

AUTUMN
2025

CHALLENGE 03
ARTS 16
COMMUNITY 22
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JUNIORS 35



Bradford
Grammar
School

Challenge

Riding High

Talented Year 10 rider Tilda H
celebrates national success
with a class win at the
Horse of the Year Show

CONTINUED ON PAGE 03

Feature



Welcome from the Headmaster



Bradford
Grammar
School

Autumn term never disappoints. Much has been accomplished inside and outside the classroom, and new arrivals to our School in September now walk confidently along the corridors, fully immersed in BGS life.

CAPTIONS

1 Dr Simon Hinchliffe, looking very festive by Hector W, Yr 8, Special Recognition Winner in the Senior School Christmas Card Design Competition

Our Hoc Age or 'do this' motto is axiomatic of BGS character and rhythm. Precisely what we do mirrors our values – we make the most of opportunity, aspire to excellence and thus create conditions for experiencing deep and lasting fulfilment, human flourishing in the widest sense, and ultimately, happiness. The pages that follow attest to this approach.

Naturally, only a taster can be provided. So, I will simply say, by way of a personal note, that I am grateful for all the autumn term has enabled me to experience – conversations and cheers on touchlines, brave and inspiring pupil-led assemblies, shared endeavour and camaraderie with colleagues, spirited and accomplished concerts and musicals, social occasions with Old Bradfordians, time spent in the good (and often entertaining) company of our pupils, and so much more. Looking back at the past few months, I consider myself very lucky to be part of the BGS family, and I hope those of you reading these words might feel something similar.

Please read on – enjoy all that follows.

Dr Simon Hinchliffe

LATEST BLOG ...

bradfordgrammar.com/simonsblog



JAN/FEB

13 Jan
Guitar Concert

20 Jan
Woodwind Concert

22 Jan
Year 8 Parents' Evening

27 Jan
Year 7 Parents' Evening

29 Jan
Saxophone Concert

3 Feb
Year 12 Parents' Evening

4-6 Feb
Whole School Production

14-21 Feb
Years 8, 9 and 10 Ski Trip – Italy

24 Feb
Year 7 Taster Day

27 Feb
Year 7 Taster Day

MAR

10 Mar
Brass Concert

12 Mar
Year 10 Parents' Evening

17 Mar
Year 11 Parents' Evening

18 Mar
Chamber Concert

21 Mar
Year 9 Bronze DofE Training

24 Mar
Piano Concert

25 Mar
Year 13 Parents' Evening

27-30 Mar
Year 12 Gold DofE Practice Expedition

26-30 Mar
Year 7 and Year 8 Opal Coast Trip - France

*All events may be subject to change

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Talented rider Tilda H, in Year 10, rounded off an exceptional season in the show ring by winning her class at the prestigious Horse of the Year Show (HOYS).

Tilda's riding journey began almost as soon as she could sit up independently, starting in a tiny basket saddle at just six months old. She began competing at four and has since built an impressive record at leading national shows, including Royal Windsor, the Royal Highland Show and the Royal International Horse Show.

In October, she returned to HOYS for a second year, riding Stanley Grange Crescendo (Benji), a 13.2hh British Riding Pony owned by Victoria Harker. After winning their height section, the pair went on to secure Reserve Champion in the Andrews Bowen main arena in front of an audience of 16,000 spectators.

"People always ask if I get nervous competing in front of so many people," said Tilda. "But it actually feels safer being on a pony doing something I've always known than talking to someone in an interview on the ground!"

She said her love of riding is rooted in the connection she builds with her ponies. "They're brave and entertaining, but they're also special because they trust you," she explained. "When that bond is there, they give you their all – and there's nothing quite like that feeling."

Tilda trains five days a week, works with Olympic dressage rider Becky Moody and currently rides three ponies—balancing all of this with her schoolwork and her commitment to the BGS netball team.

This December, she will compete in the performance class at the London International Horse Show on Patrick, a grey Connemara pony. Looking ahead to 2026, the pair will move into the working hunter classes.

Tilda added: "These classes include riding on the flat, but also involve jumping a course of rustic fences, which is a new challenge!"

Dr Simon Hinchliffe, Headmaster, said: "Balancing national-level competition with the demands of school life is no small task, and Tilda handles it with real maturity. She is a fine ambassador for the breadth of talent within our school community."



“...”

When that bond is there, they give you their all

CAPTIONS

1-2 Tilda H, Year 8, Riding High at HOYS



Living our motto through Excellence, Opportunity and Happiness

Current pupils, Old Bradfordians and scholars of antiquity will know that the Latin phrase Hoc Age translates most closely as ‘Do this’ or perhaps more contextually, ‘Pay attention to what you are doing’.

It's a succinct call to focus, to act with purpose and be present in the moment. Its roots, I read, trace back to ancient Roman rituals, where Hoc Age! was a command issued by priests to ensure silence and attentiveness during ceremonies.

Bradford Grammar School (BGS) is not the only school to have adopted Hoc Age as a motto to instil a sense of discipline, diligence and action in their pupils. Quite when BGS took up the motto is a little unclear when you consult different sources; but we know it resonated during the industrial age and has guided us ever since.

Hoc Age – ‘Do this’. But do what exactly?

It's a fair question because BGS has done different things, served different purposes down the ages. This is where the BGS ethos and values come in. We say in our strategy document that: “Our values reflect BGS character, ambition and optimistic world view; they define who we are and where we are going”, in effect they light the way ahead.

Our values are straightforward – excellence, opportunity and happiness – only those three and a simplification going forwards relative to what we had before. This is how we express them:

‘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.

These values underpin our vision statement which reads thus: “BGS encourages intellectual, emotional and physical wellbeing, and fosters the moral code and resilience to make a difference. We aspire to excellence, make the most of our opportunities and enjoy life”.

Our current values can be traced back to a time when the modern grammar school was beginning to take shape. The drivers of this transformation were twofold. First, the Forster Education Acts of the 1870s, which removed our school from church control and placed it under the care of the local education authority. It was during this period that the school became secular. Second, the expansion of a scholarship scheme funded by the local council, particularly in the 1890s. These external factors broadly coincided with the leadership of the reforming headmaster William Hulton Keeling.

Keeling's tenure saw a drive towards higher standards, enabled in part by the school's ability, through the council's newly acquired governance, to recruit bright and ambitious boys from working-class families via a far-reaching scholarship scheme. It is from these developments that our commitment to excellence (higher academic standards) and opportunity (widening access) began to take root. Keeling was the right headmaster, with the right governing body, at precisely the right moment to shape the future of our school.

The value (and pursuit) of happiness has become more prominent in recent years. In a very real sense, this reflects the natural progression of Enlightenment thinking and activity fostering human flourishing. The door to such philosophy and educational practice was overtly opened at BGS when we became co-educational - a moment of redefinition for our School. The proponent and architect of co-education was former headmaster David (Dags) Smith.

The changes that Dags ushered in, with the support of the Governing Body, coincided with enlightened external influences that placed increased emphasis on wellbeing, pastoral care and safeguarding in schools of all kinds. BGS rose on this rising tide. Dags did much to galvanise an intention to provide conditions where one can find personal fulfilment, now overtly signalled by our values; although no one doubts that schoolboys were enjoying BGS life many years before it became official policy!

In 2025 BGS moves forward as an inclusive, diverse and kind school, and we wear our three values proudly. These three qualities stood out when groups of current and former pupils, parents and staff were surveyed just before I joined BGS as Deputy Head in 2014. They remain at the core of our conversations with stakeholders across BGS to this day. They are also a recipe for our future success provided we, collectively, are tightly aligned around them and share the vision for high standards that our values provide.

Our motto is a call to action, a command perhaps. Our values direct the course of that action. It is with our values in mind - excellence, opportunity and happiness - that we go forward collectively into a new school year.

Everyone at BGS plays a role in influencing and shaping the culture that wraps around us all, pupils and staff alike, shaping all our futures. So, let's do things properly, excellently. And with all that said, channelling my inner Bill and Ted (for those of a certain generation!), I wish everyone a happy and successful school year to come.

Readers interested in BGS history might wish to look at the following page of our website and the references therein: [Bradford Grammar History](#)

Sports Round-Up

It has been an excellent start to the sporting year at BGS, with strong participation and impressive performances across the full sporting spectrum.

Rugby

The U15A team attended the National Schools' Festival at Langley School, Norfolk. The tournament gave the boys the chance to play some of the big names in schools' rugby — and, importantly, opposition we don't often meet. They faced tough matches against the likes of Hurstpierpoint, Oakham and Abingdon, with the highlight a hard-fought draw against the hosts, which was broadcast live with commentary. It proved a hugely productive two days for their rugby development and an excellent foundation as they build towards future seasons.



CAPTION

1 U15A team at Langley School, Norfolk



“...”
an outstanding
performance on the
day and returned
home with the trophy

CAPTIONS

- 1 Molly Staines Cup
Champions - U15
Cricket Team at
Scarborough
- 2 West Yorkshire
County Netball
Programme
selectees
Laura S, Liv P,
Tisy H and
Amber C

Cricket

The cricket season continued into September for the first time, as the U15 girls trained hard in preparation for the Molly Staines Cup Final at Scarborough. With kind weather, plenty of outdoor sessions helped the team prepare well.

Their hard work paid off as the girls produced an outstanding performance on the day and returned home with the trophy — a magnificent achievement for a newly formed team. Miss Moulds and Mrs Jones were the perfect combination as a coaching team, and we look forward to watching these girls progress on their cricketing journey.

Netball

The 2025/26 netball season is off to a fantastic start. The 1st VII delivered an outstanding performance against Sedbergh, narrowly losing by just one goal — an excellent result for a newly formed squad. The U12s began their National Cup campaign with an impressive win over GSAL, while the U13s have reached the third round after victories against Huddersfield Grammar and Sheffield Girls. They now face Wirral Grammar for Girls in what promises to be a closely contested match.

In block fixtures, a standout performance came against Woodhouse Grove, where our teams achieved nine wins, one draw and six narrowly fought losses. We are also proud of the pupils selected for representative pathways this term: 19 for Bradford District, six for West Yorkshire County, one for Leeds Rhinos U14, one for Manchester Thunder U14, and one for the Manchester Thunder U17 NPL squad.

As is the case annually, BGS hosted the West Yorkshire round of the National Schools' Netball competition in the Barn. The U19s fought hard in an immensely competitive group; missing key players, they never gave up and embodied true Hoc Age spirit. The U16s produced some excellent netball, winning four and losing four of their matches to finish mid-table.

The afternoon saw the U14s steal the show. Emma G and Georgia M were rock solid in defence, with Jaina K leading the scoring for BGS. A fantastic team effort saw them complete their seven games unbeaten, with five wins and two draws, earning qualification for the Yorkshire round of National Schools on 31 January at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield. Congratulations to the whole squad on a superb achievement.

Huge congratulations to Laura S, Liv P, Tisy H and Amber C on being selected for the West Yorkshire County Netball Programme. This is an incredible achievement and a testament to all their hard work.



Hockey

It has been a busy start to the year for Hockey at BGS. The girls' teams are well underway across all age groups in their cup competitions, while the boys are training hard ahead of their competitions beginning in the Spring Term.

Notable results include the U14 Girls progressing through the West Yorkshire round of the Tier 3 Cup into the Yorkshire round, and from there qualifying for the Yorkshire & North East Finals Day on 11 November, where they will contest a semi-final with the chance of reaching the final. The Boys' 1st XI played an exciting friendly against Ilkley Grammar, which ended in a thrilling 6–6 draw. Cup competitions are now in full flow, with indoor fixtures added in early November.

It has also been fantastic to see a record number of girls representing school across all teams — more than ever before. It is wonderful to see so many pupils taking advantage of the opportunities offered by BGS Sport.

Cross Country

The cross country season is off to a flying start, with outstanding results and great spirit shown across the opening two races. A wave of new runners has brought energy and enthusiasm to a team whose alumni include Richard Nerurkar, Emile Cairess, Rebecca Flaherty and the Brownlee brothers. With numerous podium finishes already secured, this has been a half-term to celebrate. In the first race of the Keighley & Craven League at Cliffe Castle, five of the senior boys finished in the top ten, while Olivia S — the U13 fell running champion — delivered an equally impressive result. Cross country running at BGS is certainly on the up!

Swimming

BGS enjoyed a strong start to the season at the ESSA Swimming Relays, winning medals in three events. The Under 13 Boys team secured two silver medals, first in the Medley Relay (Ben H, Gray C, Seb W and Theo S) and again in the Freestyle Relay, both times finishing second behind GSAL but well clear of third place. The Under 18 Mixed teams also delivered, earning silver medals in both the Medley Relay (Will M, Finlay J, Anna S and Laura T) and the Freestyle Relay (Will M, Finlay J, Anna S, and Laura T/Katy H). These performances saw BGS finish the meet with a total of four silver medals, marking a highly successful outing, as swimming continues to thrive at BGS.

Rowing

In September, BGS Boat Club took part in Bradford Regatta, achieving seven wins across the day. More recently, the club travelled to Brigg for the Ancholme Head. Racing against the clock, there was one win from the J15 crew, while the J17 boat was the second-fastest of the event. All rowers have made excellent progress this term.



CAPTIONS

1 BGS Boat Club at Bradford Regatta

2 BGS at the Netball Nationals



Ben W does the double at Yorkshire U14 Championships

Each year, the Yorkshire Championships are held in Leeds for tennis players from across the county. This year, Ben W competed in both the U14 Singles and Doubles — and impressively won them both.

Across the tournaments Ben notched up seven match victories, overcoming opponents from all corners of Yorkshire. In the singles final he battled through a tight contest against an opponent from York, losing the first set 6–3 before storming back to take the second 6–1. He held his nerve in the deciding tie-break, winning 10–7.

On top of this success, Ben also reached the final of the U14 Mixed Doubles with his partner Isabella, and the semi-finals of the U16 Doubles.

CAPTIONS
1 Ben W with his trophies after winning the Yorkshire Tennis County Championships



“...”
overcoming
opponents
from all
corners of
Yorkshire.



CAPTIONS

1-2 Jameela T & Katy H with the Ashbury Bailey Shield, won after a very successful trip to the Independent Schools Championships at Eton College

BGS girls claim historic silverware at Eton Championships

At the end of the summer term, the Tennis Academy travelled to Eton College for the Independent Schools' Tennis Championships, where the standard includes some of the strongest school academies in the country.

The competition offers BGS players valuable experience against southern opposition they rarely encounter.

This year, Jameela T and Katy H paired up for the U15 competition. Over three days, they played ten matches, winning nine — a performance that put them in contention

for the Ashbury Bailey Shield. In the deciding match, they faced Sevenoaks School from Essex, winning the final set 6–2 to secure BGS's first-ever silverware at the ISTA Championships.



A Rising Star in Orienteering

Sam C has enjoyed a remarkable rise through the ranks of British orienteering, capping off an exceptional year with selection for both regional and national teams – and earning the title of M14 Northern Champion along the way.



Sam, a Year 9 student at Bradford Grammar School, trains with the Yorkshire and Humber Orienteering Association junior squad, his local club Airienteers and the BGS orienteering team. Over the last year, his progress has accelerated rapidly: he won his class at the Schools Orienteering Championships, recorded consistent top-three finishes at regional events, placed fifth at the prestigious Jan Kjellström Festival in April and finished fourth at the British Championships in May 2025.

These results earned him a coveted place on the annual Lagganlia training camp in Scotland, held in August for the country's top twenty four 13 to 14-year-old orienteers.

His success continued in October when he represented England at the Junior Home Internationals in South Wales. Sam placed third in his age class during the individual race at Merthyr Common – an area so steep and technical that competitors were required to carry phones for safety. He went on to form part of the winning England relay team, helping secure a narrow lead over Scotland.

Sam's achievements place him firmly among the most promising young orienteers in the country, following a pathway forged by fellow BGS athletes, including Year 12 Henry S and Old Bradfordian Emily Gibbins, who has recently competed for Great Britain at the Junior World Orienteering Championships in Trentino, Italy.

Sam said: "Although I tried orienteering when I was younger, I only really got into it when I joined the school club in Year 7. Since training with the Yorkshire and Humberside junior squad too, I've noticed a big difference in my skills.

"Trips to France and Lagganlia have helped me improve even more and make many close friends. Competing for England at the JHIs and our recent British Schools win were real highlights. None of this would have happened without Mr Alcock, so I'd like to thank him for all he's done."

Headmaster Dr Simon Hinchliffe added: "Orienteering demands physical endurance, sharp decision-making and resilience under pressure – qualities Sam has shown in abundance. We congratulate him on his achievements and look forward to seeing where his talent and determination will take him next."

“...”

a remarkable rise
through the ranks of
British orienteering

CAPTION

1 Sam C (centre) celebrated winning success at the British Schools Orienteering Championships

“...”

Every race is different

Fell running champion!

Year 8 student Olivia S has enjoyed an outstanding season in fell running, culminating in her being crowned the British Open Fell Runners Association (BOFRA) U12 Girls' Champion.

Olivia first discovered running through the local primary schools' cross-country league, before joining Keighley and Craven Athletics Club, where early coaching from Matt House introduced her to fell running.

Now part of the club's scholarship group, Olivia trains twice a week with coach Andrew Jackson, working on hill strength, speed, cross country and conditioning.

This season, she competed in the BOFRA Championship, securing the title after finishing first in eight races — a significant achievement in one of the most demanding junior fell series. She has travelled across the north of England to compete, embracing the steep climbs, fast descents and varied terrain that define the sport.

Closer to home, Olivia regularly trains on Ilkley Moor, and this October she represented Bradford Grammar School at the English Schools Fell Running Championship at Sedbergh. On a tough, hilly 5km course — and racing against athletes in Years 8 and 9 — she finished fourth overall.

Olivia said what she enjoys most is the variety. “Every race is different,” she explained. “Some are steep, some are fast, and you never really know what you're going to get. I like that challenge.”

Looking ahead, she hopes to continue progressing in the sport and is inspired by Old Bradfordian runners Rebecca Flaherty and Amelie Lane.

Headmaster Dr Simon Hinchliffe said: “Olivia's success comes from commitment and a willingness to push herself — qualities we deeply admire. She represents the very best of BGS pupils who pursue their passions with purpose, and we're proud of what she has achieved this season.”

CAPTIONS

1-2 Olivia S, Year 8, BOFRA U12 Girls' Champion

1





CAPTION
1 Mr Alcock, with his Outstanding Service to Schools Orienteering award

Mr Alcock wins national orienteering award

Mr David Alcock, Teacher of Geography, has been recognised nationally by British Orienteering for his exceptional commitment to developing the sport within Bradford Grammar School and beyond.

Mr Alcock received the Outstanding Service to Schools Orienteering award during the British Schools Orienteering Championships in Edinburgh in November. The event also saw BGS achieve an impressive third place nationally in the large secondary school category – a proud moment for both students and staff involved.

A passionate advocate for the sport, Mr Alcock has spent more than a decade nurturing orienteering at BGS. Under his guidance, the programme has flourished: Year 7 pupils enjoy fortnightly morning sessions, older students take part in a thriving lunchtime club and teams represent the school at competitions across the country.

A former British champion himself – he won the 2021 M40 British Sprint Orienteering title and competes for the Welsh Veterans team – Mr Alcock brings both expertise and enthusiasm to every session.

"I had no idea I was going to be presented with the award, so it was a real surprise, and I feel very proud," he said. "Orienteering gave me so much when I discovered it in my twenties, and I've always wanted to give students the chance to experience it too.

"It's a sport that builds resilience, problem-solving and confidence – skills that serve them well far beyond the course. Thank you to the many teaching and support staff who have helped the club to thrive."

Headmaster Dr Simon Hinchliffe added: "Mr Alcock's dedication and passion provide opportunities our students might otherwise never encounter. This national recognition reflects the significant impact he has made on school orienteering."

“...”

It's a sport that builds resilience, problem-solving and confidence

British Schools Orienteering Championships, Edinburgh



CAPTIONS

1 BGS orienteers with their medals

2 Runner Freddie W, Year 12, at the finish

BGS orienteers did themselves proud at the British Schools Orienteering Championships, held in the grounds of Hopetoun House, Edinburgh, on Sunday 16 November.

Sam C pushed hard to take the Year 9 Boys title, while Tom A delivered a breakthrough run to secure silver in the Year 10 category. The Year 9 and Year 13 Boys teams both earned team silver, with the Year 10, Year 11 and Year 12 Boys teams collecting team bronze.

In the large secondary school competition, BGS faced strong English and Scottish opposition and were delighted to finish third overall. Counting runners were Sam C, Tom A, Oliver J, Henry S, Joseph D, Ross C, Ben R, Ben M, Samar A and Nusaybah U.



The race rounded off a jam-packed weekend, which also included an event in the gnarly Scottish forest of Beecraigs and a night-navigation challenge at Bonaly Scout Centre.

Next year, the event comes closer to home – Manchester!

D ALCOCK, TEACHER OF GEOGRAPHY



Record-breaking season for Mrs Flaherty

CAPTIONS

- 1 Mrs Flaherty in New York
- 2 Mrs Flaherty with Paula Radcliffe

Bradford Grammar School’s Head of Year 12 and Teacher of Chemistry, Sarah Flaherty, has had an extraordinary autumn of competitive running, combining international marathon success with a family milestone that looks set to become a Guinness World Record.



In early November, Mrs Flaherty travelled to the United States to take part in the New York City Marathon, one of the world’s most iconic long-distance events. She finished with a remarkable time of 2:57:48, placing 6th in her age category and securing automatic qualification for the 2026 Chicago Marathon.

Just a few weeks before New York, she lined up alongside her daughter, former Head Girl Rebecca Flaherty, at the Great North Run. Rebecca, who is currently studying at the University of Oxford and competes for England at U23 level, completed the 13.1-mile course in 1:18:48, while Mrs Flaherty ran 1:25:31. Their combined time of 2 hours 44 minutes 19 seconds sets a new Guinness World Record for the fastest mother-and-daughter half marathon, which is now awaiting official verification. Mrs Flaherty’s son, Old Bradfordian Alex Flaherty, also took part, finishing in 1:21:56.

“Crossing the line in the Great North Run and realising we’d set a world record together was an incredible moment,” said Sarah. “And just weeks later, running the New York City Marathon, with the Statue of Liberty and Manhattan skyline around me, was another unforgettable experience – the crowds, the bridges, the adrenaline – it reminded me how lucky I am to be able to do this.”

Mrs Flaherty has previously completed the London Marathon three times and recorded 2:54:50 at the Berlin Marathon last year, finishing 5th in her age group. She balances her training with a full timetable at BGS, running 11 km into school several times a week.

“Running is both a mental and physical challenge,” she said. “It keeps me sane, gives me time to think and helps me process the day and plan for the next.”

“...”
Running is both
a mental and
physical
challenge

Alice selected for England U16 hockey squad



“...”

it's wonderful
to see her
commitment
recognised

CAPTIONS

1-3 Alice M
in action

Bradford Grammar School Year 11 pupil Alice M has been selected for the England U16 hockey squad for 2025–26.

Alice started playing hockey at age seven and has played for Ben Rhydding Hockey Club since U10s, making her National League debut for the club's first team last year. She was also awarded the club's Captains Award and the Bradfordians Club (London) Year 10 Sports Prize at Speech Day.

Alice, who plays in the forward line, was the top goal scorer for Ben Rhydding's first team last season. Her England selection followed a three-stage process, beginning with the July Talent Cup, progressing to a two-day trial in September and culminating in a three-day final trial at Lilleshall during the October half-term.

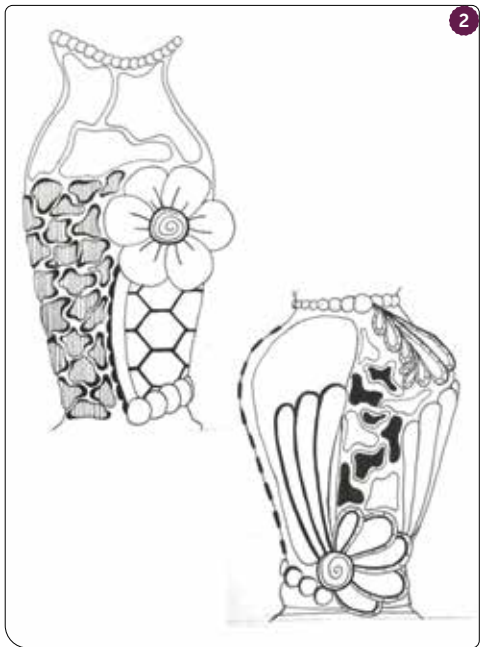
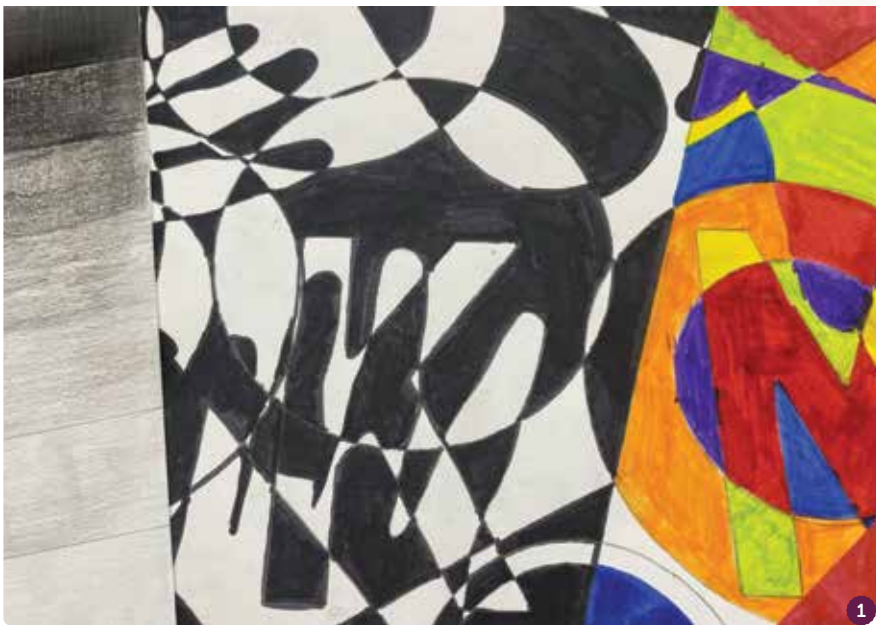
"The selection process was long, stressful and exhausting," Alice said. "I felt so relieved when I got the email and was lucky to be with friends when it came through, so I could tell them in person."

Alice hopes to represent England in major tournaments such as the 4 Nations, 8 Nations and Euro Tour. She said: "My ambitions are to play in the Premier League at university, and with England U18s and U21s."

She acknowledges the role her coaches have played in her development. "I'm very grateful to have had support from my childhood coaches to those I have at school, like Mrs Parkinson, my club coach, Mathew Birch, and England TA coaches Nick Davey and Kay Hanham," she said.

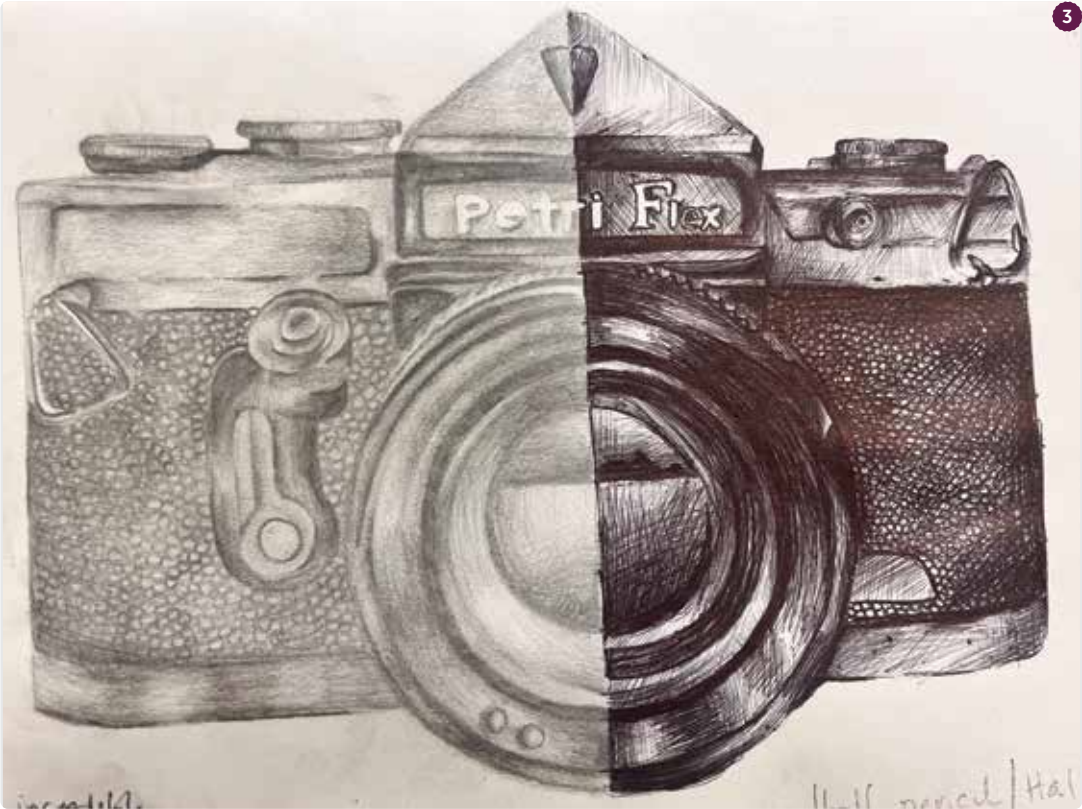
Headmaster Dr Simon Hinchliffe said: "Alice has developed from a keen junior player into one of the region's top young hockey talents. She's not only talented on the pitch but also a great team player, and it's wonderful to see her commitment recognised with this England selection."

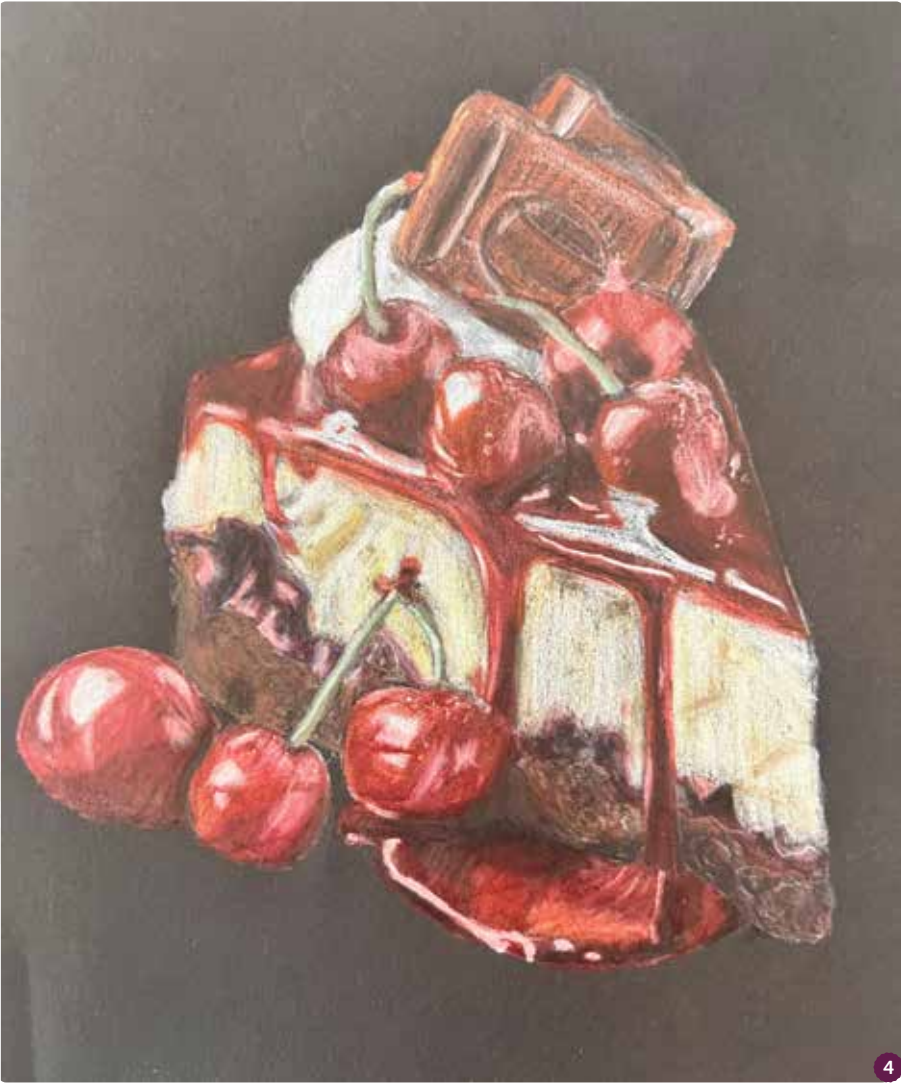




Artists of the term ...

- 1 Suhaavi M, Year 7
- 2 Annabel W, Year 8
- 3 Zoila R, Year 9
- 4 Catriona W, Year 10
- 5 Freya B, Year 11
- 6 Isabelle S, Year 12
- 7 Izzy H, Year 13

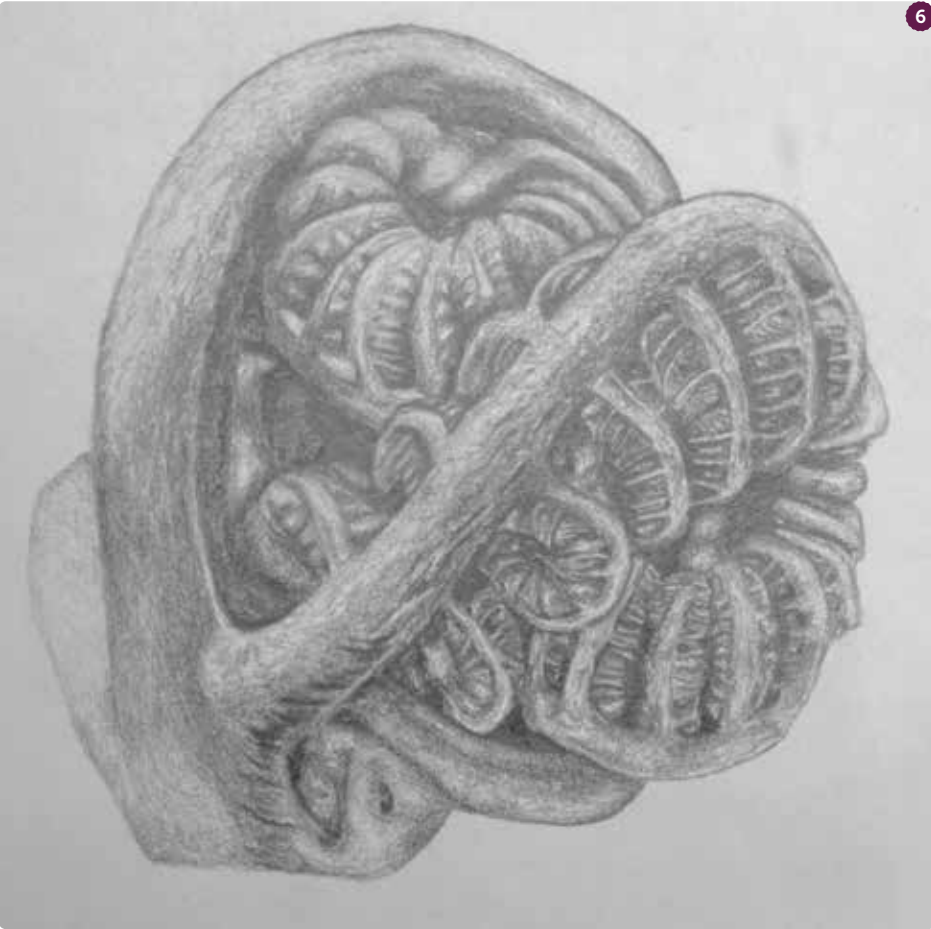




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7

Bradford Grammar Art Exhibition 2025

The recent BGS art exhibition showcased at Salts Mill has once again been a memorable production, presenting over 250 pieces of artwork representing each year group within the Senior School.

CAPTIONS

1 BGS Art Exhibition at Salts Mill

2 Artwork entry at 2025 exhibition



A new and different exhibition space enabled innovative hanging and immersive experiences for all our visitors. The Mill setting is always a powerful reminder of our local industrial history, and combined with the strong, diverse and multimedia art pieces, it creates an exciting and informative visual language of the creative wealth within our young students at BGS. The ability to creatively solve problems is a skill highly valued within many careers and industries, and is a process we encourage throughout each year group, allowing an understanding of transferable skills.

“...”

young artists
of the future
are still
thriving here
at BGS

The exhibition demonstrated how our students at BGS understand how to express ideas and concepts within many subject areas, covering environmental issues, society, relationships and many more talking points that allow our young people to grow and evolve as adults. We are so very proud of our students' creativity and the diversity within scale, media, concept and skill. The success was clearly recognised by the visitors who had come from near and far, expressing joy knowing that our young artists of the future are still thriving here at BGS.



Dancing to Success

Sixth former Millie C has secured places on two prestigious national dance programmes.

Millie, who has been dancing since the age of four, earned coveted spots with Tap Attack, the UK's leading tap company associate scheme, and JAD Collective, a commercial and hip-hop programme led by renowned choreographer Joe Dubas.

A versatile performer across ballet, tap, acro, jazz, lyrical and commercial styles, Millie has trained with Joze School of Dance – now the Charlotte Wallis Dance Academy – and has performed in pantomimes and musicals with Bingley Amateur Dramatics for the past seven years. She was also awarded a distinction in her Intermediate Ballet exam, earning UCAS points.

"These dance programmes will give me incredible opportunities to develop as a performer and work with inspiring professionals," she said.



CAPTIONS

- 1 Millie C
- 2 Art students in Barcelona

Millie achieved ten grade 9s and one grade 8 at GCSE in the summer and is now studying A Level Maths, Physics, Design Technology and English Literature at BGS Sixth Form. She hopes to pursue a career in architecture or structural engineering while continuing to dance and eventually teach younger students.

Dr Simon Hinchliffe said: "Millie exemplifies the breadth of talent we nurture at Bradford Grammar

School. She has shown that dedication to academic excellence can sit alongside artistic passion at the highest level, and her success is an inspiration to both our Sixth Form and younger pupils.

Barcelona Art Trip

The Bradford Grammar Art Department took a weekend trip to Barcelona to explore the culture and varieties of the artistic world in Spain.

As an A-level art student, the trip opened my eyes to a whole other world of art; going to multiple museums and galleries that specialised in different types and movements in art took many of the students by surprise. It gave me more insight into different artists that I can apply to my work moving forward, looking at inspiration for my next topic. Park Guell was a special favourite of mine, having the freedom to roam around the park, taking in the breathtaking views and nature around us. The different forms of mosaic pieces that ranged from seating areas to whole houses fascinated many of us, trying to understand the concept behind how it was all built by only a couple of architects, such as Gaudi, who I want to explore when diving into my next section of artwork. Another favourite museum that was the talk of the trip was "Casa Mila"; the intricate designs displayed throughout the house and the open rooftop that overlooked the bustling city intrigued not only the students but the teachers as well, everyone finding a common interest within this house. The fountain show was a great way to finish the last night of our trip, engaging with the lights and music display.

The whole weekend was packed with cultural interests, chat amongst friends and a great deal of fun. This trip will definitely stay in our memories and support us in developing our creative skills.

RIYA D, 6TH FORM



Music Round Up

CAPTIONS

1-3 BGS musicians

Founders' Day

On October 14th, Senior Choir provided the music for our Founders' Day at the Cathedral. Singing Stanford's Jubilate in B flat, John Rutter's A Clare Benediction and leading the hymns was a privilege, and it was a real pleasure, as always, to sing in Bradford Cathedral. The choir are looking forward to many more performance opportunities this year, and especially the performance of Vivaldi's Gloria in April.

Chamber Music

After half term, our evening recital series started with beautiful performances from our string players, prepared by our school's string teachers. Soloists performed works as varied as Stravinsky, Cui and Fauré, and the evening provided a good opportunity for these musicians to play in front of a supportive audience of family and friends. There was some fine ensemble playing on display, in particular from our wonderful string quartet, who performed an arrangement of Mozart's Symphony No. 40. Our vocal concert was also another enjoyable evening and showed the strength of Mrs Harrison's pupils, with, once again, a wide variety of music on display.

The Autumn Chamber Concert in November provided another platform for our most advanced instrumentalists and singers to perform solos, as well as our small ensembles who have rehearsed since September. We were treated to a variety of jazz music, including a humorous performance of John Williams' Cantina Band, music by Karen Street and Chuck Rio's Tequila. Providing a total contrast, our soloists entertained us with Tchaikovsky, Telemann and Beethoven. Congratulations to all musicians who performed in the groups and volunteered for a solo.

Lunchtime Recitals

This half term, 40 pupils have taken part in our lunchtime recital series. These informal lunchtime concerts are a great way pupils can perform to their parents, teachers and peers in a relaxed and informal setting. We've seen performances ranging from absolute beginners to Grade 8 and A Level students.

Christmas Concert and Carol Service

As I write, we are looking forward to two of our biggest events of the year: our Nine Lessons and Carols Service in Bradford Cathedral and our Christmas Concert, both in December. Year 7 are working hard, rehearsing a performance for the Christmas Concert, and it has been a joy hearing so much singing in the Department on a daily basis! The Carol Service is a more reflective event, with readers telling the Christmas story and music from the senior brass ensemble and our four school choirs.



Exploring Sculpture at YSP



CAPTIONS

1 Art activity inspired by YSP

2 Students at Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Year 8 enjoyed a morning trip to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park in October, where they explored how large-scale sculptures are created and responded to the artworks through a series of drawing and making activities.

Pupils were encouraged to interact thoughtfully with the pieces, discussing their ideas with peers and workshop leaders throughout the day.

During the visit, pupils encountered work by celebrated artists including William Kentridge, David Nash, Daniel Arsham and Barbara Hepworth.

The trip closely supported ongoing learning in school, as Year 8 have been developing three-dimensional work in class. Many of the practical activities at the Sculpture Park echoed techniques pupils have explored this term, such as continuous line drawing, layered repeated drawing and textural surface rubbings.

The pupils were excellent ambassadors for the school, engaging with enthusiasm and curiosity at every stage of the visit.

School Builds New Bonds with Local Care Homes Through Music and Volunteering



CAPTION
1 BGS musicians performing at local care home

As part of our expanding volunteering programme, we are delighted to announce the formation of two new partnerships with local care homes, Elderthorpe and Priority Care. These connections mark a significant step forward in our commitment to community engagement and intergenerational learning.

Each week, Sixth Form students volunteer their time at the care homes, offering companionship and support to residents. In addition to these regular visits, a group of talented musicians from Years 7 to 10 have brought joy to residents and staff through live musical recitals held at both homes. The performances were met with heartfelt appreciation, with residents and staff describing the events as uplifting and inspiring. Many were moved by the students' enthusiasm, talent, and the thoughtfulness behind the initiative.

In a touching gesture of thanks, Elderthorpe presented the pupils with a certificate of appreciation, recognising the joy and connection they brought to the home through their music.

"We were absolutely blown away," said a member of staff at Elderthorpe. "It's been a highlight for many of our residents, some of whom haven't been to a live music event in years."

We would like to extend a special thank you to our Director of Music, Elizabeth White, whose dedication and hard work made these performances possible. Her support and organisation have been instrumental in the success of this initiative.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue building these relationships. Plans are already underway for further performances next year, and we hope to welcome some of our new friends from Elderthorpe and Priority Care to concerts at BGS.

This initiative has not only brought smiles to the faces of residents but has also offered our students invaluable opportunities to grow in confidence, empathy, and community spirit.

**MRS R PARKINSON, TEACHER OF PE AND GAMES,
ASSISTANT HEAD OF SIXTH FORM (ENRICHMENT)**



BGS team conquer Loch Ness

A crew of five Bradford Grammar School students took part in the Monster the Loch rowing challenge, completing the full 21.5-mile length of Loch Ness and raising more than £1,300 for the RNLI.

Led by BGS Boat Club captain Tom V, the team finished the course in an impressive 3 hours 11 minutes and 45 seconds, placing 26th out of 125 boats and over 500 competitors from around the world.

Crews take on the famous Scottish loch in all types of craft, from kayaks to dragon boats; the 'BGS Monster Hunters' rowed in a coastal quad loaned by St Andrews University. Tom was joined by Torben F, Peter D, Leo M G and cox Harry W.

"The atmosphere was great, and we were happy with how we rowed," said Tom, Year 13. "It started getting tough after around 13 miles, but we coped well as a crew. Crossing the finish to We Are the Champions was a pretty euphoric moment!"

The crew, who have all rowed together since Year 7, trained throughout the summer, both on rowing machines and at Hollingworth Lake Rowing Club, to prepare for the distance.

BGS Specialist Sports Coach (Rowing), Simon Darnbrough, said: "Their teamwork and determination, both in training and on Loch Ness, have been really inspirational."

Headmaster Dr Simon Hinchliffe added: "What these students have achieved on Loch Ness goes far beyond physical endurance. Their courage, training and teamwork under demanding conditions demonstrate a level of maturity and determination that is exceptional at any age. They deserve great credit for the way they prepared and performed – a tremendous well done to them all."

“...”

Their teamwork and determination, both in training and on Loch Ness, have been really inspirational.



CAPTIONS

1 BGS rowers with Loch Ness RNLI crew

2 BGS rowers at Monster the Loch Challenge

Daya voices lead role in BBC Children in Need Christmas animation

CAPTIONS

- 1 Daya SA, Year 8
- 2 Daya recording in Manchester
- 3 Banner for Pudsey and The Thread of Hope

Year 8 pupil Daya S A is set to feature at the heart of a major festive broadcast after securing a leading voice role in a new animated special for BBC Children in Need.

Daya is the voice of Jai, the central child character in Pudsey and the Thread of Hope, a new animated film due to air on Christmas Eve on BBC One and BBC iPlayer, with further screenings on CBeebies later in the Christmas period.

Commissioned by BBC Children in Need and CBeebies, the 25-minute animation is based on an original story by author and musician Tom Fletcher, known for being in the band McFly, and marks the first time Pudsey Bear has starred in his own animated television special.

Daya, who attended a premiere event in London, said: "Even though I've done some voiceover work before, this project felt completely different. I knew it was an animation for a really special cause and it made me feel really proud to have been a part of it."

The story follows Jai, a young boy navigating grief following the death of his father. Through a magical journey alongside Pudsey Bear and other children connected by a symbolic 'golden thread', the film explores themes of kindness, connection, resilience and hope.

Designed to support children and families in talking about difficult emotions, the animation forms part of BBC Children in Need's wider mission to champion mental wellbeing and emotional support for young people across the UK.

Earlier this year, Daya, who is represented by Articulate Drama School & Casting Agency in Bradford, appeared as one of the central characters, Taran, in the CBeebies comedy series The Football Fantastics, filmed in Yorkshire. His voice-work credits also include Mark Clump in the Sky Original children's series The Brilliant World of Tom Gates, alongside appearances in national advertising campaigns and Channel 4's The Secret Life of 5 Year Olds.



“...”

Venus's achievements are extraordinary

Rising star Venus W has been selected for the England Women's Under-19 Preparation Phase winter training squad, following her recognition with the Charlotte Edwards Award for Outstanding Under-16 Schoolgirl Cricketer.

The 16-year-old Lancashire and Thunder Academy leg-spinner, and student at Bradford Grammar School, has had a remarkable season, taking 124 wickets across academy and club cricket — including 33 in the academy phase alone, making her the highest wicket-taker in the country at her level.

Venus grew up surrounded by cricket thanks to her father, former Sri Lankan first-class player AJ Weerappuli, and developed through the MCC Foundation's Cricket Beyond Boundaries pathway before progressing into the Lancashire talent system. She received the Charlotte Edwards Award, presented annually by The Cricket Society to the most outstanding Under-16 schoolgirl cricketer in England, named in honour of former England captain Charlotte Edwards.

Venus said: "It's been a fantastic season. To receive this award is a huge honour, and then to be selected for the England U19 Preparation Phase squad is amazing. I can't wait to get started and learn from the coaches there."

She has already represented Lancashire at U15, U18 and senior women's levels and is currently part of the Thunder Academy, the North West's elite training programme for potential future professional cricketers. Venus added: "The coaching and mentoring I've received at Lancashire has made a huge difference to my game — they've supported me and helped me to believe in my ability."

Her England U19 selection follows national trials and competitive fixtures over the summer. Venus is now one of around 20 players nationally selected for the Preparation Phase squad, who will attend a series of winter training camps at the National Cricket Performance Centre in Loughborough. In January 2026, the ECB will select a final squad of around 15 players to travel to Australia for a tri-series against Australia and Sri Lanka U19 teams, with some players also potentially invited to an additional training camp in India.

Venus credits BGS for helping her balance training and matches alongside her studies. "School has been really helpful. My teachers have supported me in keeping on top of work when I've been away for training and matches," she said.

BGS Headmaster Dr Simon Hinchliffe said: "Venus's achievements are extraordinary. To receive the Charlotte Edwards Award and secure a place in the England Under-19 Preparation Phase squad at such a young age speaks volumes about her talent, discipline and character. She is a credit to the school and to the sport, and we are excited to support her as she continues her cricketing journey."

CAPTIONS

1 Venus in action for Lancashire Thunder

2 Venus with former England and Surrey cricketer Alec Stewart

Venus earns England U19 call-up and national award

1

2

“...”

the competition highlighted the strength of debating at BGS.



1

CAPTION

- 1 Team BGS showcase their debating skills
- 2 BGS senior debaters at the Royal Armouries competition



2

BGS Debaters Reach Final at Royal Armouries Competition

Four of BGS's senior debaters - Abi H, Yashvi B-M, Hugo M and Ben M - showcased their skills at the prestigious Royal Armouries Sixth Form Debating Competition in November.

In the opening round, BGS faced Beckfoot School, tackling the motion "Is corporate sponsorship good for the arts?" Both teams impressed, but BGS edged the contest with sharp thinking and focused argument.

The second round brought a clash with Notre Dame, debating whether populism poses a threat to democracy. The competition's format, which includes rigorous questioning from a panel of three expert judges, tested the debaters under pressure. BGS rose to the challenge, delivering a composed and creditworthy performance in the heat of cross examination.

Their success earned them a place in the final against Abbey Grange

Academy. The motion "Should trial by jury be removed in certain cases?" saw BGS present a rock solid and coherent case. Both schools were praised for their articulate and informed contributions, though Abbey Grange ultimately claimed victory.

Despite the narrow defeat, the competition highlighted the strength of debating at BGS. The Royal Armouries, in partnership with Debating Matters and The Leeds Salon, hosted a memorable event that celebrated the power of argument and ideas.

Debating at BGS continues to thrive and long may it do so.

Inspiring political thinking and independent learning at BGS

Angela McOwen, Head of Politics, Head of Sixth Form Enrichment and EPQ Coordinator at Bradford Grammar School, shares her passion for sparking curiosity, critical thinking and independence in students.

When people ask me what makes the Politics Department at BGS so successful, my answer is simple: it is led by specialists who love the subject and live it every day. Politics here isn't a minority subject; it's at the heart of the Sixth Form curriculum. I teach A Level politics full-time and I'm supported by two excellent colleagues, Mr Jones and Mr Ali. Between us, we ensure students are exposed to the big ideas, controversies and debates that make the study of politics so stimulating.

What sets us apart is the breadth and relevance of the course. Since 2017, we've followed a specification that includes UK politics, US politics and political ideas. The combination means our students not only analyse Westminster and Whitehall but also grapple with Supreme Court rulings in the US, the role of the presidency and the main ideologies that underpin political thought in the UK and US. At a time when young people's social media feeds are filled with commentary on American politics – from Trump-era controversies to Supreme Court decisions – this is an area they arrive curious about. That curiosity is our springboard. We equip them with the literacy to move from the clickbait headline to deeper research, to weigh evidence and to reach their own reasoned conclusions.

Closer to home, engagement with UK politics surged after Brexit. Our students now have a sharper sense that political decisions shape their lives and they want to understand the various factors that influence those decisions and how they are made in depth. That sense of agency – of politics being for them and not just something happening in Westminster – has transformed classroom debate.

My own passion for politics was sparked at school age. I was 14, studying economics at GCSE in my state comprehensive in Greater Manchester, when I realised it was the political decisions behind the economics that really fascinated me. Studying A-level Politics with a teacher who loved the subject confirmed it for me. I went on to read Politics and Social and Governmental Policy at the University of Manchester, tried the corporate world and quickly realised I wanted a career that enabled me to remain deeply connected to academic political science. Encouraged by a neighbour – herself a teacher – I retrained, took a PGCE in Politics at Manchester Metropolitan and joined BGS in 2006.

But education here goes far beyond subject teaching. As Head of Sixth Form Enrichment, I oversee a programme that every Year 12 pupil takes part in. The idea is to give them a year of exploration beyond their A-level choices, developing skills and perspectives that will stay with them for life. Some pursue examined courses such as Beginners' Japanese, the Pool Lifeguarding Qualification or the Sports Leaders Qualification. Others choose non-examined options like International Relations, Philosophy or Photography. It's a chance to step outside their usual subjects, discover new interests and gain qualifications or skills that broaden their outlook.

For those learners keen to embrace academic autonomy, enrichment can also mean the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), which I have had the privilege of coordinating for over a decade. The EPQ allows Year 12 students to design and carry out an independent research project on a topic of their choice – recent examples have explored questions such as whether professional wrestling should be considered a sport, or whether the use of electro-convulsive therapy is consistent with principles of biomedical ethics. It's very different from classroom learning: teachers step back into the role of facilitators, while students drive the process. They select their research question, justify its academic value, manage deadlines and present their findings. It's an enormous challenge, and not every student feels ready for it, but those who do take it on develop independence and scholarly skills that are recognised far beyond BGS.

Universities – from Oxbridge to the Russell Group and beyond – value the EPQ because it mirrors the process of writing a dissertation. Our students learn about academic integrity, how to reference sources properly and how to work with databases such as JSTOR. They practise presenting their ideas to an audience. Most importantly, they prove to themselves that they can carry through a substantial, original piece of work from start to finish. This year's outcomes reflected that hard work and commitment: 14 students achieved an A*, 13 gained an A and four a B. It's an exceptional set of results and a testament to how carefully we have refined the transition process, ensuring that by the time students embark on their EPQ, they know exactly what is expected of them and are ready to rise to the challenge.

Almost twenty years on from when I first joined BGS, I'm proud to see Politics thriving, enrichment flourishing and the EPQ producing remarkable outcomes. All three strands share a common goal: to inspire curiosity, independence and a love of learning. That is what I believe education should be about – preparing young people not just to pass exams, but to think critically, to question confidently and to shape the world around them.



CAPTION

1 Angela McOwen

PE is not a soft option

As Head of Academic PE, Heidi Hinchliffe brings a wealth of experience as a teacher, coach and former top-tier university athlete.

CAPTION

1 Heidi Hinchliffe

Here, she reflects on the rigour of PE as an academic subject, the outstanding achievements of BGS students and the collaboration between academic staff and specialist coaches that sets the school apart.

When people ask me why I teach PE, I always go back to school. I can picture the teachers who inspired me — the ones who noticed my enthusiasm and gave me the encouragement to push further. They didn't just teach me to play netball, hockey or athletics; they taught me what commitment and resilience looked like. I think that's why I'm so passionate about the subject now. I know the difference it made to me, and I want my students to feel that same spark.

I carried that love of sport into university, studying Sport and Recreation Studies at Birmingham. I wasn't just in lectures — I was on the court and the pitches. I played three first-team sports, representing the university in volleyball, hockey and rugby union, and by the time I graduated I had not only earned a degree but also the Vice Chancellor's Award for the outstanding graduate of the year. Those years shaped me. They showed me how sport demands more than physical talent. It's about organisation, teamwork and knowing when to lead and when to support.

After my PGCE, I started teaching in Birmingham and then spent 14 years as Head of Girls' PE at Wolverhampton Grammar. Following a career break to focus on my young children, I returned to teaching in Yorkshire, working across a variety of schools before joining BGS in 2024.

My focus here is academic PE - GCSE and A Level courses that can be underestimated by those outside the subject. Too often people think PE is just about playing sport, but the reality couldn't be further from the truth. In the classroom, our students study anatomy and physiology in depth, explore psychology and the mental skills needed for peak performance, examine biomechanics, and investigate sport in its social and cultural context — from the violent, male-dominated games of pre-industrial Britain to modern-day issues of race, gender, and technology.

At A Level, students must combine the study of theory with their own performance in a chosen sport, often competing at county or even national level. It's a demanding combination. That's why I always emphasise to parents and students alike: PE is not a soft option. It is rigorous, respected and increasingly valued by universities.

The Academic PE department is small but highly experienced, allowing us to offer a personalised approach, especially at A Level where smaller class sizes mean students benefit from targeted support and strong teacher-student relationships.

The results speak for themselves. In 2025, five of our students sat A Level PE. Between them they achieved three A*s and two As and four of them went on to study sport-related degrees at leading universities including Loughborough. At GCSE, we consistently see many students achieving grades 7–9, reflecting the hard work and talent in the department.

“...”

they taught me what commitment and resilience looked like



One of the things I love about BGS is the way the academic PE team works alongside our exceptional coaching staff. We're lucky - we have an extensive team of highly qualified specialist sports coaches, assistant coaches, sports graduates and a number of expert teaching staff all of whom bring professional-level expertise to the students they train. Their coaching complements what we do in the classroom. When I'm teaching the physiology of recovery, for instance, students can see it applied directly in their training sessions. Our Athletic Development Programme, led by Ben Nabozny, is another strength. In the gym, students gain practical experience of how to train properly, avoid injury and build the strength that underpins performance.

continued ►

Languages beyond the classroom

That structured pathway means we can spot talent early, even in the Junior School, and nurture it all the way through to Sixth Form. By the time students are sitting GCSE or A Level PE, they already understand what it means to set goals, track progress and reflect critically on their development.

One of my favourite parts of the job is helping athletes make those connections between theory and practice. It might be a hockey player realising that the science of energy systems explains her sprinting performance, or a tennis player recognising how sports psychology sheds light on his pre-match nerves. When those lightbulb moments happen, students begin to see sport not just as something they do but as something they understand.

The sports students who thrive are often the busiest. Many are musicians, actors, debaters and high-achieving scholars as well as athletes. And that's the point... they learn to manage their time, balance competing demands and still perform at a high level. These are life skills, not just exam skills.

I also bring a family perspective to my role. As Simon's wife and a parent of two children at BGS, I already knew the school well before joining the staff. Our children are thriving here, and I believe this dual view as teacher and parent gives me a unique insight that helps me support students, particularly in a pastoral context.

For me, BGS is about more than grades or medals. Don't get me wrong — I'm incredibly proud of our results and the achievements of our students at regional and national level. But what excites me most is the way sport here shapes people. It builds resilience. It creates friendships that last. It teaches young people to fail and to come back stronger.

As a teacher, I feel privileged to play a part in that journey. And as a parent, I see my own children benefitting from this special environment: a school that celebrates breadth, pushes for excellence and values community. It's exactly the kind of education I would have thrived on myself and it's a joy to be here now, giving today's students the opportunities that once inspired me.

Bradford Grammar School is celebrating the exceptional achievements of three students who went above and beyond in their studies, sitting additional qualifications in languages outside of their timetabled subjects – and achieving the very highest grades.

Daniel X and Oscar Y, now in Year 12, both sat an additional GCSE in Chinese last term. The pair studied largely in their own time and achieved top grade 9s in August.

For Daniel, whose mother is Chinese and who has spoken Mandarin at home from an early age, the challenge lay in developing his reading and writing to exam standard. He worked with an online tutor and sat his exams at BGS. "I thought if I could do it, why not?" he explained. "It looks good for university applications, but I was also proud to achieve it in addition to my other GCSEs."

Daniel went on to secure an outstanding set of results overall – 11 grade 9s and two grade 8s – including Further Maths and Astronomy as additional subjects. He is now studying Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Chemistry in the Sixth Form and is considering a future in astrophysics or chemical engineering.

Year 13 student Oles K achieved an A* in Russian A Level – a qualification he took a year early. Supported by BGS in arranging the assessments, Oles worked independently with former BGS teacher Mr Davis, who guided him through the syllabus. This included studying a Soviet-era film on dictatorship and a 1960s Russian novel, before sitting extended essay papers.

"I expected it to be easier than it was," admitted Oles, who is Ukrainian. "The literature paper was especially challenging, but practice essays and feedback really helped."

Now studying Psychology, Business and History at A Level, Oles is hoping to read Law at university, with Cambridge among his top choices.

Headmaster Dr Simon Hinchliffe said: "Achieving such high grades in additional subjects, on top of their school studies, shows real independence and a love of learning. These are outstanding accomplishments."

“...”

I love the challenge
of pushing myself

CAPTION

1 Students
celebrating
European Day
of Languages

Sasha's success

Fourteen-year-old Sasha P has praised Bradford Grammar School's Modern Languages department after achieving a top Grade 9 in GCSE French – two years ahead of schedule.

Now in Year 10, Sasha sat the exam in summer with the support of BGS teachers, having taken the initiative to learn much of the course independently. She not only achieved a perfect score in the listening paper but also secured the second-highest overall mark in the school.

When she joined BGS in Year 7 from Swain House Primary School, Sasha had no previous knowledge of French. Determined to improve, she threw herself into the subject and was soon recognised by staff for her rapid progress. Extra lessons and tailored support helped her prepare to sit the exam early.

"I was probably the weakest in my class when I first joined," Sasha said. "But Mrs Kingsley really inspired me and made me want to get better. She gave me extra lessons in her own time and encouraged me to sit the GCSE early. I don't think I would have achieved this without her and the other teachers who supported me along the way."

This isn't Sasha's first early success. At 11, she achieved a Grade 9 in GCSE Mathematics. Since joining BGS she has completed the A Level Mathematics and Further Mathematics syllabuses independently and hopes to sit the exams ahead of schedule.

Looking ahead, Sasha aspires to study Mathematics at Cambridge, with possible careers in finance or theoretical physics. "I love the challenge of pushing myself," she said. "But what really makes the difference is the encouragement of my teachers here at BGS. The opportunities and support they give you are phenomenal."

Away from the classroom, Sasha is also a talented musician, working towards Grade 8 guitar and playing in the school's concert band and guitar ensemble.

Headmaster Dr Simon Hinchliffe said: "Sasha's achievements are truly exceptional, but what shines through most is her curiosity and gratitude. At BGS we encourage students to explore their potential and achieve at the highest level, and Sasha has shown just what is possible with commitment and the right support."

European Day of Languages



We celebrated European Day of Languages on Friday 26 September with a full programme of activities across the Senior School.

The day began with a lively assembly showcasing cultural celebrations in France, Germany and Spain, featuring videos created by our A Level students – with a few memorable cameo appearances from staff! Form groups then enjoyed language-themed quizzes, while at lunchtime pupils were treated to an international menu created by our talented Chef, Mr Winter, and his team.

In the afternoon, the whole Senior School gathered in the Price Hall for a vibrant celebration of language and culture, complete with karaoke, face painting, quizzes and games, all of which brought a wonderful sense of shared joy and community.

We were also delighted to welcome our partner school from Germany on the same day. Thirty-eight students and their teachers spent time experiencing life at BGS, taking part in lessons, exploring school life and marvelling at our smart buildings and uniform! A highlight of their visit was time spent at Clock House, where pupils in Year 1 and Year 5 enjoyed lively exchanges of language and culture. Later in the day, both groups came together in the Sports Hall for friendly cricket and handball sessions, with thanks to Mr Hemsley and Mr Denton for guiding everyone through the rules with enthusiasm.

Experiences like this are a joy - they bring languages to life for BGS pupils, and we hope they'll stay in touch with their new German friends, providing a real boost to their language learning.

“...”

a vibrant celebration of
language and culture

“...”

Standing at Serre,
where the Bradford
Pals advanced on
1st July 1916

Battlefield History Trip

In October half-term, forty-two students from Years 11 and 13 travelled to Belgium and France to explore the First World War battlefields, tracing the landscapes that shaped some of the most significant events of the conflict.

From the preserved trenches at Sanctuary Wood to the vast, quiet cemeteries of the Somme and the Ypres Salient, students saw first-hand the scale of sacrifice that had once felt distant in textbooks. Standing at Serre, where the Bradford Pals advanced on 1st July 1916, brought particular poignancy — a moment of reflection marking the young men who left the same streets, the same city, and the same school gates our students walk through today.

A deeply meaningful moment came at Essex Farm Cemetery, where the group laid crosses and reflected at the graves of Private Edward Gellert and Sergeant Arthur Cohen, both former pupils of Bradford Grammar School. Their names, once rows on a memorial plaque, became real in that quiet space — each representing a life lived with hope, ambition and friendship. The Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate that evening felt especially resonant; among hundreds gathered from around the world, our students stood representing BGS, honouring its past, and carrying its memory forward.

MR C TAPSCOTT, HEAD OF HISTORY



CAPTIONS

1 A moment of reflection marking the Bradford Pals

2 Students from Years 11 and 13

Isle of Cumbrae Geography and Biology Trip



CAPTION

- 1 Students on the Isle of Cumbrae
2 Raft building at Kames Bay

Pupils from Years 8 to 11 set out on a joint Geography and Biology trip to the Isle of Cumbrae, a small, picturesque island just a ten-minute ferry from the west coast of Scotland.

On the trip, the third BGS visit to Cumbrae, students were guided by the expert staff of the Field Studies Centre Millport through a wide range of educational and adventurous activities.

Days were filled with climbing the granite outcrop behind the centre, building and sailing rafts in the sea at Kames Bay and exploring the island through walking, orienteering and learning practical survival skills such as fire-lighting and shelter-building. Pupils deepened their understanding of the island's rich ecosystems by tracking and identifying wildlife across the rocky shore, freshwater ponds and woodland while also honing their geographical fieldwork skills through beach profiling and sediment analysis.

Evenings brought time to relax and socialise through sharing meals in the canteen, gathering around the campfire and reflecting on the day's discoveries. A highlight for many came with the unexpected sight of a pod of playful porpoises gliding through the estuary — a moment of wonder that perfectly captured the spirit of curiosity and connection at the heart of the trip.

MR D ALCOCK, TEACHER OF GEOGRAPHY





Celebrating Faith, Culture and Community

'Faiths in the City' day on Tuesday 21st October was a day of collaboration and exploration as students explored the event's theme of 'looking after body, mind and soul'.

The event was richly rewarding and stimulating for our Year 9 pupils, celebrating and exploring the richness and diversity of faith in our community.

The annual event invites faith leaders from the local Bradford and wider Yorkshire community to lead our students through a variety of activities, including dance, musical performance, art, calligraphy, drama, mindfulness and meditation. This year, we welcomed faith representatives from the religions of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and Sikhism. The photos display the wonderful Islamic mandala artwork designs created by our students, led by the artist Zareena. Well done to all of Year 9 for making this event a very special and rewarding day..

CAPTIONS

1-3 Year 9 Islamic mandala artwork designs



“...”

The event was richly rewarding and stimulating





CAPTION

1 Ben C, Year 8 signs a new, two-year contract

Ben represents Man City at international tournament

Year 8 pupil Ben C recently represented Manchester City on an Under-15s tour at the 5th edition of the Grand Tournoi International Agadir in Morocco.

Ben, who is the club's Under-13 goalkeeper, travelled with City's squad to compete against elite academies from around the world, including PSG, Ajax, Mallorca, King Mohammed VI Academy, Wydad FC and Al-Dasheera Olympic. Matches were held at the Adrar Stadium in Agadir, home to Morocco's top-flight football.

Ben was retained by Manchester City in May 2024, signing a new two-year contract following a strong season. He continues to balance his football commitments with school life and sport at Bradford Grammar School, where he also enjoys playing rugby.

Ben said: "It's always a really good experience going on tour, especially with the older age group.

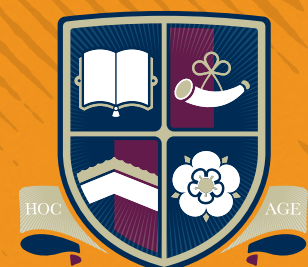
It's a privilege to play against some of the biggest clubs in football, but also the smaller clubs proved a tough test too."

Headmaster Dr Simon Hinchliffe added: "We're thrilled to see Ben represent Manchester City on such a fantastic stage. His maturity and commitment are a credit to our school community."

“...”

It's a privilege to play against some of the biggest clubs in football

Junior



AUTUMN
2025

Bradford
Grammar
School

JUNIORS

2025





Bradford
Grammar
School
JUNIORS

Welcome!

Life in the Junior School is always full of energy and excitement!

This edition of Hoc Age shares some of the fantastic activities that have taken place this term, written by our very own Junior Journalist team.

You will hear about exciting residential adventures, outdoor education in the Junior School, and our wide-ranging extra-curricular programme, including our new fencing club, along with interviews with some of our new pupils. You will also find out about our Play Leaders and have a chance to hear from Mrs Tapscott about the Early Years at Bradford Grammar School.

At the Junior School, opportunities abound for every child to challenge themselves, grow in confidence, and immerse themselves in a rich variety of experiences.

We hope you enjoy exploring all that makes life in the Junior School so special!

Mr Richard Ribeiro
Junior School Headmaster

FEB/MAR

11 Feb
KS2 Young Voices at
Sheffield Arena

11 Mar
KS2 House Music
Competition

16 and 18 Mar
Parents' Consultations

MAR

17 Mar
KS1 Spring Concert

26 Mar
KS2 Spring Concert

*All events may be
subject to change

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CAPTION
1 Jaycey L, Year 6

Jaycey awarded organ scholarship

Ten-year-old Jaycey L, a Year 6 pupil at Bradford Grammar Junior School, has been awarded a rare organ scholarship.

Already a talented violinist (Grade 7) and pianist (Grade 4), she is also one of the youngest members of the Bradford Youth Orchestra. The scholarship recognises her extraordinary musical potential and gives her a new challenge.

Chris Brook, Director of Junior School Music at BGS, said: "Jaycey is an exceptionally gifted musician. Her violin playing is already reaching diploma standard, and she's a capable pianist and singer too. We wanted to introduce her to an instrument that would stretch her even further."

Jaycey, who also sings with the Bradford Catholic Youth Choir and participates in Yorchestra, an orchestral course in York held each summer and winter, said she was "really surprised" to receive the scholarship. "The organ is an amazing instrument, but quite complex to play," she said. "I love how it can produce different sounds of the orchestra, and how it's unique from other instruments, as the music is sort of delayed because the pipes are so far away."

BGS has a longstanding reputation for musical excellence, offering pupils opportunities to explore music across all levels and styles. Its programme includes choirs, orchestras and ensembles, as well as access to specialist tuition and performance spaces. Former pupils have gone on to achieve prestigious university music scholarships, including one who became an organ scholar at King's College, Cambridge.

Mr Brook, himself a former BGS organist, hopes Jaycey's success will inspire more young musicians. "The organ is a niche instrument, but having such a young girl learning it is really inspiring," he said. "It offers huge opportunities — musically, and in terms of confidence, performance and discipline. Jaycey has all the qualities to go far."

“...”
It offers huge opportunities — musically



Round up of Life at Clock House

1. and 2. Our Year 2 children were thrilled to be joined by their families at the library for their 'Book and a Brew' event.

3. With the support of the Friends of Clock House, we were pleased to add fencing to our extracurricular provision this term.

4. and 5. At the end of term, our Year 4 and 5 pupils were thrilled to showcase their learning about the polar regions and ancient Egypt.

6. Autumn leaves brought plenty of playtime fun.

7. This term, we enjoyed a House Poetry competition, which gave the pupils opportunities to demonstrate their public speaking skills.

8. As one of our community links, we were pleased to welcome the Road Safety Team to help our children understand how to stay safe whilst out and about.

9. The Year 6 residential was a great way for our older pupils to build friendships and have plenty of fun.

10. Outdoor learning continues to be a popular part of the week for our Reception and Key Stage One pupils.







CAPTION
1 Richard Ribeiro

Be fearless... be yourself

“...”
there’s no
better
preparation
for life.

Head of Bradford Grammar Junior School, Richard Ribeiro, reflects on his journey into education and his vision for helping every child flourish – known, valued and inspired to be themselves.

“Be fearless, be creative, be kind, be happy, and above all, be yourself.”

These are the words I share with our Junior School pupils at the start of every year. They aren’t slogans for the wall; they’re the values I want every child to carry with them. For me, being Head is about creating a school where children can flourish as individuals—where they feel known, encouraged and confident enough to step beyond their comfort zones.

continued ►

I make it my business to know all 160 pupils by name and story. I know who's racing go-karts at weekends, who loves debating, who spends hours building Lego cities and who finds joy in music. That matters because when children see that their interests are noticed, they understand they're valued. And when they feel cared for, they thrive.

Our ethos is rooted in that care, alongside academic ambition and breadth. We want children to excel in the classroom, but also to discover who they are through sport, music, drama, outdoor learning and clubs that fire the imagination.

Perhaps it's no surprise that I see the value of breadth so clearly—my own education was filled with it. From my prep school days as a chorister and head boy, to Felsted School where humanities, rugby and jazz band were equal passions, I thrived on variety. Later, at Loughborough University, I studied geography and played rugby league at national student level, representing both Scotland and Great Britain. Those experiences of teamwork and pushing myself shaped who I am today.

Family influence was powerful too. Both of my grandfathers were teachers—one in Scotland, one in Ghana—and my father was a surgeon who dedicated his life to medicine. As the eldest of three, I also found myself guiding and helping my younger sisters. Those experiences, though small at the time, gave me a real sense of responsibility and showed me how fulfilling it is to nurture others. From my family, I learned that passion, commitment and service matter in whatever you do.

I didn't begin my career in education. After university, I worked in IT for several years, managing teams. But the pull of teaching became stronger until I went back to my old prep school for a week's work experience. The spark was instant. Helping children learn and grow felt so natural and rewarding that I knew this was my path.

I joined Bradford Grammar in 2020, right in the middle of the pandemic. It was a difficult time for schools everywhere, but when I first met our Headmaster, Dr Simon Hinchliffe, I knew I'd found the right fit. His progressive, forward-looking approach resonated with me. Just as importantly, I felt I could be myself here—and that's exactly what I want for our pupils.

Our Junior School is academically selective, but it isn't a hothouse. Children don't sit an entrance exam for Year 7, instead they move seamlessly into the Senior School, with careful monitoring and high expectations along the way. That frees us to keep learning broad, challenging and enjoyable, rather than narrowing it down to "teaching to the test."

I believe in balance... work hard, play hard. Pupils are stretched academically, with enrichment clubs and competitions that extend them further. But their school life is much richer than that.

Sport is central. From the end of Reception, children start swimming, and by the Junior years they have three days of physical activity each week, led by exceptional coaches—many with international playing experience. Fixtures are part of daily life and children relish being part of that.

Music, too, is thriving. Recently, Year 6 pupil Jaycey became our first ever organ scholar! From choirs and ensembles to classroom music, opportunities like that are special at this age. And beyond that, clubs from fencing to robotics to debating give pupils so many ways to find their passions.

What ties it together is the belief that bravery and growth matter. I want pupils to be willing to step out of their comfort zones, to risk getting something wrong and to understand that mistakes are part of learning. Carol Dweck's work on growth mindset has influenced me deeply. Sometimes I'll deliberately get things wrong in assembly, to show children that it's not just okay—it's how we progress.

Our outdoor learning provision builds on this. Weekly forest school sessions, an outdoor classroom with a fire pit and adventure play areas all encourage children to take managed risks and test their resilience. These are lessons that last well beyond childhood.

In recent years, we've expanded to include Early Years, giving us a complete 4–11 journey. Our youngest pupils come with a natural curiosity and fearlessness—it's our job to help them hold on to that for as long as possible.

Looking ahead, we're developing STEM and robotics further. Thanks to support from our PTA, coding lessons are coming to life through robotics projects. Watching pupils see their code physically move and respond is inspiring.

For me, leading the Junior School is about much more than academic results, though those are excellent. It's about raising children who are confident, kind, and true to themselves—ready to step into Senior School and beyond with curiosity and courage.

This is a school where every child is known and celebrated, where they can try, stumble, succeed, and grow. A place where they're encouraged to be fearless, creative, kind, happy, and—above all—authentic.

And in my view, there's no better preparation for life.



CAPTION

1 Mr Brass

Fencing Fun Sparks Excitement at Clock House!

This term, something exciting has started at Clock House... a Fencing Club!

Mr Brass, our Year 3 teacher and outdoor education enthusiast, has brought fencing to our school for the very first time and it's already a big hit with Year 5 and 6 pupils.

Mr Brass used to run a fencing club at his old school, and now he's sharing his skills with us. He says fencing helps pupils improve their timing, balance and strategy and it's also lots of fun! Participants get to wear exciting protective clothing and learn how to move like real fencers. One pupil described it as like being in a sword-fighting film!

Mr Brass teaches outdoor education to Year 1, 2, and 3. He also loves running and mountain biking, so he's always full of energy. And guess what? He's planning to start a Forest School soon, which everyone is keen to find out more about.

Jahangir, a Year 5 pupil, said: "Thanks to Mr Brass, we're learning new skills, getting active and having loads of fun!"

ASHAR K, Y6



CAPTION

1 Pupils' bake sale for The Harvest Appeal

Little Bakers, Big Hearts

The Harvest Appeal is an event where the whole of the Junior School can participate in selling different items.

Pupils bring in home-baked goods and shop bought sweet treats and try to sell them to fellow pupils, including Seniors and staff.

Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 were asked to bring in items for Bradford Central Foodbank on Monday 20 October. Pupils in Years 3 to 6 held a bake sale, which took place the next day.

Bradford Foodbank and ActionAid will benefit hugely from the money raised. This fundraising helps sponsor up to four children overseas. The total raised to date is approximately £665, which is an outstanding amount! Thank you to all involved.

BY ANYA M Y6

“...”

I didn't get to play chess at my old school, but here, the clubs are amazing.

STEM, chess and new friends: Ayaan's fresh start

New pupil Ayaan has quickly found his feet at Clock House, describing his start to the term as, “better than he could ever imagine.”

Enthusiastic about Computing and DT, he is already enjoying the wide range of opportunities the school offers—especially the STEM robotics, which he is eager to explore throughout his Clock House journey.

One of his favourite aspects of the school is Chess Club.

“I didn't get to play chess at my old school,” he said, “but here, the clubs are amazing.” He is also impressed by the school's spacious layout and well-stocked library, which he believes supports his ambition to aim high and reach his full potential.

Having made many new friends, he feels he has settled in well.

“The school is very nice and more educational,” he shared.

“I understand the systems, and I log in quickly in computing lessons—it's my favourite subject!”

His enthusiasm for learning and the school's supportive environment suggests a bright future ahead.

“This school is perfect for me,” he concluded.

BY HAIDAR H, YEAR 6

Settling In. Idris reflects on his first term in Year 1

As part of Junior Journalism Club, I sat down with my younger sibling Idris, one of our newest Year 1 pupils, to find out how he is settling into school life.

Our conversation revealed a joyful and imaginative young learner who is already making the most of everything the school has to offer.

When I asked how he was enjoying school so far, Idris said he was loving the classroom resources and enjoying the lessons. His enthusiasm was especially clear when he talked about Lego Club. "I love building and making my own animals, monsters, people and mechanisms," he shared.

Creativity seems to be a strong theme for Idris, whose favourite subjects are swimming and art. "I love swimming and the pool," he said, "and I really love drawing and making pictures using my imagination."

When I asked about his favourite teacher, he didn't hesitate to name Ms Rani, praising her for always being there to help when needed. Idris also told me that lunchtime is one of his favourite parts of the day, especially because of the variety of food options—something he didn't have at his previous school.

In the classroom, arts and crafts are his favourite subjects, perfectly matching his love for creative activities. Outdoors, he prefers the all-natural playground, which offers more exciting things to play with.

Finally, when I asked if he would like to learn a musical instrument, the answer was a confident yes: the piano.

It's clear to me that Idris is already thriving in his new environment, and I'm excited to see how his talents and interests continue to grow!

BY IQRA H, YEAR 5

“...”

I really love drawing and making pictures using my imagination.



CAPTIONS

1-2 Year 6 Play Leaders with younger Clock House pupils

Leadership Through Play

When children reach Year 6, they are given a wonderful opportunity to become Play Leaders—pupils who take on a leadership role by guiding and engaging younger children in purposeful play.

How do play leaders benefit the younger children?

Play leaders provide that crucial link between the older and younger pupils in Clock House. They role model language, play skills and help the younger children recognise safe and respectful boundaries when playing alongside their peers.

Do the younger children enjoy the play leader's presence?

They love it when we have play leaders on the playground! Our younger learners enjoy seeing different faces and recognise the fun aspect of playing with older children. Many have siblings further up the school, so it is a chance for them to connect during the school day.

How many play leader training sessions do you need to be a qualified play leader?

You need to attend three training sessions to be qualified and then you will receive a play leader badge.

Why do we have play leaders when there are teachers already there ready to help?

Play leading is an important addition to our playtime offer for the younger pupils for all sorts of reasons but it is also important for the older children. It enables Year 6 pupils to take on a responsible role as they come to the end of their time in Clock House and consider aspects of play from a safety and developmental standpoint. It also helps their social skills as being able to help others in conflict resolution and the simple act of sharing is an important skill for adult life too.

Why do you need to be trained to become a play leader?

Not all games are suitable for younger children, so the training provides an opportunity to learn some age-appropriate games to start you off. We also need to make sure that you understand your role in keeping the children playing appropriately and safely.

BY ARISSA I Y6



A Short Stay; a Lasting Legacy!

Mrs Tapscott is our current Reception teacher who will be leaving us at the end of the Autumn Term to be closer to family in Northern Ireland. We interviewed her before her departure, and this is what she had to say.

Do you enjoy working with younger children?

Yes, definitely. I love how the children find everything exciting. Even stones and sticks are exciting! It means every day is never the same. Every day is unique.

Why did you choose to work with this age group?

My degree is in Early Years Childhood Studies, so I have chosen to focus on this age group. I get a lot of job satisfaction when working with them, and I love the fun and magic of their world. Every day is an exciting day when you look through the eyes of a four-year-old.

Are the children offered opportunities to attend co-curricular activities?

We encourage one club per term for Reception and two for Year 1. We give Reception two choices each term. Over the past few years these have included Funky Fingers, Bee Bot Club, Little Voices Choir and Playground Games.

We understand that you will be leaving us soon. Tell us how you feel about this.

I am really sad to be leaving BGS as I have had an incredibly positive experience here. I have had lovely colleagues in my years of working here, and I will miss my students. However, I am looking forward to being closer to the rest of my family in Northern Ireland.

What legacy do you hope to leave behind when you leave?

I hope that the foundations that I have created will be built upon, and I want every child to be able to thrive during their early years. I want every child who comes to BGS to have an amazing start to their learning journey and have a love of learning throughout their school career.

In your opinion, what is the best feature of the early years building?

I think the shared continuous provision space at the back of the EYFS and Year 1 classrooms is one of the best features of the early years building. It allows the children to be outside in nature no matter what the weather is like. It is also the area where Year One and Reception children work and play together, so it is a symbol of partnership to me. The path to the Adventure Playground leads out from the shared area, so it is as if we are physically connected to nature and wildlife.

Kids love playing. How does play help their learning?

Albert Einstein once said, "Play is the highest form of research." It allows children the opportunity to understand tricky concepts and deepen their level of understanding. In Reception the children are not focused on the big picture of what they have to achieve when playing, however they are actually taking in lots of information from the outside world.

What is your favourite part of working in the early years building?

I really like the staff team that I work alongside. They are all deeply passionate about their job and make it a really great place to work. I also love the building itself because it is built in a particular place so that it feels like we are a part of nature.

BY JAYCEY L, Y6



CAPTION
1 Mrs Tapscott



Adventure, Friendship and Fun

In September, Year 6 went on their residential to Grasmere. Setting off on a Wednesday and returning Friday, the fun activities ranged from kayaking on Lake Windermere to mountain walking, building catapults, stargazing into the clear night sky and even gorge scrambling!

Year 6 pupil Jaycey said: "Staff were amazing, and the rooms were wonderful. One of the many highlights was the fact that my dorm had an excellent view of the moors. All of this was possible thanks to Mrs Green as she had organised the trip."

Mrs Green, Year 6 Teacher and trip organiser, mentioned how residential trips are incredibly important because they create memories that can last a lifetime. Her highlights were the beautiful countryside and the cozy accommodation. She summed up the adventure with these final words: "It was a spectacular residential with perfect weather; it was lovely getting to know the new Year 6 cohort and a fabulous way to start the new school year."

BY RUMAIZA S, YEAR 6

CAPTIONS

1 Kayaking on Lake Windermere

2 Gorge scrambling





Sophie crowned Bradford tap champion

Dancer Sophie D, a Year 4 pupil at Bradford Grammar Junior School, has been crowned Bradford Prima Juvenile Tap Champion following her success in the Bradford heat of the Prima Dance Championship.

Sophie has been dancing at CC Dance Company in Shipley since the age of three. She trains three times a week in tap, ballet, jazz and acro, competing in solos, duets, trios and as part of the company's competition troupe.

She said: "Dancing makes me so happy. I love going to dancing with my friends, I have the best teachers, and I feel proud when I do well at competitions!"

Beyond dance, Sophie is an active BGS pupil, enjoying art, design and technology and a wide range of sports including hockey, gymnastics and cross country. She is also a keen runner with Bingley Harriers Running Club.

Richard Ribeiro, Head of Junior School at BGS, said: "We're all really proud of Sophie. She's worked so hard, and it's wonderful to see her enjoying her dancing and achieving such a fantastic result."

“...”
Dancing makes
me so happy



CAPTIONS

1 Sophie D, Year 4, Bradford Tap Champion
2-4 Scenes from the EYFS Nativity

Baarmy Bethlehem - EYFS Nativity

Children in the Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes wowed their families with a wonderful performance of Baarmy Bethlehem..

The story followed three lively party sheep — Cheeky, Rascal and Scamp — who snuck into town expecting a party, only to find the Nativity story unfolding. Through meeting Mary, Joseph, shepherds and angels, the sheep discovered the true cause for celebration: the birth of Jesus. The children performed confidently in a Clock House hall packed with family members.

We were delighted by the confidence and character the children showed, as every pupil took to the stage and spoke in front of one of our biggest audiences.





At BGS, Robotics is more than a subject — it's a pathway to future-ready learning.

Through hands-on exploration, our pupils build problem-solving skills, creativity, and teamwork, all while developing a strong foundation in STEM.

Recently Year 4 have been diving into exciting new Robotics challenges, and we're thrilled to share their learning journey as they bring their robots to life!

Curious to see how Robotics comes to life at BGS and interested in learning more about a BGS education for your child, we are delighted to be offering a Year 5 & 6 Robotics Taster Session on Tuesday, 13 January, suitable for children aged 8-10.