Minutes of the BGS AGM 16 October 2024

Present

Jean Pine (JP), Jed Boardman (JB), Richard Ribeiro (RR), Samm Thompson (ST), Katie Stitson (KS), Lucy Alderton (LA), Katie Travis (KT), Victoria Gore (VG), Victoria Wood Williams (VWW), Kate Rhodes (KR), Andy Dawson (AD)

2023 AGM Minutes

These were approved.
Proposed by JP
Seconded by LA

Apologies

Apologies from Beth Street and Kanchan Bhan

Chairperson's Welcome

Thank you everyone for attending the BGS Parents' Association 2024 AGM here at school and virtually (thank you IT). I'm happy to say we have Mr. Boardman and Mr. Ribeiro here representing the senior and junior schools.

We have the executive PA committee, SHU and FoC here to present and answer any questions if you have them.

It's great to see lots of people here. Let's make a start.

Chairperson's Report - Jean Pine

Last school year was very productive for the parents' association. I would like to thank the executive committee Lucy, Katie S, Katie T and Samm for all their support this last school year.

We supported our yearly commitments and granted several bids, which our Treasurer Katie will discuss later. One of the biggest bids we have supported was for a whole new gym in the sports department. It was really good to see money raised by the PA being used for something many children and teachers use. Another bid was to buy a BBQ for any school group to use. So please if you would like to use it for an event this coming year please get in touch.

Parent volunteers helped at the open day, which everyone enjoys. And we had a library coffee afternoon with a great presentation from the head of English, Mr. Hanson.

A big thank you to Beth and Lucy for organising a Christmas wreath making event. Everyone really enjoyed these workshops including me. We have booked this again this year.

We held our first community Iftar which was well supported in the planning and attendance. We have been asked to run this event again in a bigger venue!

Second hand uniform sales have been very successful this last year, well done to Samm and team. We'll hear more later.

Last school year we had our Spring fair inside so the rain could not dampen our spirits. This was a great success and a lot of fun. I think we had more parent volunteers than ever and volunteers from 6th form and the handmade club. I wish to record my appreciation to all who volunteered at the fair and help organise it, especially Estates and the fair subcommittee. Also thank you to everyone who donated raffle items and advertised in the program. This school year we'll be holding the Spring fair again - so watch this space for the first planning meeting.

This year has started well for the PA with a Clock House and year 7 Beetle Drive. Last year I said I would look forward to presenting our activities next year. I cannot say that this year, as my son is in his final year of 6th form. I have really enjoyed being part of the BGS PA working with such great parents, teachers, staff and children, it has truly been an honour.

Thank you.

Second Hand Uniform report – Samm Thompson

2023/24 has seen the Second Hand Uniform (SHU) go from strength to strength, with sales continuing to be held regularly throughout the year and in the summer break.

Sales held on Clockhouse New Families Day and Yr7 Transition Day continue to prove very popular and appreciated by those joining our BGS family.

This year was the 1st full year of 100% donations, where 2/3 of the sales taken go directly to the main PA and the remaining 1/3 being split equally between the 4 sport PA's (Hockey, Netball, Rowing & Rugby).

A breakdown of the figures is attached to this report, but in summary, a total of £10,326.00 was taken and after the credit card fees were paid this meant £6788.01 went directly to the main PA and £3,380.00 was paid collectively to the Sport PA's.

We would like to once again thank Ian Clint and his fantastic estates team for their continued help and support in collecting donations and facilitating our sales. We really couldn't do it without you.

We thank parents and staff for their continued support of the SHU and always welcome volunteers to come and join us, whether sorting or selling.

Our next sales are scheduled for Saturday 23rd November 2024 10:00am - 1:00pm and Monday 20^{th} January 2025 12:00pm – 5:00pm; we look forward to meeting and welcoming families old and new.

Samm & SHU Team

SHU Sales 2023-24

Month	Jul-22	Sep-22	Nov-22	Feb-23	Apr-23	Jun-23	July 3rd 2023	July 22nd 2023	Total 22/23
Total Sales Taken	£1,739.00	£1,762.00	£1,497.00	£1,018.00	£981.00	£1,571.00	£2,996.00	£1,835.50	£13,399.50
iZettle Fees	£24.18	£22.84	£20.29	£14.54	£14.49	£18.30	£47.43	£19.89	£181.96
C/C Deposit	£1,354.82	£1,279.16	£1,134.71	£813.46	£811.51	£1,026.70	£2,658.57	£1,115.11	£10,194.04
Cash	£360.00	£460.00	£342.00	£190.00	£155.00	£526.00	£290.00	£700.50	£3,023.50
Money to Parents	£376.00	£262.50	£185.00		£47.50	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£871.00
Money to Sports PA's	£97.50	£90.00	£45	.00	£35.00	£517.00	£958.00	£605.20	£2,347.70
Money to PA	£1,241.32	£1,386.66	£2,25	50.17	£884.01	£1,035.70	£1,990.57	£1,210.41	£9,998.84

Sports PA's Breakdown

Hockey	£47.50	£40.00	£17.50	£12.50	£129.25	£239.50	£151.30	£637.55
Rugby	£35.00	£37.50	£17.50	£5.00	£129.25	£239.50	£151.30	£615.05
Rowing	£10.00	£5.00	£7.50	£17.50	£129.25	£239.50	£151.30	£560.05
Netball	£5.00	£7.50	£2.50	£0.00	£129.25	£239.50	£151.30	£535.05

Treasurer's Report – Katie Travis

Grants made available 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024

Iftar Expenses	£64
Year 11 and Year 6 Hoodies	£3,224
Young Carers	£1,434
GCSE English Books	£51
Speech Day Prizes	£800
PGL 24 Coach	£3000
	£8,573

Recommended grant distribution 24-25	£20,000
Reserves at 31 July 2024	£43,461

BGSPA Accounts

Income and Expenditure	Year ended 31 July 2024
Income	
Subscriptions	£7,697
Subscriptions due to FOCH	(£1,000)
Spring Fair & fundraising activities	£2,385
Uniform sales	£7,059
Bank interest	£36
	£16,176
Expenditure	
Grants (see below)	-£8,573
Misc. Expenses	-£938
	-£9,511
Surplus for Period	£6,666
Balance Sheet	31 July 2024
Current Account	£71,920
Deposit Accounts	£0
	£71,920
Due from (to) BGS	-£12,562
Debtors	£200
Creditors	-£16,098
Net Assets	£43,461
Represented by:	
Reserves brought forward	£36,795
Surplus (Deficit) for the period	£6,666
Total Reserves	£43,461

The Accounts Summary will be issued when the review/audit by the School Bursar.

KT mentioned that there had been a continued lack of bids recently and to encourage people to come forward.

Friends of Clock House report – Victoria Wood Williams

This year has seen us continue the successes of previous years, planning and holding events that have worked well and added new ones to the calendar. We have worked alongside the school seeking new opportunities for social events for the pupils at Clock House.

Firstly, we wanted to say a huge thank you to Cassandra McDonald and Hardip Power who revitalized FoCH following the pandemic and got some momentum. They stood down in January of this year and myself and Victoria Gore took up the challenge as the new representatives. We have been finding our feet and have worked alongside the main PA on some activities.

Our coffee mornings have continued to help us with our planning and given parents an opportunity to listen to subject leads, to talk about the curriculum and the vision they have behind it. We have had several staff offer their time for this, including:

Mrs. Jones to talk about the sport curriculum,

Mrs. Watson to talk about computers and safety

Mr. Ribeiro to provide insight about the new Reception and Year 1 building and provision, which includes the very exciting outdoor learning space and playground.

Our most recent coffee morning was held at the end of September and had a very encouraging turnout with attendance from parents of all year groups.

Fundraising was previously not done by FoCH, but has now become a calendar event at both Christmas and Easter. The donations and the purchasing of Christmas raffle tickets raised over £1000 from both Clock House and Senior school parents, the luxury hamper being the coveted star prize and Christmas Wreath donated by Mrs. Worsley. To build on fundraising success, we repeated the Easter raffle, with another luxury hamper and raised over £400 in ticket sales. Both will be running again this year and we will be seeking donations from parents in the coming weeks.

FoCH have organised and supported a number of social events and activities for the pupils, including:-

Secret Santa - Selling in excess of over £1000 worth of gifts where children could purchase between 1 and 6 gifts at a price of £5 per gift. Organised via parentmail.

A winter themed disco hosted in the Hockney Theatre run by DJ Joe Warren, including a photo booth and games. Whilst it had to be rescheduled as believe it or not the inclement weather – snow - forced the school to close. With a quick re-scheduling, on take two it went ahead and we asked the school catering team to provide iced biscuits and drinks for the children which were very popular.

Break time treats for Eid, Diwali and Easter along with an extended play. Funds were made available to the student council, allowing them to decide how to mark each of these celebrations.

Each student was sent home with a battery operated tea light and sweets for Diwali, dates and a card for Eid and an Easter egg for Easter. This will be a continued fund made available for student council giving them the autonomy to decide how they would like to mark these key religious festivals. Diwali is at the end of this month and they are already planning how to mark the occasion.

Last year marked the first Year six leavers celebration. Alongside the school planned activities, the previous representatives of FoCH secured a budget of £500 to be spent on an occasion of the Year 6 parents choosing. On Tuesday the 2nd of July the Governor's Lawn played host to an inflatable obstacle course and an ice cream van which was well received by the pupils and parents. Should funds allow, we would wish to continue this but it may have a different angle each year.

FoCH has continued to support the main parent association. Last year at the Spring fair Year 2 pupils helped Mrs. Morley with the artwork for the programme and advertising. Parents got involved and for the first time an Indian street food stall was set up, supplied by Mumbai Bites, the samosas being a hot favorite, literally. Chocolate brownies prepared by Mrs. Gatenby sold out and garden games, despite being inside than out, were well received. And the ever popular sweet tombola which sold out many times and with innovative thinking was restocked.

Turning our attention back to the major event of the year, which is Secret Santa. The event is supported by parents who help wrap the presents and host the stalls, disguised with elf hats on the day of the sale. We also had help from Clock House Prefects who were amazing and will definitely be called upon again this year. Preparations have started. With the next coffee morning and wrapping on the 28th of November and the events being held on the 5th and 6th December. With the two new year groups, we anticipate this will be the largest number of gifts to wrap so far.

This coming year into 2025, we'll be looking to continue with much of the same. We will be working closely with the school to identify areas where we can help fund resources and organise activities for pupils. Fundraising allowed us to again support the school nativity for Year 2 and 3. We have already received and accepted a bid from Mrs. Watson for equipment for the STEM and Robotics Club to improve the experience for pupils. We anticipate more bids coming in given the intake of reception and Year 1 and therefore our efforts need to continue to enhance the social interactions and well-being of pupils.

FoCH continues to support the school in other guises too including providing parent helpers for the open days which was well attended this year.

FoCH remains an informal group, relying on parents and staff to volunteer to help support the running of events. We would like to thank all those who have volunteered over the last year and supported us in our endeavours. Without their help, none of this would have been possible.

Currently, Victoria and I are the lead representatives but as a Year six parent myself, next year I will be stepping down and we will start a search for a replacement to support Victoria in 2025/2026 and beyond. We continue to work hard to ensure that FoCH can support the school and provide a social calendar of events. Our hope and aspiration is that FoCH continues to keep pupils at the heart of all that it does. Thank you.

Junior School Headmaster's Report - Richard Ribeiro

School life

In September 2023, we welcomed 53 new pupils to Clock House across all year groups. Junior School pupils in Year 6 were awarded positions of responsibility including prefects, house captains, school council, eco-council and also STEM ambassadors.

During the year we expanded our focus on STEM through various engaging activities and initiatives. Space Week was a major highlight, centered around Luna rock samples, which provided an exciting, hands-on learning experience. Additionally, our Science Ambassadors took the lead in running several science-themed days, including the popular "Train like an Astronaut" day, and worked closely with Year 2 students during after-school clubs. We also held our annual Science Week, participating in two competitions, and welcomed guest speakers to inspire students with their stories about careers in STEM, helping to build science capital across the school.

In the realm of computing, we introduced significant advancements. Our Digital Leaders had an impactful year, programming a message to the International Space Station (ISS) and leading our first-ever robotics day. They guided younger students in building robots and coding them to complete tasks. We also received Micro-Bit devices, which Year 4 students used to learn coding and apply their skills in science experiments. Furthermore, Mrs. Watson (Science and IT Lead) led an internet safety talk in collaboration with Friends of Clock House (FOCH), emphasizing the importance of digital awareness.

Our Eco Council voted to celebrate World Earth Day and ran an in-house competition which was judged by Mrs. Handbury and sixth form geographers in which every class decorated their classroom door under the theme of Planet vs Plastics. 4AM were very excited to win an eco-friendly prize of going to the front of the dinner queue.

Year 4 and Year 6 had the opportunity to explore artefacts provided by Jorvik and the Imperial War Museum North and Year 5 and Year 6 enjoyed day visits to Leeds City Museum to find out more about Ancient Egypt (Y5) and Eden Camp to find out about WW2 (Y6). Year 3 were very fortunate to attend a Romans workshop organised by Dr Reeson and the Year 12 classicists, which was a huge hit with the children.

Our RS curriculum was enriched by a series of faith visits: Year 2 visited St John the Evangelist Church Cononley, Year 3 were visited in School by a member of the Jewish faith community, Year 4 visited Bradford Central Mosque, Year 5 visited Bradford Cathedral and Year 6 visited Guru Gobind Singh Gurdwara, Bradford. We celebrated Interfaith Week in November throughout the School. Huge thanks go to all the members of staff who made these events possible.

Residential visits took place in every year group with visits to the lake district and North Yorkshire to support the curriculum and to develop team work and collaboration.

A wide range of clubs were run during lunchtimes and after school, with the introduction courtesy of Mrs. Tapscott of Irish Dancing this year. Clubs are refreshed each term and offer pupils opportunities to try new activities and make new friends.

Musical and theatrical news

During the academic year Bradford Grammar Junior School has held two major concerts for Years 4 to 6, a Nativity performance and Spring Concert for Years 2 and 3, a music competition and has participated in the Young Voices 2024 event. We also held a number of lunchtime music recitals and a Year 6 production of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, this year incorporating individual musicians playing a variety of instruments enhancing the drama. In terms of success in the Trinity Music Exams, out of 11 pupils entered 7 achieved distinctions (64% of entries) and 4 achieved merits (36% of entries). Pupils regularly participate in the National Children's Orchestra, National Children's Choir, the Delius School of Music and are entered for local music festivals. We hosted a cello workshop with Julian Lloyd Webber and his wife Jiaxin Cheng, and one pupil has taken part in a performance of Britten's opera Albert Herring with Opera North.

Sport and PE

Pupils in the Junior School benefited from a comprehensive PE/Games offer. Providing opportunity to develop skills and abilities within the curriculum and also to represent the school on sporting fixtures. The majority of pupils from Year 4 upwards represented the school in one or more sports across the academic year.

Sports Day offered pupils the chance to compete for their Houses and the event culminated this year with a parents tug of war contest which was greatly enjoyed by the pupils.

Year 6 Leavers

In our end of term assembly we reflected on the 2023-24 academic year for the pupils in Clock House. Final awards and certificates were given out, including the certificates for the Junior Dukes award. The award scheme was first introduced in 2022 and offers pupils in Year 6 the chance to develop 'practical life skills' with tasks including, cookery, first aid & CPR, undertaking acts of kindness and the ever-popular, averting disaster module! We also watched a Year 6 photo montage celebrating their time as pupils in Clock House.

At the end of the summer term, we wished our Year 6 leavers well and 48 out of 51 of our Year 6 pupils transferred from Clock House to Year 7 in the Senior school.

Prize Giving June 2024

We were delighted to welcome Umar Aziz Hussain (OB 2010) back to BGS for our Prize Giving event and enjoyed finding out more about his career in visual effects (VFX). Umar attended Bradford Grammar School from 2003 to 2010 and then graduated from the University of Manchester with a degree in Politics, Philosophy & Economics (PPE).

Prior to starting a career in VFX, Umar worked on set in live action television production before moving into the feature film visual effects world. His first role in VFX was in marketing, preparing press releases and assisting at awards events for Gravity, before he worked his way across to the VFX production team. Umar spent most of his early career bringing to life some of the biggest CG characters of the last decade including; Rocket Racoon, Groot, Maz and Snoke, and then worked on Star Wars: The Force Awakens with Industrial Light & Magic. We were extremely grateful for Umar taking time to attend and for his inspiring words.

Colleagues

We said a fond farewell to Paula Tatham after 11 years in the Junior School. Mrs. Tatham always held high expectations for every pupil in her care. Her contributions extended beyond the classroom to trips and visits, including setting up our now annual visit to the Alhambra, running and attending numerous residentials and setting up many clubs and activities. We have Mrs. Tatham to thank for the hugely successful Junior Dukes programme. Mrs. Tatham has made a significant impact and has also brought energy and fun to the school.

Friends of Clock House

Thank you to our Friends of Clock House team for their significant contributions throughout the year. Mrs. Gore and Mrs. Wood-Williams seamlessly took over the reins as are our Friends of Clock House representatives. They hosted a very well attended Coffee Mornings and proved at other key events throughout the year. We are looking forward to continuing our partnership.

Fundraising

Examples of fundraising in the Junior school last academic year included:

Harvest Appeal - £985.85 for Action Aid Xmas Jumper - £459.75 for Save the Children Number Day - £127.85 for the NSPCC Red Nose Day - £103.25 Non-uniform Day - £123.90 for The World Wildlife Fund for Nature

Recent news:

The Junior School Development project was completed during the Summer Term 2024, delivering on two strategic priorities for the school.

- (1) Extending the age range from 6-11 to 4-11 years, established in an outstanding new Reception and Year 1 building, located adjacent to the original Clock House, with an exciting new playground, complete with scooters and tricycles for our youngest pupils.
- (2) Enhancing the outdoor learning provision and play spaces with an outdoor performance space and a new all-natural adventure playground. Our new 4 and 5 year-old pupils have settled well and are making the most of their amazing learning environment.

The school passed its Material Change Inspection in June 2024.

Looking ahead:

21 to 23 October – JS Harvest Festival Fundraising 27 & 28 November – JS Parent Consultation Evenings 5 & 6 Dec – Secret Santa (FOCH) 10 Dec – Rec/Y1/Y2 Nativity 12 Dec – Y3-6 Christmas Concert (FOCH Raffle)

Thanks

Lastly, not forgetting a huge thank you to the Junior School staff team and the wider staff team at BGS who work with such dedication and care to support our young children.

Senior School Deputy Headmaster's Report – Jed Boardman

Summer term concluded well with a busy schedule of concerts, trips, sport fixtures, Speech Day and various end of year celebrations. It was at this time that we also sought responses from parents to a tri-annual survey, following the ISI (inspection) template.

188 individual responses were received, and we are grateful to those who took the time to reply. The survey revealed a high degree of satisfaction with BGS, particularly with regard to the breadth of curriculum, pupil progress, physical activity and the range of co-curricular activities, feeling safe and respected, and the leadership. Whilst satisfaction rates across the board, respondents felt that the school could perhaps look to further develop suitable advice about subject and career choices. We wonder if the existing programmes and activity in school are particularly well known, and of course we are also considering where change might be made.

The individual comments made as part of the survey had no clear pattern, no clear themes emerged, and there was a roughly equal balance of praise and constructive criticism. That said, we do take the comments seriously and in addition to subject and career advice, the Senior Leadership Team will be working with the heads of teaching departments to ensure there is a continuity of high standards across all year groups, classes and topics taught.

Once term ended, an extensive plan of summer works began. Much was achieved including office and classroom refits and refurbishments, realisation of a new SEND facility, pool repainting, boat house repairs and renovations, window replacements, alarm upgrades, roof repairs, lighting improvements, server and extensive re-cabling work, planting and pitch renovations – the list goes on, and as ever this is just a flavour of the things that go on, often unseen, but always appreciated, over the summer.

We also had hugely successful sports tours to Sri Lanka and Canada for our netball and rugby teams respectively, as well as an ambitious expedition to Morocco, CCF camps and a pre-season hockey tournament at Nottingham - and needless to say, we give huge thanks to those colleagues, including on the admin side of things, that made these opportunities for our students possible.

The summer break is a busy time at BGS, and beyond campus maintenance and improvement, exam results were crunched, communicated, celebrated where appropriate and post results and UCAS services were as busy as ever; marketing and student admissions activity, including entrance testing continued in full swing; development and fundraising work for those vital means tested Assisted Places never stopped.

Staff recruitment / induction / training all continued as part of HR activity; alongside much general administration, facilitation of Governor activity, financial planning, public benefit work and of course, pre-term preparations in departments – support and teaching – made in advance of the resumption of lessons.

In terms of those aforementioned exam results, over 50% of all GCSE grades were at 9/8. Over a third of GCSE students scored an average of grade 8 or above. Just under two thirds of students scored an average grade of 7 (old GCSE 'A' grade) or above. At A Level: Bradford Grammar School (BGS) secured a 100 per cent pass rate with one in five grades awarded being an A*. These are very strong outcomes in the context of both cohorts of young people and any reasonable levels of expectation placed upon then.

A new term has now begun at BGS. In terms of new faces on the staff, week we extended a warm welcome to, and in no particular order:

On the Support Staff:
Scott Toolin – Catering
Oliver Clint – Estates Department
Jolanta Poludniak – Cleaner
Saddia Hussain – Catering Assistant
Hannah Jenkins – Digital Marketing Officer, who starts in a few week's time

In the Junior School:
Helen Raynor – Junior School Teacher
Chris Brass – Junior School Teacher
Ayesha Sultan – Junior School Teaching Assistant
Alia Khan – Junior School Teaching Assistant
Hajirah Shabnam – Junior School Classroom Assistant

In the Senior School:

Charlie Hailes – Teacher of Classics Matt Davenport – Head of Mathematics Adam Coxsell – Teacher of Mathematics Hazel Fenton – Teacher of Chemistry Clare Ahern – Teacher of Geography

Hetty Steele – Head of Drama and Teacher of English who returns to BGS and Jonathan Green who trained with us last year and now takes up the post of a Teacher of English

In the Sports department, working across junior and senior schools: Josh Dunstan – Graduate Sports Assistant Hockey Emilia Kerr – Graduate Sports Assistant Netball Isaac Barber - Assistant Specialist Sports Coach, Hockey

And SEND who also work across both schools and all age groups: Emily Sharrock – Assistant SENDco Karen Gregory – Learning Strategies Assistant

Meanwhile some familiar teachers have renewed or taken up new roles at BGS Gemma Zincke - Junior School Subject Lead, English

Esther Green - Junior School Subject Lead, Humanities
Natalie Watson - Junior School Subject Lead, Science / IT
Bethan Reeves - Assistant Head of Higher Education and Careers
Rebecca Parkinson - Assistant Head of Sixth Form Enrichment
Jack Zoers-Benstead — Specialist Sports Coach Hockey

As for the year ahead: challenges are expected to ramp up for our independent school sector, not solely limited to the imposition of VAT on the fees that our parents pay. Consequently, the Senior Leadership Team and Governors continue to keep a keen eye of the eight key areas of whole school strategy:

- 1. Safeguarding and wellbeing (above all else)
- 2.Intellectual challenge
- 3.Personal development
- 4.Staffing
- 5. Resources management and infrastructure
- 6.Development and External Relations
- 7. Recruitment and retention of pupils
- 8.Governance

BGS is an efficient and resilient business as much as it is an effective school. We are confident about our long-term future and ability to continue to provide a first-class education for current and future generations of young people in our region.

Almost one week into the new school year and students and colleagues seem happy, parents too as far as we can tell.

And we expect this to be another successful and high achieving year at BGS, not just in the classroom, but across the board in the arts, sport and through a myriad of other activities and clubs, and as ever is the product of a community of BGS colleagues and families who work together in the best interests of our young people.

Nominations for Election of New Officers

Lucy Alderton to become Chair.

Proposed by Jean Pine (JP) Seconded by Samm Thompson (ST)

Kate Rhodes to become Vice Chair.

Proposed by Jean Pine (JP)
Seconded by Lucy Alderton (LA)

Katie Stitson to continue as Secretary.

Proposed by Jean Pine (JP)
Seconded by Lucy Alderton (LA)

Katie Travis to continue as Treasurer.

Proposed by Jean Pine (JP) Seconded by Samm Thompson (ST)

Sports Leadership Yr. 12 sports tops

A bid from Mrs. Parkinson was discussed, to provide shirts and mid layers to the Year 12 cohort currently completing their sports leadership course. This bid was approved. KS to communicate with Mrs. Parkinson to confirm for order to be placed.

AOB

None

Date of next AGM

This was agreed as 14/10/2025