leg-spinner who plays for Lancashire across multiple age groups, will join an intensive England training programme from 13–17 July before taking part in the five-day fixture series from 21 July.

Her selection follows an outstanding domestic season and marks a major step forward after narrowly missing out on the U19 World Cup squad last year. "I was shocked, delighted and especially proud," said Venus. "This opportunity means the world to me. Just being in that professional environment means I can learn so much."

Venus began her cricket journey aged eight and has long played above her age group, combining elite-level sport with her academic studies at BGS. She added: "I'm excited to play with and learn from players I've only competed against until now."



Gymnasts make history with strong national finals performance

– SUMMER TERM 2025

After months of dedication and intense preparation following their qualification in January, our senior gymnasts proudly represented BGS at the National Finals and made history in the process.

For the first time ever, three BGS senior teams – alongside our U11s – qualified for this prestigious competition:

- U14 Mixed – Acrobatic Gymnastics
- U14 – Floor and Vault
- U19 Girls – Acrobatic Gymnastics

Our U14 Floor and Vault team, impressively including two boys from the Junior School, delivered a strong performance, finishing 5th nationally – an outstanding result for such a young and dynamic team!



Congratulations to all involved!



The U14 Acro team performed with great skill and energy. Although small errors kept them from an individual school medal, they secured a bronze medal representing Yorkshire – a remarkable and proud first for BGS on the national stage.

The U19 Girls Acro team wowed judges and spectators alike with routines full of elegance and also technical precision. They demonstrated true professionalism and passion throughout.

Special mentions go to:

- Issac R, who delivered the highest scoring vault of the competition
- Misbah N, who just missed out on a medal with a brilliant 4th place finish

Overall, it was a fantastic weekend that showcased the dedication, resilience, and talent of our BGS gymnasts. Congratulations to all involved – we couldn't be prouder!



Riding high: Olivia balances A Level studies with elite sport

– SUMMER TERM 2025

Year 12 student Olivia M combines her A Level studies and competing in Polocrosse, with her ultimate goal being to represent her country at the Polocrosse World Cup.

Alongside her studies in English Literature, Politics and Psychology, and an Extended Project Qualification at Bradford Grammar School, Olivia is committed to excelling in one of the most demanding equestrian sports.

She began riding at the age of six and was introduced to polocrosse at 13. Describing her passion for the sport, she said:

"There's the adrenaline of being on the pitch, the speed and skill involved but also the community. You spend weekends playing sport with your friends in a field – it's an amazing atmosphere."

Olivia manages two horses – Trixie, her main competition horse, and Colin, a younger ex-racehorse – and trains daily after school. She competes in tournaments across the country.

"Balancing schoolwork and polocrosse can be a challenge, but BGS has helped me develop strong time management skills," she said. "I use free periods to get ahead, which frees up my evenings for training – especially important in winter when daylight is limited."

Olivia has already achieved national success. Her team won the national championship two years ago, and she was shortlisted for the England U16 International Tour to the USA. She also attended a training trip to South Africa.

Her long-term ambition is to earn a place on the England U25 squad, with the ultimate aim of joining the senior Open Squad and competing at the Polocrosse World Cup.

"I know it will take a lot of hard work, but that's what drives me," she added. "Playing internationally would be incredible, and I'm determined to keep improving."



Playing internationally would be incredible, and I'm determined to keep improving.

BGS named Yorkshire's top Tennis school

– SUMMER TERM 2025

Bradford Grammar School has been recognised as Yorkshire's School of the Year at the 2025 LTA Tennis Awards, also receiving a Highly Commended Excellence Award nationally – celebrating the outstanding success of the BGS Tennis Academy.

Led by Specialist Sports Coach Ben Crichton, the academy supports players of all abilities with one-on-one coaching, squad sessions, after-school clubs and seasonal camps. Tennis is also part of the PE curriculum, giving every student access to the School's four indoor and two outdoor courts year-round.

"Our programme is built on top-class facilities and a dedicated coaching team," said Mr Crichton. "It's a significant honour to be recognised by the LTA."

Students benefit from partnerships with Skipton Tennis Centre and Beckfoot and Bingley Tennis Centre, giving Sixth Form Sport Leaders coaching opportunities and access to high-quality Italian clay courts.

The girls team ranked 12th nationally last year, reaching the senior national finals and regional team tennis finals.

Year 9's Jameela T, who plays for Yorkshire and BGS's 1st team, said: "The coaches take the time to understand what each player needs and tailor our training to help us improve. They're always approachable and happy to offer advice on how to get the best out of our game."



Student Ben W has represented Yorkshire from U9 to U14 and played at National and European level. "The coaching at BGS is outstanding," he said. "The support from Mr Crichton and Mr Wren has been immense, and having onsite facilities helps me balance training with school. My performance has really improved thanks to them."

Dr Simon Hinchliffe, Headmaster at BGS, added: "Being named School of the Year and receiving an Excellence Award is a testament to the dedication of our coaching staff and the hard work and passion of our students."

"Tennis is an integral part of life at BGS, and our programme is one of the most comprehensive and dynamic in the North. This recognition from the LTA reflects the high standards we strive for across all areas of sport and student development."



The coaching here
at BGS is outstanding.

Sport Reports

Athletics

By G Morrison, Specialist Sports Coach – Athletics

BGS athletics pupils delivered outstanding performances throughout the year, making it one of the most successful seasons in recent memory. In the Bradford Athletics League, the Junior Boys team secured first place, while the Junior Girls, Inter Girls and Inter Boys teams all finished as runners-up. These strong results set the teams up well for the district stage of the English Schools' Athletics Competition in Wakefield.

At the district level, there were exceptional individual efforts, leading to the Inter Boys team winning first place, with the Inter Girls and Junior Boys again finishing as runners-up. All three teams advanced to the Regional A Finals in Derby, where they were each placed fifth overall – an impressive achievement at such a high level of competition.

The season continued with the Bradford Schools Individual Event in Keighley, where 14 BGS athletes earned podium finishes and were selected to represent the Bradford area at the West Yorkshire Athletics Championships, held at Leeds Beckett University. There, they competed for the chance to represent West Yorkshire at the prestigious English Schools' Athletics Final.

Although all athletes qualified for their finals on the day, and many achieved personal bests, no one progressed to the national stage this year. Nevertheless, being selected to compete at this elite level was a significant accomplishment and a testament to the talent and dedication of our pupils.

Congratulations to the following students for their outstanding achievements:

- Lucy H (Year 9): 100m
- James C (Year 9): 100m
- Ralph K-S (Year 9): 100m
- Siena T (Year 9): 200m
- Rayan Faisal (Year 9): 200m
- Isla S (Year 9): 300m
- Danniella P (Year 9): 300m
- George N (Year 9): 300m
- Thomas A (Year 9): Long Jump
- Evie S (Year 9): Shot Put
- Addison S (Year 9): Shot Put
- Samuel F (Year 9): Shot Put
- Milo D (Year 10): Shot Put
- Betsy R (Year 11): Javelin

We are incredibly proud of all our athletes for their hard work, sporting behaviour and commitment throughout the season.

Cricket

U12

By S Kellett, Specialist Sports Coach – Cricket

The U12s enjoyed a competitive and exciting season, playing seven matches and securing four impressive wins. Under the shared captaincy of Arthur A, Sam D, and Jack H-V, the squad demonstrated leadership, resilience and a growing tactical awareness throughout the campaign.

The season began with strong performances, including a four-wicket win over Woodhouse Grove and a six-wicket victory against Silcoates. Despite setbacks against strong GSAL, QEGS and Boston Spa opposition in the National Cup, the team bounced back with a thrilling two-wicket win over Ashville and a dominant 48-run triumph against Hymerz.

The season ended in a spirited internal match against the U13 boys. In a nail-biting finish, the U12s clinched victory in the last over, showcasing their grit and determination. This talented group has shown excellent promise, with many players stepping up in key moments and contributing to the team's success. Many played their first cricket matches and all-rounder Adam R impressed with his bowling pace and ability to score runs.

With such depth and enthusiasm, the future looks bright for this group of cricketers as they continue to develop their skills and passion for the game!



To view teams, fixtures and results, please visit
bradfordgrammar.com/fixtures

U13

By B Hemsley, Sports Teaching Apprentice

The season began with high attendance levels for practices and, with many players improving their tactical awareness in all aspects of the game, it was a privilege to watch them. On-field results were positive with some amazing individual displays which led to some convincing wins. All-rounder Oscar D-B and spinner Muhammad Y-H were the pick over the season.

Highlights included strong wins over Woodhouse Grove and Hymers, leading the team to finish with a record four wins and two losses. This form was carried through to the Mersey Cup festival at Warrington CC where the lads played ten games as two teams during the competition. They achieved nine wins which saw them being crowned U13 Mersey Cup winners. There were some outstanding and consistent performances which highlighted the talent BGS cricket has to offer. With the team's continued commitment and desire to achieve more, only good things will follow.

U14

By M Wilde, Head of PE Outreach

This year's U14 XI won six of their 11 games. There was an enjoyable County Cup run that, sadly, ended in defeat at the quarter final stage and a fantastic day at Lightcliffe CC supporting their 150th Anniversary celebrations.

This year's cohort were a talented bunch capable of performing well with the bat, the ball and in the field. Unfortunately, they didn't manage to get all three parts firing on a consistent basis. I'm confident this will improve as they mature and roles within the side become more defined.

Shankar K was our most technically adept batsman, scoring consistently all summer (45*, 48, 62, 23, 31*) and at a good rate. Alex G has good technique and was the cleanest striker of a cricket ball I'd seen at his age at BGS for years. He picked length extremely quickly, had great hand speed and pounced on anything slightly short of a length. He was also equally happy clearing the mid-on boundary. He scored extremely quickly and could take the game away from the opposition in the blink of an eye (48*, 29, 36*, 25*, 61, 43, 30*). Alex G was the side's top scorer, and I was delighted when he finally got his maiden 50.

Ted S was a tidy opening batsman (52, 35, 34, 34*, 33*) who will get better value for his shots when he becomes physically stronger. Ben W is one of the most talented spinners I've seen at this age at BGS since Messrs Cockcroft and Harland. His 54 against Allerton Grange was a well-paced, disciplined knock that set up our victorious run chase and gave us a glimpse of his batting potential. Alyaan H bowled with good pace, accuracy and was a threat to opposition batsmen throughout the season. Congratulations also to Zak M, Will C, Isaam O and Blake W who also made it onto this summer's U14 XI honours board.

* indicates batter was not out at conclusion of game

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This year's cohort were a talented bunch capable of performing well.



To view teams, fixtures
and results, please visit
bradfordgrammar.com/fixtures



They showed great resilience,
grit and determination
to compete.

U15

By B Nabozny, Specialist Sports Coach -
Strength and Conditioning

The U15s had a successful season. Of the eight fixtures played, the squad recorded victories over Woodhouse Grove, Ashville, GSAL and a comprehensive 55-run victory against Ripon Grammar in the National Cup, where James G made batting look easy. His 76 not out was a standout performance.

The team gained experience playing against an older QEGS XI, in which they had to withstand continued sledging and intimidation, and against Scarborough College, one of the top performing U15 cricketing schools in the country. In both instances, they showed great resilience, grit and determination to compete.

The season ended with a fast-paced eights tournament at Mount St Mary's College that challenged their strategies, tactics and creativity in a shorter format.

With the U15s' clear love and enthusiasm for their cricket, it was an enjoyable season being their coach.

1st XI

By S Kellett, Specialist Sports Coach –
Cricket

It was a challenging, yet rewarding, season for the BGS 1st XI which secured notable victories against St Peter's, Woodhouse Grove and the 40 Club. However, some matches within our grasp were lost due to brief periods of inconsistent play. These setbacks provided valuable lessons and the team demonstrated a marked improvement in the latter half of the season.

A record 30 students represented the school at senior level this year. While the breadth of participation was encouraging, many of the younger players were still acclimatising to the demands of senior cricket. The availability of senior cricketers remained a significant challenge, with academic commitments and university visits limiting our selection options.

The season started with an Easter pre-season tour to Norwich School where the opposition proved formidable, securing three victories over us. Nonetheless, the margins of defeat narrowed significantly by the final day. Norwich fielded a more experienced and physically mature side, providing our players with valuable insights into the standards required at the higher levels of competition.



A record 30 students
represented the school
at senior level this year.



Senior School and Sixth Form Sport – Sport Reports

Girls Cricket

By G Jones, Head of Junior School PE and Games

The 2025 cricket season marked a significant milestone in the continued growth and development of girls cricket at BGS.

After years of steady progress and enthusiastic participation in softball cricket, this season saw the exciting introduction of hardball teams at both U15 and U13 levels – a clear indication of the sport's rising profile and the increasing skill level among our students.

While maintaining softball fixtures for new starters, highlights included impressive wins against Silcoates, the newly formed U13 hardball team embraced the challenges of tournament cricket, representing the school with pride at events hosted by Hill House and Pocklington. With every game, the players demonstrated noticeable improvements in both technical ability and game understanding. Their hard work was rewarded with a commendable third place finish at the Pocklington Tournament, behind strong sides from Hill House and GSAL.

At U15 level, the hardball team enjoyed a stellar season, recording five out of six victories. Their only setback came in a tightly contested match against Giggleswick. Wins over Ryburn High, GSAL, Woodhouse Grove, and Penistone Grammar saw the team reach the final of the prestigious U15 Mollie Staines Cup at the first attempt. Captained with distinction by Hanaya M, the team benefited enormously from the contributions of county players Venus W and Lizzie P, ably supported by emerging talents from Years 8, 9, and 10. The final was played at the iconic North Marine Road ground in Scarborough in September, where they faced Scarborough College and emerged victorious by 20 runs.

The 2025 cohort has laid down a strong foundation for the future of girls cricket at BGS. Their passion, resilience, and sportsmanship have set a new standard and inspired a new generation of cricketers.

The future of girls cricket at BGS has never looked brighter.

Throughout the season, there were many commendable individual performances. Jesse P served as an inspirational captain and developed into a proficient all-rounder. His dedication and work ethic were exemplary and he had a positive influence on the team. I'm confident that, with continued development, he will become a complete cricketer.

Amaan H excelled, both as a batsman and wicketkeeper. Although he has yet to achieve his run-scoring targets, I'm optimistic that with focused training over the winter, he will produce substantial innings in the coming season. Billy T in Year 10 is a highly promising all-rounder who matured into a refined prospect. His quick off-spin at times proved unplayable, notably, during a challenging match against Scarborough College. Billy produced an outstanding bowling spell, taking five wickets for 18 runs off eight overs, including a hat-trick. I regarded it as the finest bowling performance I'd witnessed in my 15 years at BGS.

There were also the achievements of our county representatives to celebrate: Alex W left the school to secure a full professional contract, following in the footsteps of Will Luxton. It is a remarkable accomplishment and the school is immensely proud of both individuals. We will follow their careers with great interest.

Venus W possesses exceptional skill and determination and I'm confident she is destined for success at higher levels. James G and Lizzie P continued to represent Yorkshire and show consistent improvement, with both having promising futures ahead.

We look forward to building on this season's experiences and achievements in the years to come.

Cross Country

By H Carter, Lead Coach - Cross Country

Over the past year, the BGS Cross Country team has swelled in numbers, reigniting in some a passion for distance running that had begun to wane in recent years. This renewed grass roots enthusiasm has translated into outstanding results and impressive performances from all year groups.

Now, nearly 30 dedicated runners regularly represent BGS at various fixtures throughout the season – a number which continues to increase with each race! The 2024 winter season saw BGS dominate the Bradford and Keighley League, with very commendable performances. The senior girls proved a force to be reckoned with. Sophie E, Isla S, Isla B and Catriona W raced against all senior girls, some of whom were much more experienced, and secured victory as first overall team.

At the Bradford Schools qualifying race, despite being new to the sport, Year 11 Elspeth H secured a podium finish by finishing second outright! While Olivia S – recently selected to run for Yorkshire – secured a flurry of podium finishes.

The final race of the season took place in Keighley in unseasonably warm weather, which the senior boys took to mean as ideal for fast racing. The boys outperformed expectations and achieved stellar results to close the season, crucially with many new faces to the squad. In his very first cross country race, Peter D finished 15th overall whilst Ethan N, Joseph M, Thomas A and Oliver J fought valiantly against the clock.

Increased participation and strong performances mark an exciting new chapter for Cross Country at Bradford Grammar. The high standard has already been set for next season!



The senior girls
proved a force to be
reckoned with.



To view teams, fixtures
and results, please visit
bradfordgrammar.com/fixtures

Gymnastics

By R Parkinson, Teacher of PE and Games
and Gymnastics Coach

What an incredible year it has been for gymnastics at BGS! The sport has seen an exciting increase in participation, with both boys and girls stepping up to represent the School at every level, from recreational events to national competitions.

This year marked a historic milestone for the School, with four teams qualifying for the Acro and Floor and Vault National Finals – a first for BGS. The standout moment came when the U19 Girls Acro team delivered a stunning performance to win gold, securing the School's first-ever national title in this category. Individual success shone just as brightly. Isaac R and Fia S both claimed impressive medals in their events, and a special congratulations goes to Emerson G who was awarded the highest-scoring individual boy at the ESGA competition - an incredible personal achievement that reflected his hard work and consistency.



At the junior level, BGS made its debut at the Calderdale Gymnastics Competition, opening the door for younger pupils to experience competitive gymnastics. The response was phenomenal. Not only did it provide new opportunities, but our young athletes also brought home medals, highlighting the depth of talent emerging across the School. Our annual friendly competition at Hipperholme was once again a great success. It was especially memorable thanks to a beautifully executed group routine by the U11 Girls, which captivated both judges and spectators alike. On the national stage, the U14 Floor and Vault team represented Yorkshire with pride and skill, earning a bronze medal and narrowly missing out on a higher team placing.

Their determination and performance showed just how competitive BGS has become. In the ESGA Acro competition, both the U10 and U14 teams impressed with their synchronisation, teamwork, and artistry, each bringing home a silver medal. These achievements underline the strength and growing reputation of our gymnastics programme. Looking ahead to the 2025/2026 season, the focus is on building on this success. We're excited to expand participation even further particularly with the aim to enter more boys teams and to continue nurturing the passion and talent that make gymnastics at BGS so special.



Hockey

Senior Boys

By J Zoers-Benstead, Specialist Sports Coach – Hockey

The Senior Boys enjoyed a season defined by resilience, commitment and togetherness. They represented the school with pride and hunger and approached every fixture with a determination to make their mark, following on from a strong 2023-2024 season.

While early results in the autumn term against QEGS and Scarborough College were not fruitful, the fixtures were valuable in that they highlighted areas for improvement. Training sessions back at Frizinghall became pivotal in improving technically and tactically, in possession and out of possession, both as individuals and as a team.

As the year unfolded, confidence and cohesion began to shine through. A hard-earned 3-0 victory in the Cup away to Hill House on the last day of the autumn term served as a turning point. Well worked penalty corner goals from Sam D and Archie N showed the hard work that had gone into set pieces.

In the next round, a convincing 9-3 win over King's Macclesfield gave further confidence with five different players getting on the scoresheet. In the North quarter final of the Cup, BGS faced Altrincham at Frizinghall. Being only 1-0 down at half time to a well worked team goal by Altrincham, BGS were unable to achieve victory, eventually losing 3-1.

Leadership played a central role in the team's journey. 1st XI Captain, Sam D led by example, both in matches and in training, setting high standards for his teammates with the support of Vice-Captains Lucas A and also Archie N. Key individual contributions from the leadership group were evident across the pitch, yet it was the collective spirit that defined the side. Every player embraced their role and contributed positively to the team's progress – despite the mix of years and ages.

Beyond results, the boys represented BGS with true Hoc Age spirit. Their attitude and effort, both on and off the field, was testament to their commitment.

The Senior Boys can reflect with pride on a season of clear improvement and valuable achievement. With a strong guard of players leaving school for university and new horizons, they have laid the foundations for the younger years coming through.

U15 Boys

By J Zoers-Benstead, Specialist Sports Coach – Hockey

The U15 Boys concluded an action-packed and rewarding season, marked by strong performances, close matches and visible growth across the entire group. Over the course of ten competitive fixtures, the team recorded five wins, two draws, and three defeats – scoring 27 goals and conceding 18.

Their year began with a confident double header, Saturday away from home on the North East coast, winning 1-0 against Ampleforth and sharing the spoils 1-1 with the hosts, Scarborough College. The early momentum carried through and the team went unbeaten in their first five matches, conceding only four goals in those five. Their 1-0 win against Sedbergh in the ISHC Cup was a particular highlight, showing resilience and teamwork under pressure to score a late penalty corner goal to seal the victory against a strong opposition.



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Throughout the term, the midfield unit was a major strength, thanks to the consistency and composure of Sam G, Yuvraj U, Thomas E and Oliver T. Defensively, captain James G led by example, organising the backline and making several crucial tackles in high-pressure games alongside fellow defenders Freddie B and Ross C.

Goalkeeper Alexander M also played a key role, with a standout performance against Sedbergh in the Cup, where he kept an impressive clean sheet.

Mr Zoers-Benstead introduced new methods of playing, focusing on defensive counter cover and attacking shapes around the final third. The boys worked hard to implement the new principles of play, with the ultimate test coming in the third round of the cup against Repton School. Bowing out in a heavy defeat to one of the best hockey schools in the country, the team left the field with heads held high after a disciplined and competitive performance.

With strong foundations in place, the U15 Boys will no doubt return stronger and more determined in their U16 year ready to build on a successful and memorable year.

U13 Boys

By I Barber, Assistant Coach – Hockey

The U13 Boys had a very team-oriented attitude and approached the year with an enthusiasm to learn and push one another to the next level. As a group, they worked as hard in games lessons as they did in matches, with the A team developing a counter-attacking style and averaging over three goals per game, and the B team preferring a more defensive style, conceding an average of only one goal per game.

The A team started the year with two close-fought losses against Hymers and Scarborough College but bounced back, undeterred, to win their next three games where they scored at least four goals in each one.

Heading into the Yorkshire finals with momentum behind them, they started with a big win against Mount St Mary's. Although the rest of the tournament didn't go their way, with a tough game against St Peter's and another very close loss to Hymers, the boys should be proud of the way they played against some strong teams at a high level of hockey.

Their team spirit was commendable, and every player was motivated to work hard and give their all, which was a fantastic position to be in. I'm looking forward to seeing how they grow, both individually and collectively, as they step into 11-a-side hockey next year!

U12 Boys

By J Dunstan, Graduate Sports Assistant – Hockey

The U12 Boys showed great enthusiasm and determination having transitioned into Senior School Hockey.

Every pupil improved significantly in all technical, tactical and social elements. They had great success in fixtures for the A and B teams with a combined win percentage of 82 per cent. It was a real testament to the year group that more than half of them participated in at least one fixture this year. It symbolised the depth they had across the group, being able to rotate teams regularly and still achieve outstanding success. The A team went undefeated in Saturday fixtures, which was quite the run given the standard of opposition schools. It was thrilling watching the group, and more closely, individuals grow throughout the year. They should be extremely proud of all the progress they made.

Senior Girls

By R Parkinson, Teacher of PE and Games

This was an impressive season filled with competitive fixtures, determined performances and a team spirit that grew stronger with every match. At the annual Nottingham High School Pre-Season Tournament, there were two wins, two draws and a single narrow defeat (2-1 to Oakham School), for the team to secure a respectable third place in their group. The tournament helped to shape a closely bonded unit, full of potential and enthusiasm.

The team then enjoyed three consecutive wins over Hymers, Sedbergh and Mount St Mary's. In the England Hockey Cup, the girls faced a formidable St Peter's side in the first round. After a hard-fought game that ended in a draw, the outcome came down to penalties and BGS bowed out after a valiant effort. But what followed was a string of standout performances in the England Hockey Plate competition. A strong 4-2 win over Ampleforth was followed by a dominant 9-0 victory over Stonyhurst on home turf, a display of clinical, attacking hockey that reflected the team's growing confidence. The indoor squad also had their moment to shine during the annual indoor tournament. Despite a mixed set of results early on, the team delivered a fantastic 4-1 win against Hymers, showcasing some of their best indoor hockey of the season. Though they narrowly missed qualification by just two points, the performance highlighted the depth and versatility within the squad.

Back outdoors, the Plate campaign continued with a tense 5-2 win over Queen's Chester, with a brilliant hat trick from Captain Penny B. Straight into the quarterfinals, BGS cruised to an 8-2 win against Pocklington, setting up a highly anticipated semi-final clash. A friendly away fixture at King's Macclesfield served as preparation, where the team secured a professional 3-0 win, which built momentum and confidence. The semi-final was a thrilling, end-to-end encounter, but despite a valiant effort, the girls were narrowly edged out 2-1, ending their exceptional cup run. While the result stung, their achievements throughout the tournament were nothing short of phenomenal, and they should be incredibly proud.

The season concluded with two assured 3-0 victories over Hill House and GSAL, underlining their consistency and growth throughout the year. To the entire 1st XI: your grit, sportsmanship, and team unity have been outstanding.

You've represented BGS with pride, and we hope to see many of you return in future alumni fixtures. Well done on an incredible season!

U14 Girls

By J Zoers-Benstead, Specialist Sports Coach – Hockey

The U14 Girls wrapped up a fantastic season where they played ten competitive matches and showed huge improvements in skill, confidence and teamwork. Losing only three fixtures and conceding a mere ten goals, the team grew together and embodied a style of play that was fast, focused and full of spirit.

The season kicked off with a very confident 3-0 win at Rishworth, goals coming from Lucy H and Sasha P. With a string of four matches that resulted in draws and losses, the girls finished the term strong with four wins in five matches against RGS Newcastle, Withington Girls, Silcoates and Wakefield Girls. Lucy H claimed the top goal scorer award for the year.

One of the most exciting moments of the season came in September and October in the Tier 2 England Hockey Championship tournaments. September saw BGS host the West Yorkshire round where we recorded four wins against Rishworth, Gateways, Silcoates and GSAL B and a 0-0 draw against Wakefield Girls. Having qualified for the Yorkshire Finals Day at the University of Leeds, the U14 Girls faced Hill House, Tranby and Harrogate Grammar, and even though they gave it their all on the field, they were not able to progress further.

Throughout the season, teamwork was a clear strength. While all players contributed hugely in their own individual way, standout performances from Captain Ellie S, Shreya B-M, Maeve D, Sasha P, Chloe H, and Sophie E were pivotal in consistent results for the team. Mr Zoers-Benstead introduced new principles of play that were digestible for all players, regardless of experience and ability. All players improved and added to the growth of the team.

Beyond the results on field, players demonstrated resilience, respect and a love for the game. This is something I look forward to seeing in the next academic year.



To view teams, fixtures and results, please visit bradfordgrammar.com/fixtures

U13 Girls

By J Dunstan, Graduate Sports Assistant
– Hockey

This group of U13 players possess some of the most dedicated and hardest working girls I have ever had the pleasure of coaching.

Every pupil arrived at sessions with a smile and were raring to get going, regardless of the Yorkshire weather. Fifty-one girls played for the A team and B teams respectively over the year. They averaged 2.25 goals a game and showed a real improvement in technical skills in and around key goalscoring zones. Although results were varied, they persisted on working until the final whistle and were always fiercely competitive. It's been a joy to coach the group and watch them develop, both on and off the pitch, as individuals. They should be extremely proud of how they carried themselves, setting the bar high for years to come.

U12 Girls

By I Barber, Assistant Coach – Hockey

Having had a solid year of hockey as a whole group, the U12 Girls showed great improvement from the start of the academic year. Thirty-one players participated in fixtures across the A and B teams, which was testament to how hard they worked to improve their game. The enthusiasm they had as a group, whether they won or lost, allowed them to stay positive during more challenging fixtures, where they often needed only a small amount of momentum to make the contest theirs.

Highlights were the positive wins for the A Team against Giggleswick and Withington Girls. For the B Team, it was a huge achievement to stop the opposition from scoring and keep a clean sheet in five out of nine games.

I look forward to seeing them next year as they continue to build on top of the solid groundwork and cohesive team spirit they developed during 2024/25.



Netball

U12

By C McElhatton, Sports Graduate –
Netball

Our U12 netball group has shown remarkable passion and commitment throughout the season.

All 60 Year 7 girls were given multiple opportunities to participate across four teams, with 57 girls representing BGS in matches. The girls consistently attended training, often filling more than two courts each week, and demonstrated great dedication to improving their skills. Collectively, the U12 teams scored an impressive 349 goals this season.

It was an excellent year for U12 netball, with one standout moment being the U12 As reaching the semi-final of the Regional Area Sisters n Sport Netball Cup, narrowly losing by one goal. Another highlight was a dominant 34-2 win against Stockport Grammar School. The B, C and D teams showed consistent, strong performances throughout, frequently competing against other schools' A and B teams and even playing up for the U13C team on occasions.

The girls participated in 28 games this year, achieving numerous successes, which was further highlighted when three teams represented BGS at the Bradford Schools Tournament. Overall, it was a successful and inspiring season for our U12 netballers who deserve praise for the year.



U13

By G Jones, Head of Junior School
PE and Games

We are proud to celebrate the progress and achievements of our U13 netball squad, comprising both the A and B teams, who showed great commitment and development throughout the year.

The A team enjoyed a particularly successful season, highlighted by their strong performance at the Sisters n Sport Cup. Competing at a national level, the team battled through the rounds against tough opposition to reach finals day at Loughborough University where they finished an impressive third overall. The achievement reflected the team's hard work, skill and determination. Across the season, the A team recorded only two losses – one of which was a narrow one-goal defeat in the quarter final of the Sports Magazine Cup. Although the match was an under-par performance, the squad showed resilience and growth to bounce back.

Meanwhile, the B team worked extremely hard and made notable progress. Several players earned the honour of representing the district, showcasing their individual talent and dedication. While results were mixed during the season, the team finished strongly with three good wins, demonstrating their continued improvement and growing confidence on court.

Overall, the U13 squad showed excellent commitment in training and matches, and the collective effort of both teams bodes well for the future. We extend our thanks to the players, coaches and supporters who contributed to such a positive and rewarding season.

We look forward to building on this foundation next year and celebrating even greater success.



To view teams, fixtures
and results, please visit
bradfordgrammar.com/fixtures

U14

By H Moulds, Specialist Sports
Coach – Netball

Our U14 netball teams showed incredible commitment, dedication, and hard work throughout the season.

Each team played with passion and skill and demonstrated outstanding teamwork and sportsmanship on court. The A team was particularly impressive, winning ten out of 14 games with notable wins against Woodhouse Grove and Bury Grammar School. The B team also performed well, securing six victories from nine matches, while the C team fought hard and earned three wins out of eight games. Beyond match results, the collective dedication of all players stood out the most. Their continuous training and focus did not go unnoticed, with several students earning the honour of being selected for the U14 National Schools team – a testament to their skill and hard work.

A highlight of the year was undoubtedly the Disneyland Paris Netball Tour. The teams had an amazing time with the A team winning the tournament, B team coming sixth in the cup competition and the C team finishing fourth in the Bowl. To top it off, we took a fun trip to Disneyland Paris, where everyone relaxed, had fun on the rides and enjoyed the magic. All in all, it was a perfect mix of competition and fun, with memories which will last for ages.



U15

By H Moulds, Specialist Sports
Coach – Netball

Our U15s had a challenging, yet exciting, season. Across the three squads, they played 26 matches, winning seven and losing 18.

There were plenty of positives to take from the year, including a strong win against rivals GSAL and another against Stockport Grammar School. A highlight was their performance in the Bradford Schools League, where they enjoyed considerable success while experimenting with different player combinations. This was a year of growth for the group. Despite having a small cohort of girls representing the school at this age group, they showed great commitment and worked hard. A considerable number of players from our U15 squad were selected for the U16 National Schools squad, which is a testament to their hard work.

U16

By G Jones, Head of Junior School PE
and Games

It has been an absolute pleasure coaching the U16 netball squad throughout their time at BGS.

This group of talented girls consistently brought a well-balanced blend of determination, competitiveness, a strong desire to achieve, and most importantly, positivity to training and matches.

One of the biggest highlights of the season was the team's progression to the regional round of the National Schools competition – an achievement reflecting their skill and hard work. The squad qualified impressively in the county competition, securing second place by beating our rivals Woodhouse Grove, which was a significant and hard-earned success.

The standout game of the season came in Round 4 of the Sisters n Sport Cup against Yarm. It was a thrilling, closely fought match where both teams were so evenly matched it came down to the final whistle. Although the girls narrowly lost by one goal, it was undoubtedly the performance of the season, showcasing their resilience and team spirit.

As this season closes, I look forward to seeing the girls transition into the 1st and 2nd teams next year, stepping up to new challenges with the same enthusiasm and commitment. For those leaving BGS, I am confident that their skills and attitude will make them a great asset to any school or college team they join.

1st VII

By H Moulds, Specialist Sports
Coach – Netball

The 1st VII have been an absolute pleasure to coach this season. The girls truly embodied commitment, enthusiasm and a genuine passion for BGS netball.

It was a demanding year, balancing their netball commitments with the workload of Years 12 and 13, but the girls consistently showed up to training each week, giving their all with outstanding dedication and positive attitudes.

The team experienced a mixed season, facing competitive matches against strong opposition. There were several notable victories, including wins over Bury Grammar School, GSAL, and Woodhouse Grove.

They finished the season on a high note, narrowly missing out on the semi-finals at the Queen Margaret's Tournament, where a standout win against Harrogate Grammar was a real highlight of the day.

Although the season presented its challenges, the girls continually showed resilience and determination – regrouping, striving to improve, and pushing forward. This is the culture we aim to build at BGS Netball, and our senior squad has led by example, serving as exceptional role models for the younger players.

2nd VII

By H Hinchliffe, Head of Academic PE

The School motto, Hoc Age, definitely summed up the spirit of the 2nd VII this season.

A core body of experienced players provided the stability to hold the team together while feeding positivity to the rather fluid squad. Early in the season, time, effort and a considerable amount of trial and error, were devoted to working out the most effective playing combinations, especially given the lack of girls with experience in circle defence. Players showed remarkable team spirit, stepping up and doing their best to create a cohesive unit against a determined opposition who were out to challenge.

Despite the season's defeats, the girls maintained their composure and kept their heads held high, showcasing great resilience and positivity even when the score was not in their favour. The 2nd VII was home to many vibrant personalities this year. While the team faced numerous challenges, there were plenty of laughs as they worked to overcome them. They were a fantastic group to work with, embodying the true essence of teamwork and perseverance.

National Schools Squads U14, U16 and U19

By H Moulds, Specialist Sports
Coach – Netball

In November, all three age groups competed in the county round of National Schools.

The U14 team went unbeaten, securing strong wins against Woodhouse Grove, Wakefield Girls and Prince Henry's, demonstrating excellent form throughout the competition. The U16s also performed well, finishing in second place with some impressive victories, including a notable draw against Woodhouse Grove that secured their progression to the Regional rounds. The U19s faced some challenges but still managed to achieve commendable results, highlighted by a draw against Wakefield Girls, who ultimately went through as champions.

At the Regional rounds, the U14 team faced a difficult start, playing their first two matches against the eventual winners, Stokesley High, and runners-up, Silverdale. Despite the tough opening, the girls regrouped and performed admirably, finishing in third place and narrowly missing out on qualification for the National Finals. While some nerves were expected on their first experience on the big stage, the team showed great resilience and represented the school with pride. We could not be prouder of their efforts.

The U16 team encountered a more challenging day than anticipated, competing against a well-drilled opposition. They finished sixth overall after several tough matches. Despite the results, the team demonstrated great determination, consistently showing up and giving their best. Their teamwork and sportsmanship were commendable, and they represented BGS with distinction.



Orienteering

By D Alcock, Teacher of Geography
and Orienteering Coach

Students got stuck into orienteering at all levels over the course of the year – from trying it out for the first time in Lister Park to representing England (Sam C). Participation in fortnightly lunchtime sessions grew; thank you to Mr Merckx, Mr Schofield and Mr Carter for their help!

In November, we squeezed into a coach with schools from Guiseley and Sheffield for the long journey to Kent for the British Schools Orienteering Championships. We stopped off to practise our skills at a permanent orienteering course outside Cambridge, and later everyone had a go at night orienteering around the grounds of our activities centre. The next day, the team of 22 tried their hardest at Shorne Country Park. It was our best ever result. We won a record three year group trophies: Year 8 boys (Sam C, Ben R and George O), Year 11 boys (Joseph D, Will A and Freddie W) and Year 12 boys (Henry S, Ben M, and Harry W). Sam, Henry and Joseph also carried off individual victories, and Captain James W won bronze in the Year 13 boys competition, winning his first medal in his last year at BGS. Perse School pipped us to the overall secondary school spot by just two points.



In June, we travelled to Knaresborough for the Yorkshire and Humberside Schools Championships. As well as celebrating our Year 8, 10 and 11 boys winning teams, we were the top school, and there were many individual successes. Students in the top three were Sam C (Y8 boys), Thomas A (Y9 boys), Ross C (Y10 boys), Freddie W and Will A (Y11 boys), and Henry S (Y12 boys).

Year 9 student Ethan N planned the World Orienteering Day event in May, when all Year 7 and 8 pupils orienteered around Lister Park.

Rowing

By S Darnbrough, Specialist Sports Coach
- Rowing

The 2024/25 rowing year saw the school boat club continue to grow both in numbers and confidence.

The head season began with the Tees Head. The J18 quad performed well and Ed VL won the J18 singles. This was followed by the Ancholme Head with wins in J18 and 16 singles, J15 doubles and J14 quads. Special mention must go to the J16 quad who raced in the Senior category finishing second with the second fastest overall time on the day.

At the Junior Inter-Regional Trial Yorkshire, the J16 and 14 quads performed extremely well, losing out on selection by the narrowest of margins. However the J16 quad was selected to form half of the Yorkshire 8+ in the finals.

The climax of the head racing season was the Schools Sculling Head held over two legs of the Eton Rowing Lake. BGSBC had a record six crews competing, showing how far we have come and the strength we now have. The J17 quad sculled really well, finishing 22nd out of 28 crews. The J16 quad showed how much they had improved by finishing 25th out 50 crews.



The National Schools Regatta saw the J14 quad finishing fifth in their final which was a great achievement.

The J15 boys and girls quads performed well, gaining much needed experience at this level and realising the hard work that will be required. However, the performance of the day went to the J14 quad who excelled themselves by finishing 12th out of 48 crews competing. The great thing was seeing all age groups support each other throughout the day.

The first regatta of the season saw us once again at Eton for Wallingford with the J16 quad finishing tenth and the next day splitting into two singles and a double for the National Sculling Regatta with Leo MG qualifying in third place. However, there was disappointment for the J14 quad who missed out on the final by one place.

At Durham City Regatta, the standout performance was from the Year 7 and 8 girls combining to win the WJ13 quads. They sculled with great maturity and confidence which was well above their experience level. The J15 boys came of age in the quads and doubles events showing they had started to believe in themselves and go for it. The quad lost by one foot in the final. The J14 quad continued to impress making the final but losing to a much larger crew.

At the Tees Regatta we had no wins but all our crews performed well and the club spirit prevailed with everyone supporting each other throughout the age groups.

The National Schools Regatta saw the J14 quad finishing fifth in their final which was a great achievement.

The final event of the summer was the Bradford Regatta where we had 26 crews entered. We had wins from the Open, J18, J14 and Women's Senior Quads.

Finally, a massive thank you to both the Captain Ed VL and Vice Captain Tom V for their hard work and commitment over the year and to Miss Jones-Gerrard, for her support and extremely hard work pushing the squads to perform to the standards now being seen.

Rugby

U12

By B Hemsley, Sports Teaching Apprentice

The U12 rugby season was outstanding from start to finish, with the team setting high expectations for the years ahead.

The year began with a fantastic win over Birkdale, offering an early glimpse of the success that would follow throughout the season. Major highlights included victories over QEGS, Stonyhurst and Hymers, to name a few.

The squad consistently attended co-curricular sessions en masse which played a key role in their rapid development. Their relentless determination, refusal to become complacent and ruthless edge will serve them well in the future. Their only loss came against a very strong RGS Newcastle side, providing a benchmark against which they can measure themselves to ensure continued growth.

A remarkable Sevens season followed, with the team losing only two games across four tournaments and claiming three first place finishes – an impressive achievement for any year group. Their eagerness to embrace a new and different style of rugby was commendable and demonstrated their commitment to excellence. The high standards they have set for themselves will carry throughout their time at school.

Out of a possible 59 boys, 39 represented the school on more than one occasion. This level of participation highlighted their dedication to the BGS rugby programme, an asset that will undoubtedly benefit the group moving forward. If these expectations can continue to be met – and exceeded – throughout their time at BGS, then outstanding achievements are sure to follow, just as they have for previous teams.

U13

By J Moran, Director of Sport

The U13 squads had outstanding seasons.

The care for their teammates shone through across the group, combined with serious courage in the face of bigger opponents. Ferocious tackling and evasive running were hallmarks of their all-action approach to the game. The A team had a remarkable regular season going unbeaten in block fixtures, while the Bs put in some excellent performances, with many players making the step up to represent the A team. The 30-25 victory over Hymers in atrocious rain was a particular highlight as the boys came back from 20-5 down, to put in a display full of Hoc Age spirit. The Sevens season was where their efforts really came to fruition. Winning the Durham and Pocklington Sevens, while making the final of the St Peter's and King's Macclesfield Sevens, highlighted their consistently determined approach against the great and the good of Northern Schools Rugby. In their first outing to the Rosslyn Park Sevens, they finished runners up to Solihull School after a pulsating group decider, leaving the Geese with four wins out of five, winning many plaudits along the way. I would encourage the boys to take forward their immense team ethic and competitive nature, which has been fundamental to such an enjoyable season.

U14

By M Wilde, Head of PE Outreach

It was a challenging but enjoyable season working with this year's cohort of U14 players.

A small, but dedicated, group represented the school A XV in 12 games, the majority of which were played before half term such was the inclement weather in November and December. The boys recorded victories over SHAC, Ilkley Grammar and QEGS Wakefield B XV, however, it was most pleasing to see the individual and collective development of the boys, both as players and maturing adolescents. Their increased resilience was particularly impressive and this will serve them well in the future. My personal highlight of the season came in our performance, at home, against Pocklington. We often found ourselves at a physical disadvantage during fixtures and this game was no exception. Despite this, the boys stood tall, putting their bodies on the line in both attack and defence. There was incredible courage and effort from the BGS players and it was a performance I was very proud of. Post-Christmas, we developed our skills and understanding of the abbreviated version of the game and enjoyed competitive trips to both King's Macclesfield and Rosslyn Park. Finally, my thanks to all the boys, particularly George N who captained the side and led by example in all aspects both on and off the field, the loyal band of parental supporters and my colleagues for their valuable contribution to the Year 9 programme during lessons and co-curricular sessions.



The care for their teammates shone through across the group, combined with serious courage in the face of bigger opponents.

U15

By G Morrison, Specialist Sports Coach – Athletics

The 2025 season was a mixed but memorable campaign for the U15s, filled with moments of brilliance, resilience and valuable lessons. Following a strong pre-season, confidence was high heading into the opening fixture against Ampleforth College.

The team delivered a commanding performance, securing a 44–5 victory and setting a positive tone for the term.

However, a recurring theme throughout the season was the impact of injuries. Key players were sidelined early on, which affected the squad's depth and consistency. Despite giving 100 per cent effort, the team fell short in tough matches against Stonyhurst, Durham in the National Cup and a physically dominant Harrogate side.

The squad returned to full strength in time for the fixture against Pocklington and the quality of rugby on display was outstanding. We played with flair and precision, scoring several well-worked tries through excellent handling and support play. The match ended in a 41–22 win, with Harry E-B and Joey U leading the charge with powerful carries, creating space for Ziyad S and Will B to strike with pace and creativity.

Unfortunately, injuries crept back into the squad, and although the players continued to show heart and determination, they were outmatched by strong sides from RGS and Hymers.

A highlight came in the fixture against QEGS, who were also dealing with injury setbacks. We capitalized on the opportunity, playing with structure and intensity to earn a well-deserved 21–12 victory.

The final two matches of the season showcased the contrasting nature of the team's performances. Against Mount St Mary's, the boys produced their best display of the year in a thrilling 55–38 win. The match was a showcase of skill, speed, strength, and teamwork. Billy T orchestrated the game superbly, while Archie S, named the most improved player of the season, delivered another standout performance.

Unfortunately, the season ended on a disappointing note against Woodhouse Grove. The team appeared flat from the outset and struggled to find their rhythm, ultimately falling to a 50–5 defeat. It was a performance that lacked the energy and cohesion seen in previous weeks and served as a reminder of the importance of consistency.

Despite the ups and downs, the season was rich in development and experience. The players learned valuable lessons about resilience, teamwork and the demands of competitive rugby. With many of them moving into senior rugby next year, there is great optimism that this group will continue to grow and contribute meaningfully to the future of BGS rugby.

U16/2nd XV

By D Pullen, Teacher of Business Studies and Rugby Coach

The U16s started the season with confidence, but lack of availability in the 1st XV always meant they would struggle to field their strongest side.

Despite this, there were several dominant performances against strong opposition.

Birkdale was the first team to face the full force of the U16s. A dominant, all-round display of rugby resulted in a 36-19 win, and it was followed by another impressive win over Stonyhurst, with Johan N receiving MOM after call-ups to the senior squad for regular starters. It was followed by a competitive fixture against a mostly U17 Pocklington team with BGS, again, lacking several key players. Despite a brace from Ollie F, they went down 38-29, and a tough away trip to Hymers ended with a 10-0 loss. BGS played well but were unable to break Hymers' defence. An Argentinian touring side were next to visit Frizinghall and they showed a similar approach to their senior international side with an open and entertaining display. BGS gave game time to a number of reserve players, but still contributed with some excellent play in a 20-14 defeat.

BGS next went to QEGS expecting a real challenge and this was the case in the first half. However, the second half was a different story. BGS became more clinical and ran away with a 38-14 victory, inspired by the strong running of prop Tom H and a massive 45m penalty from Toby A. The following week, a much depleted team went to Trent, and despite a loss an impressive James M shone with a try and two conversions. The squad finished the season with two strong victories over Hill House and local rivals Woodhouse Grove. A win here is always hard earned, but BGS produced a magnificent display to send the opposition back to Apperley Bridge with their tails between their legs in a 52-12 drubbing after backs Tom H and Hartley E both crossed the whitewash twice.

Several of the U16 squad were regulars in the 1st XV throughout the year, including both top scorer Jacob H (15 cons, 1 try) and leading try scorer Daniel F (6 tries). After earning valuable senior experience, the future looks very positive for this group of talented players!

1st XV

By D Scarbrough, Specialist Sports Coach – Rugby

The 2024/25 season was a year of growth, grit, and global experience for the Bradford Grammar School seniors, many of whom were representing from an U16 level.

The team embarked on an ambitious campaign that began with an overseas tour to Canada with a small number of Year 12 and 13 pupils. It continued through a demanding domestic fixture list for the group. Despite mixed results, the squad demonstrated resilience and skill development and played well despite struggling physically against much bigger sides.

The regular season opened with a characterful performance against a powerful Ampleforth side, where a very young BGS team showed heart and determination despite a heavy defeat. The match served as a baptism of fire for a team buoyed by the U16s, who gained valuable experience against one of the strongest Ampleforth teams we have seen for years.

As the season progressed, the team grew in confidence and cohesion. A highlight was the final fixture of the regular season in December against Colfe's, which travelled from London to face the 1st XV at Ilkley Rugby Club. It was a thrilling contest in front of a bumper crowd of more than 500 spectators. BGS led for much of the game, only to be edged out in heartbreaking fashion by a last-kick penalty, losing 15-17. Despite the result, the performance was a testament to the team's development and fighting spirit.

Jesse P proved to be a try scoring machine using his pace to great effect, while proud captain Arul M, whose father Richard, captained a very successful BGS 1st XV in 1989, contributed very well to the group on and off field, looking after the young players well. There were big contributions from Jacob H, Harry S, Daniel F and Thomas H alongside Toby A, Archie S and Hartley E who received their treasured 1st XV socks early due to their number of appearances at 1st XV level. It was also great to see the impact our two new entrants to the Sixth Form, Robbie A and Harrison P, had on the squad throughout the season and to see Oliver H play for Yorkshire U17s. Harry S, Archie S and Jacob H were involved in the Yorkshire Development Pathway with the latter progressing into the Yorkshire Academy for the 2025/26 season.

The team showed clear improvement in tactical awareness, set-piece execution and defensive shape and the narrow losses to Pocklington and Colfe's highlighted the squad's competitiveness and potential of the young squad. The coaching staff pushed the message about player commitment and praised the team's ability to bounce back from setbacks.

A small cohort of Lower Sixth players gained valuable experience, and the future looks bright for the 1st XV. The lessons learned from both a good off season and this season's domestic challenges will serve as a foundation for an older, more confident and cohesive team in 2025/26.

Squash

By J Boardman, Deputy Headmaster,
Teacher of Physics and Squash Coach

The Squash Club was well attended this year by several pupils who are new to squash and also those who were more experienced players.

Consistency in terms of commitment in any sport is key to improvement and achievement. Those pupils who were consistent improved their ability with the racket and this, coupled with a greater knowledge of the game, also enhanced their courtcraft.

Will P was our most senior player and club captain, and he should be commended for the amount of free time he gave up to help coach and inspire many of our younger players this year. His knowledge of the game and ability to give wise advice, especially about courtcraft, earned him great respect from his peers and our younger players. Reece C was without a doubt our most improved player this year. After a two-year journey, Reece has established himself as one of the top three most accomplished players in school and he, like Will, gave up his free time to help others to enjoy and develop their ability in squash. The club looks forward to another year of development in 2025-26.

Swimming

By C Robinson, Specialist Sports
Coach – Swimming

The year proved to be a spirited and technically impressive season for Bradford Grammar School's swim team, marked by resilience, camaraderie and standout performances across multiple fixtures.

The season opened with a competitive fixture against Harrogate Ladies, where the younger age groups stepped up to secure a decisive victory, particularly the U13 girls, who dominated their events. A strong cannon relay sealed the overall win for BGS.

At the ESSA meet, swimmers demonstrated grit and adaptability, with younger athletes stepping into older age groups and delivering exceptional performances. The team's depth was evident in mixed medleys and cannons, often fielding multiple squads and outnumbering opponents.

Throughout the season, the U18 boys proved to be a reliable and consistent backbone of the squad. Their contributions in freestyle, medley, and relay events were instrumental in securing points and maintaining competitive momentum, especially in high stakes meets like the Yorkshire Schools Cup and the Bath Cup. The U18 girls also delivered a standout performance at the Bath Cup, finishing sixth in the Fred Parkes Cup with a time faster than the 2018 squad – an achievement made more impressive by the inclusion of one of the youngest competitors in the field.

Fixtures against GSAL, Ripon Grammar, Sedbergh and Bootham tested BGS's mettle. While results varied, the team's unity and sportsmanship remained strong. The season culminated in a symbolic farewell to outgoing captains Martha J and William P, whose leadership and performances were celebrated with heartfelt cheers and the ceremonial handover of the team mascot: The Bull.

Outside the pool, shared travel, team dinners and moments of celebration helped foster a culture of connection and pride. With a strong foundation of technical skill and team spirit, BGS swimming heads into the future with confidence and momentum.



Table Tennis

By A Crabtree, Teacher of Mathematics
and Table Tennis Coach

It was great arriving at school
in September to two new tables
and a group of enthusiastic Table
Tennis players with some new and
some returning players.

Excellent numbers at training sessions
helped the school enter all eight age
groups in the ESTTA national competition.
Local competition was tough and we
finished second in West Yorkshire in seven
age groups, with the U13 boys the only
West Yorkshire winners. However, all four
boys teams and the U16 girls progressed
to the area finals.

In January, BGS hosted two area finals
and the West Yorkshire Schools Table
Tennis competition with over 300 table
tennis players taking part from across the
north. The U13 boys and U16 girls finished
second in the region, the U19, 16 and 11
boys teams were fourth, fifth and eighth
respectively in a high quality competition.

Individually there were excellent
performances from Mehdi R, Ellie S,
Emma M and Muhammad C finishing
third in West Yorkshire and Muaadh M,
Hanaya M, Brenda N and Shishir S
finishing fourth.

Anees K was nominated for Young
Volunteer of the Year at the Table Tennis
England Awards evening where he came
second. Anees has been a great volunteer
at Baildon Table Tennis Club where he
has played in the Bradford League. His
team were Fourth Division winners. There
were several other players representing
clubs outside of school. Muhammad C
in Division 1 Halifax, Shishir S at Pudsey,
Leeds and Zuhayr and Rayyan P at
Hermits, in Bradford.

Finally, well done to the staff team of Mr
Crabtree, Mr Barber and Mr Gustaffson for
defeating the pupils team of Muhammad,
Shishir and Richard W 5-4 in an epic
encounter last term. It has been great
having Mr Barber running Table Tennis on
Fridays when I am putting my feet up at
home - running after my granddaughter.

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Individually there were
excellent performances ...



Tennis

LTA Team Tennis

By B Crichton, Specialist Sports
Coach – Tennis

After a successful summer term, the Year 9/10 boys qualified for the regional knockouts in the LTA Schools' Team Tennis.

They won their league, which included Holmfirth, Roundhay, QEGS, and GSAL. The deciding match against Holmfirth High finished 3-3, leading to a championship shootout tiebreak. Ben W and Laith G held their nerve brilliantly, winning 10-4 to secure their place in the next stage, which will be played in September. The team has drawn St Aidan's – and victory there would earn them the chance to represent the North East against the winners from North England, North West England, and Scotland.

Leeds League

This year BGS moved from the Bradford League to the Leeds League to access more competitive fixtures across the summer. With a few matches still to play, BGS currently sit second in both the U16 and U14 leagues. The season has been full of close encounters, with many ties decided by third-set tiebreaks and nail-biting finishes.

Glanville and Aberdare Cups

Both the Boys' and Girls' National Cup teams enjoyed strong runs this year. The girls reached the regional semi-final, losing narrowly to Stonyhurst in a match where a handful of points could have swung the result. The boys eventually lost to Holmfirth High, who went on to qualify for the national finals.

Eton Independent Schools' Championships

This year marked BGS's most successful performance at the Independent Schools' Championships, held over three scorching days at Eton College. A squad of 12 players competed with great spirit:

- Evie D and Ava R reached the last eight of the U19 plate competition.
- Ben W and Harry S reached the last four of the U15 plate competition.
- Jameela T and Katy H were the standout successes, winning the Love Band Shield after defeating Sevenoaks (Kent) in the final. The girls played ten matches in three days, winning nine, and became the first BGS players to bring silverware home from the championships. Their names now sit proudly alongside previous winners from some of the top tennis schools in the country.

Individual Success

Alongside team achievements, several players excelled individually:

- Jameela T has continued to collect regional titles and is now making her mark on the European circuit.
- Ben W was crowned U14 Boys Singles and Doubles Champion at the Yorkshire Tennis Championships.
- Ava R picked up multiple doubles tournament wins over the summer.
- Harry S also made impressive progress, climbing rapidly up the rankings.

Water Polo

By C Robinson, Specialist Sports
Coach – Swimming

The Water Polo report reflects a season defined by resilience, especially among the U18 squad.

Despite missing three key players due to illness and exams, the team of seven made a 450-mile journey to Marlborough College for the ESSA Plate Semi-Finals. With no substitutes and delayed by traffic, they faced back-to-back matches against top-tier teams. Though Oundle claimed victory, BGS stunned them with two goals. In the next match, BGS took an early lead against Warwick, only to be edged out due to fatigue.

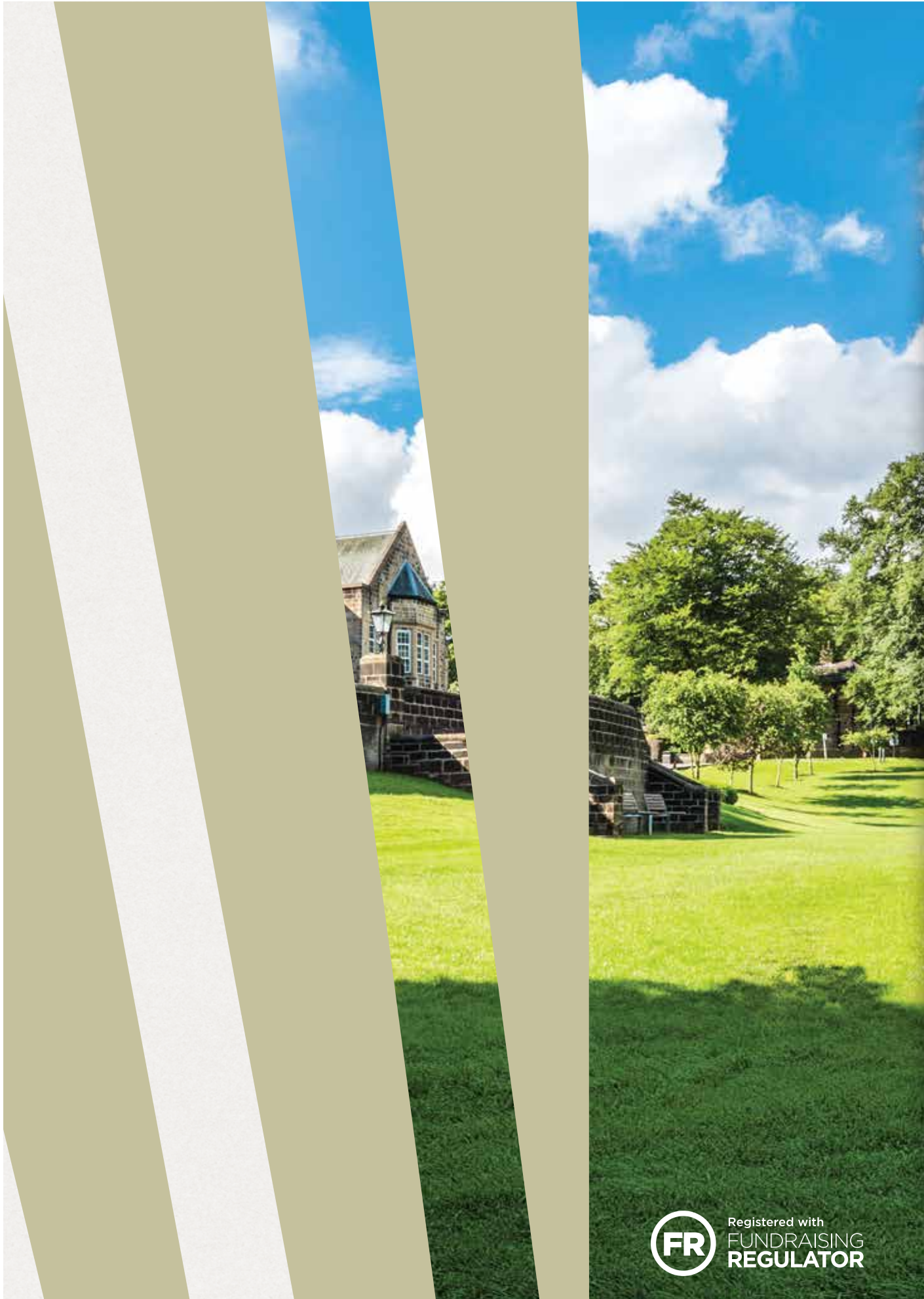
After regrouping, the team – driven by Will P's intensity and the leadership of outgoing captain Oscar H – secured a gritty 2-1 win over Abingdon. They closed the tournament with a commanding 4-1 triumph over Marlborough, showcasing their tenacity and tactical growth. These performances underscored the squad's ability to dig deep and rise to the occasion, even under extreme pressure.

The U15 team, also composed of seven players, including three making their debut, faced tough competition at the ESSA tournament. Though they struggled early, they managed to score against Manchester Grammar and held Bolton to a close first half. Alex M earned recognition for his resilience and leadership.



Notes





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