



Bradford  
Grammar  
School

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# The Bradfordian







**Dr Simon Hinchliffe**  
Headmaster  
Extract from Speech Day 2024

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For the full speech  
please turn to page 07

# We walk into this future with eyes open...

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... and with a determination to take all necessary steps to enable BGS to thrive for the benefit of current and future generations of schoolchildren.

# Contents

## School Notes

JUNIOR, SENIOR AND  
SIXTH FORM

**06–37**

From the Headmaster ...

Speech Day 2024 -  
Headmaster's Speech

From the Junior School  
Headmaster ...

Staff Leavers

University Degree Course  
Admissions and Vocations  
2024

Examination Results 2024  
Celebrating Exam Success

## Junior School

JUNIOR

**40–67**

Arts and Performance

Communities, Societies  
and Activities

Trips and Events

Sporting Achievements

## Arts and Performance

SENIOR AND SIXTH FORM

**70–83**

BGS helps to inspire young  
minds at Ilkley Literature  
Festival

A busy and musical summer  
for Thomas!

Music at BGS

Artists of the term, Autumn  
2023

Artists of the term, Spring 2024

News from the Music  
Department

Sibling Success: Phoebe  
and Lexi Earn Distinction  
in LAMDA Speaking for  
Performance Exams

The Addams Family Musical:  
A Spooktacular Success!

Artists of the term, Summer  
2024

The BGS Book Awards 2024  
Music Roundup





## Communities, Societies and Activities

SENIOR AND SIXTH FORM

**86–99**

Cheerleading Worlds goal for Alice

New recruits in the Development Office

Matthew achieves cadet's highest honour

BGS does Eurovision!

Laura excels in the University of Oxford's Quantum in Pictures Study

Young Carers Mentoring Scheme Returns to BGS

A day in the life of a Sixth Form student

Spotlight on ... Photography Society

Computer Science successes!

Triumph in the BPhO Physics Challenges

BGS Handmade Club joins #knitthestripes

Fashion Show 2024

Spotlight on ... Duke of Edinburgh's Award

## Trips

SENIOR AND SIXTH FORM

**102–107**

Year 7 residential

Year 12 and 13 French and German trip to the Black Forest

When in Rome ...

Future Innovators on the Factory Floor

Spanish cultural trip to Calafell, Catalunya

Slopes, Sunshine and Snowy Delights!

Opal Coast Trip

Senior Ski Trip to the Rockies

## Events and Visiting Speakers

SENIOR AND SIXTH FORM

**110–113**

BGS has faith!

BGS chemists head to the National Finals

Exciting Alumni Events and Initiatives

Emile's epic marathon triumph and Old Bradfordian Celebrations

A morning of magic and literacy with Ross Welford

Leavers' Lunch 2024

## Sporting Achievements

SENIOR AND SIXTH FORM

**116–123**

Sporting highlights, Autumn term 2023

Bella participates in the British Rowing National Development Camps

Equestrian success at the Horse of the Year Show

Sporting Highlights, Spring term 2024

Ben scores in England hockey debut

BGS Gymnasts Soar: Yorkshire Gold and National Qualification!

Orienteering, Summer term 2024

Sporting Highlights, Summer term 2024

## Sport Reports

SENIOR AND SIXTH FORM

**124–149**

Athletics

Cricket

Cross Country

Gymnastics

Hockey

Netball

Orienteering

Rowing

Rugby

Squash

Swimming

Table Tennis

Tennis

Water Polo

## Sport Tours

SENIOR AND SIXTH FORM

**150–153**

Rugby

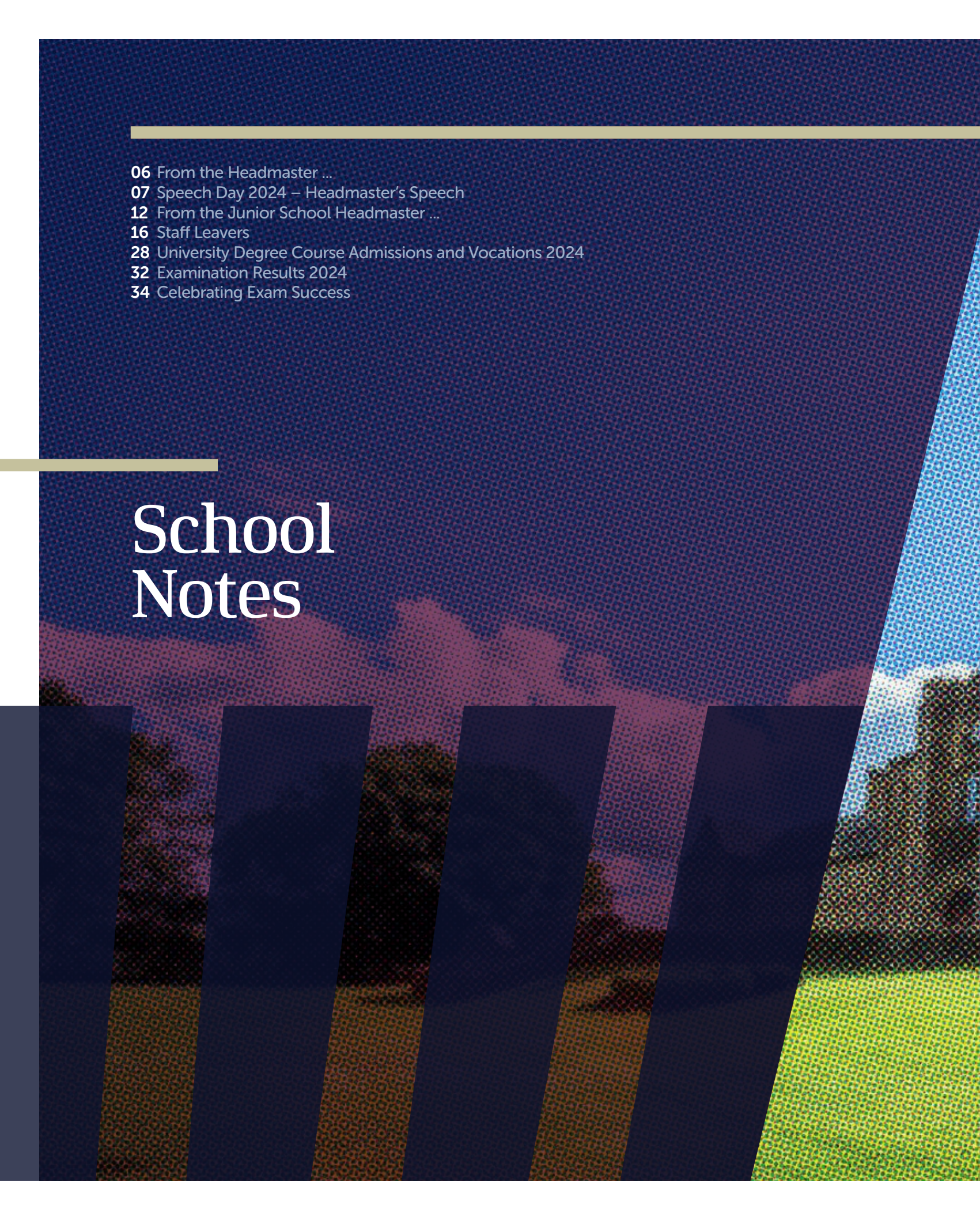
Netball



- 
- 06 From the Headmaster ...
  - 07 Speech Day 2024 – Headmaster’s Speech
  - 12 From the Junior School Headmaster ...
  - 16 Staff Leavers
  - 28 University Degree Course Admissions and Vocations 2024
  - 32 Examination Results 2024
  - 34 Celebrating Exam Success

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# School Notes









# From the Headmaster ...

It is my pleasure to introduce this latest edition of our annual School magazine, 'The Bradfordian'. Grateful thanks to everyone who contributed articles. I hope readers enjoy them every bit as much as I did.

At Bradford Grammar School we hold true to our values, champion high ethical standards and the virtues of scholarship, strive to remain accessible to the broadest possible cross section of families and make a difference in our locality and also more widely. In so doing, we continue to address our educational, commercial and public benefit priorities and thus enact our vision for BGS. Despite the increasing external pressure on independent schools, I believe we can remain optimistic about our long-term future. The pages that follow attest to the quality and confidence of our School despite the growing ideological and financial challenges we face. More of that later. But first...

There's a film I like called 'Clockwise'. I talked about it in an assembly recently. Released in 1986, it's been around for a while. 'Clockwise' is a traditional British comedy - farcical, chaotic, toe curling at times, but ultimately funny, or at least I think so.


The main character is Mr Stimpson, a once highly organised and well regarded Headteacher at a high-flying state school, who is invited to speak at a prestigious private school conference. But Mr Stimpson's pin sharp life falls apart as his journey to the lectern falters, as he struggles through calamity after catastrophe desperately straining to achieve the conference stage, the perceived pinnacle of his teaching and leadership career. You can feel the suffering as his efforts dissolve into hapless pieces.



I first watched this film as a lad with no desire to become a teacher or Headmaster or anything other than a fighter pilot. I laughed then. I smile knowingly now. There is one quote from the film that catches attention still. In the hollows of failure and defeat, Mr Stimpson turns to the Sixth Form girl he is with - it's best not to dwell on that in these more enlightened times of child safeguarding - and he says: "It's not the despair Laura, I can stand the despair. It's the hope."

It can be hard work maintaining hope and an optimistic outlook. Giving up is easy. Mr Stimpson simply keeps going in the film 'Clockwise'. We laugh at him and gently shake our heads. But we respect his grip on hope even when, with a heavy dollop of theatrical pathos, he is carted off in a tattered, mud-spattered suit by the local constabulary at the end of the film.



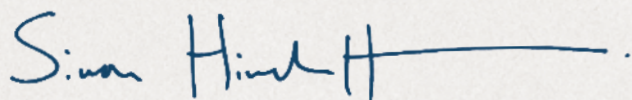


"Hope is the dream of the waking man," is a quote attributed to Aristotle.

At BGS we actively encourage our young folk to be optimistic about tackling the big issues of the day - climate change, food and fuel poverty, misogyny and male violence against women, repressive ideologies and extremism, forced cross border migration and so on. Dare our children hope they might make a difference here, facing down some of the thorniest challenges of our times? We respect those who choose to remain optimistic, who never stop imagining what 'better' might look like, who keep aspiring and trying.

Staying positive and true to our vision for education is the key to BGS longevity and success. It is our mission to educate and foster future generations of women and men who, like their BGS forebears, will make a positive difference in this world. As I said at Speech Day, "the likely imposition of VAT on the fees paid by parents, and removal of Business Rates Relief on the bills paid by the School, represent a double-edged financial sword. Both would have an impact. Such things are on the minds of those who choose to send their children to an independent school and those of us who choose to work at one". It is foolish to imagine that nothing will change in the VAT environment. There will inevitably be some delicate choices to make. However, we are confident that our strategy to maintain high standards is the right one, and we will continue to look towards the future of BGS with a clear sense of mission and confidence.

My grateful thanks are extended to pupils and parents, Governors, colleagues, Old Bradfordians, benefactors and friends of our School for everything they have contributed to BGS this past year. Our resolve to educate and empower young people so they can make the most of every opportunity, enriching their own lives and those of others, remains undiminished. The pages that follow attest to this spirit and long-term vision for Bradford Grammar School.



**Dr Simon Hinchliffe**  
BA, MEd, PhD, FRSA  
Headmaster

## Speech Day 2024 Headmaster's Speech

**Vice Lord-Lieutenant, High Sheriff, Amit, honoured guests, Governors, ladies and gentlemen and members of the School, please allow me to add my welcome to that of Lady Morrison. Thank you, Lynne for those warm words of introduction and also for the fashion advice. Duly noted.**

This is always a lovely occasion, and it is wonderful to see the Price Hall full for what is essentially a day when we celebrate the character and achievements of the young people of Bradford Grammar School. We also look forward to enjoying some BGS music, hearing from the outgoing Head Prefects and, of course, our guest speaker, acclaimed author, A A Dhand, or Amit to his friends and one of his former teachers, Mr Boardman, sat not a million miles away. Amit, thank you for making time in your busy schedule to join us this afternoon.

Very soon we will be applauding the attitude, progress and accolades bestowed upon our students. This is one of the high points of the BGS year and there is much to acknowledge that lifts the spirit.



## Speech Day 2024

### Headmaster's Speech

On Speech Day we also look back and take stock. Let's do that first, and with characteristic BGS candour. Last year at Speech Day I said the following: 'Our School, our BGS, is in fine shape, and it needs to be. The capacity and propensity of future generations of parents to choose independent education for their children is of national interest. It's a good job that BGS is in a strong position ... Our School has changed and adapted over the years to maintain a robust position. We are doing so again in increments to ensure that a first-class BGS education is available to the widest possible cross section of families. Enhancing our provision, controlling costs, attending to income streams, raising funds for means tested Assisted Places and enacting a wider public benefit, these things are essential if our School is going to thrive in the future. Such is the stuff of modern-day, independent school leadership and life.'

At the start of the current academic year, when addressing my colleagues, I framed things a little more succinctly when I said that the: '... synergy of educational, commercial and public benefit priorities is clear, and every department has a responsibility to continue to deliver in all areas.' Moreover, '... an independent school that is going to stay the distance in these present times, and for the foreseeable future, must have equal regard for these three categories.'

One year later and little has changed in terms of the external environment or BGS strategy, although, next week, the nation goes to the polling booths, and some pressures are now more pressing than before.

These are times of opportunity and challenge for the independent school sector. How we respond - reflecting our educational, commercial and public benefit priorities - will define our schools for the foreseeable future. To that end, I am pleased my teaching colleagues were able to reach an agreement with our Governors when strike action over pensions was threatened. That individual outcome, which improves our resilience to future financial shocks, is, however, just one movement in a broader evolution of BGS that has been ongoing for some time and which must continue in order to meet challenges, safeguard the quality of education for our pupils and enable us to be nimble to grasp opportunities.

The likely imposition of VAT on the fees paid by parents, and removal of Business Rates Relief on the bills paid by the School, represent a double-edged financial sword. Both would have an impact, particularly when charitable status, and a responsibility to act accordingly and provide public benefit, remains. Such things are on the minds of those who choose to send their children to an independent school and those of us who choose to work at one.

We walk into this future with eyes open, and with a determination to take all necessary steps to enable BGS to thrive for the benefit of current and future generations of schoolchildren. Continued progress in support of our 1662 Fund for means tested Assisted Places and exciting enhancements to our Junior School are just two examples of initiatives to protect the inclusivity, character and positive impact of our School. Meanwhile, prudent business practice continues.

BGS is worth the effort. We remember that ours is a school of great character, one that makes a difference to the lives of others in a very broad sense in our locality and nationally. My introduction for the latest edition of our termly School magazine, 'Hoc Age', went thus: 'You get a strong feeling for what BGS is all about, the difference it makes to people, its substance and significance, when attending Old Bradfordian, alumni events. Happily, there have been quite a few recently including a 'sell out' social near St Paul's Cathedral to mark 40 years since girls were first welcomed at BGS. OBs of various vintage, including many recent leavers, gathered in good spirits to renew and strengthen friendships and forge new ones ... There is great warmth in our extended school family, and these qualities reflect formative experiences in the classrooms and corridors, fields and theatre, labs and library at BGS ... There is something special about our School.'

As Headmasters do, I went on a bit more... 'This past term I've had the privilege, once again, to witness young people at work with a spirit of enquiry and personal ambition, compete hard and fairly at sport, perform outstanding music and drama, enter and succeed in various intellectual and practical competitions and challenges, make a difference through fundraising and volunteering opportunities, head off on Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and participate in growing numbers in our CCF - the list goes on and on. Those that embrace this wealth of opportunity get set for life. Little wonder that our OBs are such a wonderful, cohesive and colourful lot, and want to give back to support our School.'



Our commitment to excellence and opportunity remains, even as challenges ramp up. And I couldn't be prouder of the young people in this hall today, reflecting all they have attempted and achieved, all they represent - and not just our prize winners. We have much to contemplate in the context of the long chapters of BGS history. There's a lot going on, to say the least. I wonder how the current episode of our school's story might read. And being a Headmaster, and by necessity therefore, a raging egotist (!), I wonder also how I might be judged?

Big questions. So, perhaps it's time for a little levity? And a lesson or two from the BGS archives regarding the judgment that ultimately comes down on all BGS headteachers.

Time for a prop, one that usually hangs on my office wall. This is a copy of a BGS artefact lately discovered in our archive. The original document, unbelievably, dates back to 1641. It is older than our Royal Charter. It's a serious piece of BGS and civic history. So, what can it be? The answer... a petition for the removal of the headmaster! I note some of the signatures of the Old Boys who signed it, familiar sounding BGS names like Dawson, Crabtree, Midgely, Crookes, Bowers, Taylor and Holdsworth. Youthful members of these West Yorkshire dynasties continue to walk the corridors of BGS today. Need I be cautious?

But why were they all so upset in 1641? Firstly, because travel to and from BGS was 'bad' (don't we still know it at times!); because education at nearby grammars had to be paid for, and it was likely that 'Bradford lads' would soon have to do likewise; and, this is my favourite one, because boys who lived outside of the Parish were classified as, wait for it, 'foreigners' - this is verbatim - 'foreigners'. I love it! If ever you needed an insight into the West Yorkshire psyche, look no further.

Spinning through the ages and our archives once again we arrive at another lesson from history for errant BGS headmasters, this time from the early (ish) 1800s. Regarding one of my predecessors, we find a letter from an Old Bradfordian, an Old Boy, who protested that: '... he [the Headmaster] detested the inclusion in the curriculum of writing and arithmetic ... [English and Maths in more modern terms] ... and declared that, if these were taught, all the respectable families in the neighbourhood would cease to send their children to the School.'

Well, we do teach English and Maths, and you folks in the Price Hall are still here. So, this Old Bradfordian was either wrong, or you lot simply aren't 'respectable'? I'll leave that thought with you! On balance however, this former headmaster might have deserved the jip he got. Under his watch, school inspectors observed that: "All the work of the School consists of a lifeless routine, and I can see amongst the boys no evidence of interest in their work or a desire to do well."

The headmaster of the time was a Mr Slack. You can't make it up.

I notice, however, that the Governors were unable to remove Mr Slack, even when he tried to sell off school furniture to an unsuspecting colleague. All of which gives me great comfort as I contemplate my own shortcomings!

By way of an epitaph for Mr Slack's time in office, I am drawn to the observation that he: '... frequently absented himself during school hours and is quite incompetent for his situation ... [and was] ... absent without cause at Blackpool for a fortnight in term time.'



Continued overleaf ...



## Speech Day 2024

### Headmaster's Speech

Quite what Mr Slack was doing on his wayward fortnight in Blackpool is yet to be discovered in our archives. Mrs Hinchliffe has nonetheless instructed that I am not allowed to slope off to Blackpool for nefarious purposes unknown, which is probably a good thing.

Clearly, some of my predecessors have been judged critically. I reflect again, how might history view the BGS of the early 21st century? We face some headwinds. No question. But we keep our priorities in view and sleeves rolled up. We keep doing our best for the long-term future of our school.

I am biased of course. I love BGS. I think it's a great place to learn stuff and to work. And that must be true, because the all-seeing, all-knowing and wise Good Schools Guide told us so. They visited BGS last October. Here's an extract or two of what they said:

'Bradford Grammar School is a selective northern independent with a long and illustrious history. Academic rigour? Absolutely, but that goes hand in hand with impressive sensitivity, lightness of touch, genuine love of learning and sense of fun. Great facilities, super staff and a genuine inclusive commitment to social mobility' and, they said, 'there's a strong emphasis on good behaviour, courtesy, respect and kindness but nothing feels heavy handed.'

Lovely words. Of the latter-day Mr Slack - that would be me - they said: '... charismatic and commands the respect and affection of pupils, staff and parents alike.'

You know, I can hear you laughing! Governors have their heads in their hands. So perhaps it's time to move on and change tack ... and honour our tradition of saying thank you and goodbye to those colleagues who have left or are leaving this year, people like Sam Thrippleton (HR Officer and former Secretary to the Bursar), Jess Alred (Admissions and Marketing), Linda Kelly, Sidra Zubair and Keeley Scholes (Catering Assistants), Debbie Merckx (fellow Catering Assistant and one time wearer of various hats in the Junior School), Maryam Hussain (Biology Technician), Ashwani Kumar and Sian Harris (Estates), Robin Sharp (Development) and cleaner Mary Szabrowski. Added together, Sam, Linda, Debbie, Ashwani and Mary have worked at BGS for 100 years, 34 of those from Mary alone, a wonderful commitment from these colleagues to our School.

Additionally, I am grateful to teachers, David Weight (Geography), Damir Mulavdic and Bob Page (both Mathematics), and Loretta Gibbons (Modern Languages) who have made valuable contributions at BGS during their recent fixed terms with us. Similarly, Laura Kelly, Hannah Moulds and Victoria Blaker have added great value to BGS sport during the course of their prescribed stints at our School and we offer them our sincere thanks. The same gratitude is extended to Specialist Sports Coach, David Birch, who has done much to reinvigorate our hockey programme in recent years.

Teachers of English, and architects of some wonderful theatrical productions, Julia Sharp and Sophie Seager leave BGS this year. We also accord our thanks to Phil Watson, (Mathematics) and Matthew Livesey (Biology) who left BGS earlier in the year, both having contributed widely to areas such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award and higher education advice. Rachel Miller (Sports), James Walton (Chemistry) and Dan Walker (Physics) move onwards and upwards to take up Head of Department roles. I am delighted for them, and it is pleasing to see BGS adding value to those colleagues who are actively seeking promotion.

Finally, we come to thank those colleagues who are retiring this year. Paula Tatham (Junior School Teacher) is known to many in this hall. She retires after a teaching career spanning 33 years, nine of which have been at BGS. Julie Ronksley (Geography) hangs up her gown and coloured marker pens after a second stint in the Geography Department. Julie began teaching in Oxfordshire in 1997, has been a Head of Department and also a Head of Faculty during her career. Chris Finch and I joined BGS in 2014. He began teaching at Allerton High School in 1985 and has taught at various grammar schools locally over a 39-year long career. Thank you, Chris, Julie and Paula.

Jane Chapman began her teaching career in 1987 at St Bees School, Cumbria and first came to BGS in 1989. After a short career break when her children were young, she rejoined BGS in 1996 and became the Head of the Classics Department 10 years later. Latterly, Jane has taken up the responsibility of being our Assistant Head Pastoral and Designated Safeguarding Lead on the Senior Leadership Team and, ever versatile, has also served as a Year 6 tutor in Clock House.



We should not underestimate Jane's influence as a role model for female, and male, pupils at a time when our School was transitioning from an all-boy's domain towards the balanced and diverse demography it models today. (This year, coincidentally, we celebrate 40 years since girls were first welcomed at our School.) Jane is also married to, and the mother of, Old Bradfordians. In short, Mrs Chapman is BGS royalty, and someone who has quietly but determinedly made changes for the advancement of our School.

Please join with me to show our collective appreciation for all BGS staff, support and teaching alike, and our leavers too, in the traditional way with a round of applause.

Thank you for listening and I hope you enjoy all that follows.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Simon Hincliffe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Dr Simon Hincliffe**  
BA, MEd, PhD, FRSA  
Headmaster





# From the Junior School Headmaster ...

## Junior School Prize Giving 2024

### Junior School Headmaster's Speech

Good afternoon pupils, teaching staff, guests, parents and Governors. I am delighted to be able to welcome you all to the Price Hall for our Junior School Prize Giving afternoon.

A warm welcome today to Old Bradfordian, Umar Aziz Hussain (2010). Umar, we appreciate you taking the time to be here with us today to present the prizes and are very much looking forward to hearing about your career in VFX.

Today represents an opportunity to celebrate achievements over the course of the school year but also, importantly, to celebrate our Year 6 leavers and to wish them well as they complete the Junior School stage of their education.

I have decided to frame my remarks today around the theme of past, present and future which I feel is appropriate as the School continues to adapt and evolve whilst retaining our core values.

#### **The Past - A potted history of Clock House.**

If we were able to travel back in time 100 years imagine what would be different? We would be sat outside and not in the Price Hall. This building and the Price Hall wouldn't have existed, work on this building hadn't started in 1924, but the Clock House building was here. In fact, if we were able to travel back 300 years, Clock House would still have been here!

We are fortunate to have a written record of what it was like to live in Clock House before it was a school, and this comes from Lady Kirk. Lady Kirk was the daughter of R B Graham who became Headmaster of BGS in 1939.

These are her recollections and I wonder how much of this you can recognise:

'Clock House was a foursquare building, dating from the 17th century, with later additions. Through the porch, the front door opened into a panelled hall, with a big fireplace. There was a cosy stove there which ate coal but did help to warm the whole house (there was no central heating in those days). The over mantle was of sandstone, with the carved words 'My son, fear God and the King and meddle not them that are given to change'.

Straight ahead was the sitting room, with two window seats looking into the garden. The stairs were on the right-hand side of the hall, and my father's study door at the foot of the stairs.

We were excited by the Bogey Passage, a dark curving tunnel between the study and the dining room which led to the back door, the kitchen and the big room which had been built on to the front of the house in the late 19th century as a billiard room.

Outside there was a big garden, with formal rose beds. The high wall gave us privacy: the story is that the lady who lived in Clock House was engaged to be married to the owner of Cartwright Hall (in Lister Park), then a private house, and they enjoyed blowing kisses to each other from their bedroom windows. However, he split up with her, and she never wanted him to look on her again, so she had an extra four feet built onto the wall!

Opposite the front door there were steps to a grass tennis court and below that grass fields sloped down to the railway.'



## School Notes

From the Junior School Headmaster ...



Lady Kirk finishes her recollections by saying 'the new school was being built. The old school was down in the city, and the Junior School at Thornville, not far away.'

So, why Clock House? Lady Kirk said an obvious reason is the sundial on the face of the building - sundials were common in the 17th century.

The new Senior School building, we are in today was completed in 1939 and the Senior School moved in in 1945 (the building having been commandeered by the Army during the war).

The Junior School moved from Thornville to Clock House in 1975, and the building was remodelled and extended.

The School has continued to evolve since with the Clarkson Library, Hockney Theatre and Sports Barn and soon, of course, the Reception and Year 1 building for our four and five year old pupils, along with the enhanced grounds development.

### **The Present - So, a lot has happened this year with many highlights.**

We hosted actual moon rocks and meteorites at the Junior School during Space Week. Mrs Watson and I were quite nervous as prior to their arrival we had to sign a number of very official forms saying we wouldn't lose them!

Microbits were introduced to enhance our computer curriculum.

Five Year 6 pupils made it through to the bonus round of the Primary Maths Challenge and two through to the next round of the UK Junior Maths Challenge beating a number of Senior pupils in the process. Sorry, Dr Hinchliffe, but these are the facts!

Faith based visits ran in every year group to support our understanding of different faiths. Visitors were invited to school to speak to our children about the environment and COP 28 and medicine and plastic surgery to help victims of conflict overseas.

Earth Week was set up and run by the Eco Council.

There were notable successes on the games field with record levels of participation for all and team achievements. A special mention to our Year 6 Netball team who are North East Champions in their age group.

The creative arts are in good health, evident as Year 6 delivered a superb end of year production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' - a team effort with exceptionally high levels of oracy and a number of memorable quotes, including my personal favourite delivered by Helena, "...though she be but little, she is fierce!" I will leave you to think about who was in my mind when I heard that quote.

We also welcomed Julian Lloyd Webber to deliver a Cello Workshop and the Singing Children's Choir of Africa.

This year has seen the continued development of music with superb performances in the House Music competition and at the Spring Concert.



## Junior School Speech Day 2024

### Junior School Headmaster's Speech

New clubs have been added this year including Irish Dancing and Yoga. And not forgetting the Junior Dukes awards, which will be presented in our end of term assembly tomorrow.

I thank the staff team for their efforts in supporting the pupils and providing the opportunities for you to be the 'best versions of yourselves'.

With the staff team in mind, this year we say farewell to Mrs Tatham. It is with much fondness and a little sadness that we say goodbye to Mrs Tatham after 11 years in Clock House. Mrs Tatham has always held high expectations for every pupil in her care. Her contributions extend beyond the classroom to trips and visits, including setting up our now annual visit to the Alhambra, running and attending numerous residentials (three this year!) and setting up many clubs and activities. We have Mrs Tatham to thank for the hugely successful Junior Dukes programme now running in its second year. Mrs Tatham has made a significant impact and has also brought energy and fun to the school, never more evident than yesterday when she was spotted on the Governors' Lawn rolling down the hill with some of our Year 5 pupils!

#### The Future – what does it hold?

I must start with our Year 6 leavers. You are a fantastic year group with many of you being with us since Year 2 (September 2019) and we will miss you all, but I am confident you are well prepared to take bold steps towards the next stage of your educational journey. You are always welcome back but borrowing from the words of the Leavers' Song which we will sing later...  
"... take good care and don't be scared, as you go out from here. Because there's so much more in store for you as you grow through the years."

Years 2 to 5, you will, I am sure, step up as you progress to new classes and make a fresh start next year.

In September, we will welcome pupils into Reception and Year 1. During my remarks last year, I said:

"By completion, the project will realise a fantastic purpose-built early years facility and also enhanced grounds which will benefit all of the Junior School pupils."

We are delighted with the new building and the expansion and enhancement of the grounds, and we are ready to start this new journey for BGS. There will be an opportunity to view the building and grounds development after the Prize Giving event today.

So firm foundations in Clock House (the past), a successful year (the present) and an exciting future ahead for the Junior School, but, bringing the focus back to today.

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

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



**Mr Richard Ribeiro**  
Junior School Headmaster



...be proud  
of yourselves  
and be proud  
of Clock House.

**Mr Richard Ribeiro**  
Junior School  
Headmaster



# Staff Leavers



## Ashwani Kumar-Kler

By H Hitchen, Deputy Estates Manager

**Ashwani was a cornerstone of the Estates team at BGS for many years. He joined the School in June 2007 as a Caretaker, and continued in this role until he reached his well-deserved retirement at the end of 2023.**

Throughout his time at BGS, Ashwani was a great asset not only to the Estates Department, but to the whole school. His upbeat demeanour and can-do attitude gained him great respect from all his colleagues. 'No problem' was his response to almost every query or request, and so became his catchphrase. Never was a truer word spoken.

His tasks were always completed with the utmost efficiency, and when faced with an issue or a challenge, he would quickly but calmly find a solution.

Ashwani quietly went about his work over the 17 years he was at BGS, but nevertheless made his mark, and was always on hand and willing to help others when needed. He is very much missed by his colleagues, but he certainly earned his retirement, and is now enjoying spending more time with his family.



## Chris Finch

By S Nazli, Acting Head of Maths

**In his 10 years of service at Bradford Grammar School, Chris not only made an impact on his students but also with his colleagues.**

His warm and friendly manner, coupled with his jolly sense of humour meant you could talk to him about anything and always walk away with a smile. It was these traits that have allowed him to give students confidence and success in a subject that not all find easy!

Chris enjoys sport and helped with the Table Tennis and Badminton clubs and the occasional staff game of Football and Racquetball! He plays the guitar and piano but now that he is retiring and has more time on his hands, he wants to work on these skills further - he assures me he is not retiring to start a new rock band!

I am sure everyone who has had the pleasure of working with him or being taught by him will have fond memories of Chris. We wish him well in his retirement and will miss him greatly.





## Daniel Walker

By V Powne, Head of Physics

**Dan joined Bradford Grammar School in 2019 and during his time, he made significant contributions to all areas of school life.**

Dan is a fantastic Physics teacher who inspires his pupils to develop independence and resilience whilst bringing the subject to life using relevant and relatable demonstrations. He has contributed extensively to the development of the department in recent years and supported many pupils on an individual basis. Additionally, he has successfully helped to run the BGS Debating Society by supporting new pupils, developing senior debaters' skills and taking competition teams around the country. We wish him every success in his new role.

## David Birch

By R Parkinson, Teacher of PE & Games

**David Birch joined Bradford Grammar School in September 2018 at a time of significant change in the PE department.**

At the time, hockey was a minority sport in comparison to other major sports and David relished this opportunity to utilise his knowledge and build the programme that you see today.

David is known for his exceptional organisation, time management and coaching expertise. During his time at BGS, David worked tirelessly to ensure the provision of hockey for the pupils was of the highest standard, always bringing new games and ideas to engage and challenge them. From the introduction of indoor hockey and morning rage in the cage sessions, popularity of the sport has grown significantly over the last six years. David is well liked and respected by many of the pupils he has coached throughout his time. I know that highlights for him will be making the national finals, travelling to South Africa, and winning a silver medal in Nottingham - although I am sure he won't miss the planning!

In his last year at BGS, alongside his full-time role, he coached Ben Rhydding Men's 1XI, completed his Masters in Coaching, and planned a wedding! David is one of the most caring and thoughtful people I have the pleasure to call my friend - I personally could not ask for a better colleague. He will be missed by many at BGS, and I wish him all the best in his new role as Head of Hockey at RGS Newcastle.







## Debbie Merckx

By D Crompton, Chef

**Debbie Merckx joined the catering team in November 2003, but BGS pupils who attended Clock House will know her best for the years during which she supported them in the classroom, supervised the playground and led the aftercare team.**

Aftercare with Debbie in charge was a vibrant and exciting place where there was always something going on, always entertaining, usually educational, often colourful and sometimes noisy. Debbie built strong bonds with every pupil in aftercare and wanted them to have a great experience after every school day.

When supervising a busy playground, Debbie was often found surrounded by children wanting to chat – something she managed to accommodate while also looking out for every pupil's safety and mediating in disputes over footballs! Debbie's exceptional skill for remembering names and faces came into its own at pick up time when she knew every adult and which child they had come to collect. The rest of us simply don't know how she did it.

During her time at BGS, Debbie qualified as a Level 3 Teaching Assistant and she enjoyed supporting teachers with their lessons, whether that was supervising readers or helping with the delivery of a Year 2 lesson.

With the arrival of her first grandson, Frankie, Debbie chose to change her hours at BGS and that meant rejoining the catering team. Clock House gave her a lovely send-off and we spent the next several weeks in the kitchen hearing children asking, "What are you doing here miss?" when they spotted Debbie.

In the catering team, nobody works faster than Debbie (she says!) and she often suggests ways to do things more efficiently. It has been great having her on the team and we're going to miss her now that she's leaving.

After over 20 years in different roles at BGS, Debbie wants to spend more time with grandson Frankie, enabling daughter Jordane to go back to work at a local primary school. The kitchen will be a quieter place without Debbie's chat, her ready laugh and her fabulous (and occasionally brutal!) sense of humour.

## James Walton



By R Moody, Head of Chemistry

**James has been a genuine asset to the Chemistry Department, teaching across all year groups and contributing to both the lower school Science Club and the development of a Sixth Form Science Society.**

He has helped us develop new practical resources and I have particularly welcomed his useful contributions to the changes to the GCSE schemes of work. His genuine enthusiasm for developing understanding of scientific thinking will be missed. We wish James all the best as he moves on to a new role as Head of Chemistry.





## Jane Chapman

By S Hinchliffe, Headmaster

**Jane Chapman read Classics at Balliol College, Oxford. She began her teaching career in 1987 at St Bees School in Cumbria and first came to Bradford Grammar School in 1989.**

After a career break from 1992 to 1996 when her children were young, Jane returned to BGS and then became Head of Classics in 2006. She was promoted to the position of Assistant Head (Pastoral) on the Senior Leadership Team in 2013 and took on the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead. Jane is married to Old Bradfordian Malcolm and has two sons and a daughter, all of whom went through the school from Clock House to the Sixth Form, making her a BGS parent for a total of 14 years. During this time, she was an active member of the BGS Parents' Association. In short, whilst Jane might not have been raised on West Yorkshire soil, she is BGS royalty!

Blessed with a fierce intellect, love of Classics and the arts, mischievous sense of humour and deep wells of empathy and compassion, Jane's influence at BGS has been broad and transformative. She is held in the highest regard by generations of pupils, parents and colleagues, and drew a crowd recently in London at an OB social event to celebrate 40 years of co-education at BGS. The overwhelming sentiments expressed to Jane that evening were ones of gratitude, great respect and affection. We should not underestimate Jane's influence as a role model for female students and colleagues at a time when our School was transitioning from an all-male domain towards the balanced and diverse demography it models today.



## Jessica Alred

By K Hewitt, Head of Admission and Marketing

**Jess returned to the Admissions and Marketing Team in January 2023 and immediately it was like she had never been away!**

Her friendly personality, 'can do' attitude, ability to multitask and juggle many balls have contributed much to the success of the department. Jess's knowledge of the ever-changing world of digital marketing, willingness to help whenever needed, together with her many other qualities were much appreciated. We are grateful to Jess for her role in developing this key department in the school and wish her every success in her new post as Head of Marketing at GSAL.

Throughout her time, Jane has embraced and led change. In her capacity as a pastoral leader, she ushered in a new era of understanding and practice with respect to mental health and wider aspects of wellbeing. As she said of herself in a recent BGS blog, "My ambition, as I settled into the role of pastoral lead, was to ensure that every student at our school knows that it is okay to not be okay, understands more about poor mental health so that they can spot the signs and have a vocabulary to identify and express what is wrong, knows who they can talk to in school and outside school and is educated about techniques and strategies for coping, and to build their resilience". These are the right priorities and Jane has worked tirelessly towards them. Her work ethic is second to none.

Our School has become more inclusive and kinder thanks to Jane's influence. At the same time, she has been an ardent upholder of BGS ethos and standards. Jane Chapman is nobody's fool. Excellence, opportunity and happiness – you can have it all!

We wish Jane good health and fulfilment in retirement and sincerely hope that she might make a guest appearance from time to time in the BGS choir. Thank you, Jane. It has been a privilege to work with you.





## Julia Sharp

By L Hanson, Head of English

**Julia came to Bradford Grammar School in September 2018 from King James's School in Knaresborough. She proved herself to be not only experienced, but also an extremely versatile teacher.**

During her time at the school, she has taught nearly everything: English to KS3 and KS4 pupils, English Language A Level, and Drama to all ages in the school. Drama is her passion, and she has been a fine Head of Drama and an impressive advocate for the performing arts. She has created a stimulating environment for creativity through the production of new programmes of study at KS3, GCSE and A Level, and by the creation of a large bank of new teaching and learning resources.

Her commitment to co-curricular drama has been outstanding. A talented director, Julia has produced some memorable live productions and the effort and organisation that goes into these cannot be understated. From the musicals 'Little Shop of Horrors', 'My Fair Lady' and 'The Addams Family' to Harold Pinter's, 'The Birthday Party', the quality has been superb.

Julia leaves us to take-up a post at St John Fisher Catholic High School in Harrogate, a much easier commute. I wish Julia all the best in her future career.



## Laura Kelly

By J Moran, Director of Sport

**Laura has made big strides in her career during her two years at BGS. Following her first year as a graduate assistant, she stepped up to cover the Specialist Sports Coach Netball position with Alice Rawsthorne away on maternity leave.**

She has run the large and dynamic netball programme with great care and maturity throughout her time in charge. Two out of three teams reaching the regional rounds of the National Schools Netball competition was a significant achievement for the programme in this period. Laura will be missed in the department, and we wish her every success in the future.



## Linda Kelly



By D Crompton, Chef

**Linda joined the BGS catering team in September 2010, recommended by her sister Angela Maloney, a long-time team member.**

Contrary to initial expectations of double trouble, Linda proved to be an invaluable asset from the start (sorry, Angela!). Many people will recognise Linda as the friendly face in the tuck shop, a role she thoroughly embraced and excelled in. Her dedication was evident as she frequently worked extra hours and was a familiar presence at after-hours events and catering for Saturday sports fixtures.

Outside of work, Linda is a proud mother of five sons. Although she always wished for a daughter, she found joy in the arrival of her beautiful granddaughter Elsa, whom she adored from birth. Linda is also a passionate gardener, taking care of both her mother's and her own gardens, and she delighted in sharing her gardening adventures. Another of her great loves is travelling, often returning to work with stunning photos of beaches and sunsets, and they always featured a pina colada!

This year, Linda decided to retire, leaving behind a legacy of hard work and dedication. She will be greatly missed, and her absence will be felt deeply by the team. We know she will enjoy her retirement, spending more time with her family and travelling. There are even rumours that she has joined a gym! We wish Linda all the happiness and success for the future.



## Mary Szablowski

Sandra Cuffy, Cleaning Manager

**On 5 September 1990 Mary Szablowski began her journey at Bradford Grammar School in the Cleaning Department. This year, after 34 years of dedicated service, she is retiring.**

Mary moved from Poland to England and made her home in Shipley, leaving many family members behind. She missed them deeply. Throughout the years, Mary experienced the loss of some of her family members, which was incredibly difficult for her. However, she often said that coming to work provided much-needed comfort during those tough times.

Mary formed lasting friendships within the cleaning team, finding confidants among her colleagues. Many of these friendships have endured to this day.

She developed strong relationships with numerous teachers, particularly those in the Modern Foreign Languages department, where she spent the majority of her 34 years cleaning classrooms.

Mary was recognised as Staff Member of the Month by the teachers in the History department, where she worked for the last couple of years.

In her free time, Mary loves walking along the canal with her son, from Shipley to Leeds, Hebden Bridge, and even Leeds to Liverpool. She also enjoys walks on Baildon Moor.

Gardening is another passion of Mary's. Her home boasts a beautiful garden, and she frequently shared cuttings with her colleagues.

Mary is a truly wonderful person, both inside and out, and she will be dearly missed.





## Matthew Livesey

By K Smith, Acting Head of Biology

**Dr Matthew Livesey joined the BGS Biology Department as part of his teacher training programme and successfully secured employment as a permanent member of the team.**

Matthew quickly established himself as a well-respected and talented teacher, devoted to his students, and this was quickly recognised by his appointments as Teaching and Learning Champion, Assistant Head of Careers and Acting Head of Biology.

With his medical background and expertise, Matthew played a pivotal role in support of those students aspiring to enter healthcare professions. Outside of the classroom, Matthew was a keen volunteer on many DofE expeditions and residential trips.

We wish him all the best in his new role.



## Paula Tatham

By the Junior Leadership Team

**With much fondness and a little sadness, we say goodbye to Mrs Tatham. Paula's dedication to the teaching profession and to Clock House over the last 11 years has been admirable.**

Never short of energy and ideas, she possessed an insightful and nurturing manner whilst being a form teacher for our Years 5 and 6 pupils - always unfailingly kind, intuitively achieving solutions to maintain harmony in her classes. Paula epitomised the leading by example principle. Her colleagues were fortunate to benefit from the collaborative strengths that her vast teaching experience afforded.

She also excelled when planning productions, residentials and day trips, going above and beyond to make sure that every child enjoyed those special and memorable events that primary school life presents. These occasions included pantomime trips and Year 6 leavers' days out, where her phenomenal organisation skills came to the fore. She somehow managed to keep the emphasis on fun, in the midst of her expert supervision.

Not only will we miss Paula for her diligence and kindness, but also for her sense of humour and the wonderful way in which she always counted her blessings, throughout life's ups and downs. Respected by the whole school community, colleagues, parents and pupils alike, she will be much missed.

Paula is looking forward to joining Mr Tatham for some relaxation and precious family time. We send them both our fondest wishes and hope they will come and visit us from time to time.

Oh, and Paula - thank you for the fabulous kitchen refurb design. We promise to take good care of it.



## Phil Watson



By S Hinchliffe, Headmaster

**Phil Watson joined Bradford Grammar School in January 2008 as a Teacher of Maths and became the Head of Department for the start of the 2018/19 academic year.**

He is a highly qualified and able mathematician, loves his subject and sharing it with those who have a similar enthusiasm for numbers. Phil was never happier than when introducing an advanced mathematical technique to bright students. Maths isn't for everybody however, and those who found Maths a struggle appreciated Dr Watson's dedication and his honesty.

Meticulously organised and scrupulously tidy - a traditionalist in many senses - Phil has been a stalwart pillar of a strong department that continues to recruit large numbers to A Level and inspires them to continue the subject to university.

He is a private person who kept his home and his working life carefully separate, but the two met in outdoor education. Phil was an enthusiastic and reliable supporter of Duke of Edinburgh training and assessment expeditions at bronze, silver and gold levels. His passion for the outdoors and willingness to lend a helping hand in support of the DofE Award have been assets to our co-curricular programme.

Additionally, Phil has run the BGS Chess Club, helped with Badminton Club, organised Senior and Junior Maths Team challenges and contributed generously to maths lunchtime help sessions. We are grateful to Phil for all he contributed at BGS. I enjoyed our conversations, his dry wit and occasionally brusque sense of humour. We wish him well for life after BGS



## Rachel Miller

By G Jones, Head of Junior School PE & Games

**Rachel joined Bradford Grammar School in 2017 as a Teacher of PE & Games with a specialism in netball. In a manner which came to define her tenure at the school, Rachel invested herself wholly into netball, the department and the school, enthusiastically engaging with the school community.**

Typically going above and beyond for the students, within her first term Rachel entered a school team into the local netball nights league to give the girls a new and different experience.

By sharing her own life experiences and passions, for example her love of all things LFC and marathon running, Rachel endeared herself to all and inspired many.

It was clear from day one that Rachel had both the potential and ambition to go beyond her role as PE teacher and within the first year, she was appointed Acting Head of Sixth Form Enrichment, allowing her to demonstrate her talent in connecting with the Sixth Form students, something which she continued as a tutor until her departure.

In 2018 when the PE department was restructured, Rachel became Head of Academic PE, a role which she relished, and which combined her passion for academia with her inter-personal relationships with groups of post-16 students. In her final year at BGS, Rachel spent two terms as Acting Director of Sport, a role which prepared her for her well-deserved promotion.

Above and beyond all of this, Rachel really embraced being a BGS member of staff and enjoyed good relationships with staff in all departments of the school - always having time for a conversation and a smile, she breathed air into the staff Common Room as well as into many of our students' lives, who I'm sure will affectionately remember Miller!





## Robin Sharp

By S Hinchliffe, Headmaster

**We are grateful to Robin Sharp, our former Head of Development, who built on the progress of her predecessors and gave new shape and impetus to fundraising in support of Assisted Places.**

Working alongside consultants, Cairney and Co. and with welcome support from our Bursar, Homera Najib, and key Governors, Robin helped to create the new look Development Department that is already engaging actively with Old Bradfordians to foster social and supportive networks that will be of long-term benefit to our extended family of OBs and BGS. Robin's work will have a direct impact on those young people who aspire to a place at our School but couldn't achieve their ambition without financial assistance.



## Sam Thrippleton

By H Najib, Bursar and Clerk to the Governors

**Sam first joined BGS on a temporary contract as Personal Assistant/Secretary to the Bursar and Clerk to the Governors on 16 October 2000 and was subsequently appointed as the Bursar's Secretary on 1 September 2001.**

Sam worked alongside four different Bursars and two Chairmen of Governors in her time at BGS. She was the main point of contact for members of the Board, facilitating much of their vital but largely unseen work, and developed mutually respectful professional relationships with them.

In 2018, Sam's role was expanded to include that of HR Officer. Sam worked closely with the HR Manager to develop the school's benefit packages for staff and to modernise and professionalise HR services in the school. Sam exercised sound professional judgement but also went the 'extra mile' when colleagues were seeking help through difficult times.

Ultimately, Sam showed herself to be a compassionate people person, someone who actively sought to help others when she could. Little surprise, therefore, that she has kept in contact with other former colleagues of BGS. Beyond her immediate in-tray, Sam took an active role in wider aspects of school life and regularly participated at the Parents' Association Spring Fair.

Sam made the decision to leave BGS in July 2023 and pursue a career in the care sector. We wish Sam every success and happiness and thank her for the value she added to BGS.



## Sian Harris

By A Moss, Health & Safety Officer

**Sian Harris started at Bradford Grammar School as an Administration Apprentice in September 2020.**

She took on the task of joining us with no prior experience at a challenging time, as the school had just returned fully following several lockdowns. She went on to pass her Level 3 Business Administrator apprenticeship through Calderdale College in June 2022.

During her time at BGS, she primarily provided administration support to the Estates and Catering departments, whilst covering the main Reception at lunchtime and on many other occasions when required. She continued in this role until moving on to pastures new in January 2024.



## Sidra Zubair

By D Crompton, Chef

**Sidra Zubair joined Bradford Grammar School on 1 September 2021, as part of the Catering Department. Initially, she appeared quite shy, but it quickly became evident that she had a delightful sense of humour and seamlessly integrated into the team.**

Sidra proved to be a dedicated and conscientious worker, consistently going above and beyond, often taking on additional functions and responsibilities.

Despite facing personal challenges at home, she remained unwavering in her commitment and performance, truly exemplifying resilience. Sidra has now moved on to a job closer to her home, allowing her to spend more time with her children. We wish her all the success she rightfully deserves.

## Sophie Seager

By L Hanson, Head of English

**Sophie came to Bradford Grammar School in 2018 from Batley Girls' High School and had an impact on all the pupils she taught.**

An enthusiastic and caring teacher, she soon became a formidable presence at BGS immersing herself not just in teaching, but also in the co-curricular life of the school.

Her classroom achievements were many, though I would single out her teaching of A Level English Language as a highlight as she did so much to promote the subject and encourage pupils to take it. As someone who believes that inclusivity is crucial, she created new poetry anthologies for our KS3 classes, full of diverse poems by poets who do not find their way into the curriculum, and I am grateful for this.

Sophie was extremely industrious, and this was evident in her involvement in our co-curricular programme. She has been an integral part of rowing, the Duke of Edinburgh programme and created the first ever BGS LGBTQ+ Society - a formidable and welcome achievement. On top of this she accompanied pupils on several residential trips and even had a go at directing a school play, Tom Stoppard's 'Doggs Hamlet, Cahoot's Macbeth'. I wish her the best wherever her future lies.





# Thank you ...

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

**Joseph Scargill**

Development Officer – Stewardship and Annual Giving







# University Degree Course Admissions and Vocations 2024

## A

<b>Marvellous Adewunmi Adenuga</b>	<b>University of Manchester</b> , Chemical Engineering with Industrial Experience
<b>Zara Adnan</b>	<b>University of Liverpool</b> , Computer Science with Foundation Year
<b>Malaika Habeeba Ahmed</b>	<b>University of Huddersfield</b> , Optometry
<b>Jonty Peter Rhys Ali</b>	<b>Durham University</b> , Physics (2025)
<b>Mikaal Amini</b>	<b>University of Surrey</b> , Aerospace Engineering
<b>Anupama Anand</b>	<b>University of Leicester</b> , Medicine
<b>Aliza Emine Arshad</b>	<b>University of Huddersfield</b> , Psychology
<b>Zainab Asif</b>	<b>University of Warwick</b> , Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)
<b>Alaina Safa Aslam</b>	<b>Leeds Trinity University</b> , Psychology
<b>Amelia Grace Atkinson</b>	<b>Durham University</b> , English Literature
<b>Aamina Ayyub</b>	<b>University of Leeds</b> , Interdisciplinary Science with Foundation Year

## B

<b>Will James Baker</b>	<b>Leeds Beckett University</b> , Sport Business Management (2025)
<b>Carla Barennes</b>	<b>University of Glasgow</b> , Veterinary Biosciences
<b>Sarah-Rose Zahra Basit</b>	<b>University of Glasgow</b> , Psychology (2025)
<b>Zara Beckett</b>	<b>University of Nottingham</b> , Product Design and Manufacture
<b>Alekss Belskis</b>	<b>University of Nottingham</b> , Economics
<b>Amelie Sky Benson</b>	<b>Newcastle University</b> , Medicine and Surgery (2025)
<b>Tayjus Dipan Bhan-Mistry</b>	<b>London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London</b> , Philosophy, Politics and Economics
<b>Nida Nayab Bibi</b>	<b>University of Warwick</b> , History and Politics
<b>Joe Evans Bishop</b>	<b>University of Southampton</b> , Aeronautics and Astronautics/Aerodynamics with Industrial Placement Year
<b>Tara Bracegirdle</b>	<b>Durham University</b> , Economics with Foundation
<b>Grace Anna Breeze-Clark</b>	<b>Newcastle University</b> , Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies
<b>Anna Theresa Buck</b>	<b>Newcastle University</b> , Marine Zoology
<b>India Burns</b>	<b>University of Nottingham</b> , History and Politics
<b>Mariam Butt</b>	<b>The University of Law</b> , Law (Accelerated)
<b>Daniel James Alexander Byrne</b>	<b>University of Liverpool</b> , Veterinary Science

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



## C

<b>William James Caygill</b>	<b>Durham University</b> , Natural Sciences
<b>Jinaan Chaatouf</b>	<b>University of Bristol</b> , Veterinary Science 2025
<b>Vivek Chaudhuri</b>	<b>University of Oxford</b> , Medicine
<b>Joseph Chiemelum Chiemeka</b>	<b>Lancaster University</b> , International Business Management (Study Abroad)
<b>Olivia-Grace Florence Clark</b>	<b>University of Warwick</b> , Theatre and Performance Studies
<b>Charity Helena Clifford</b>	<b>University of Oxford</b> , Classical Archaeology and Ancient History
<b>Keira Jane Coldwell</b>	<b>University of Exeter</b> , Anthropology with Study Abroad

## D

<b>Charles Horatio Denton</b>	<b>Durham University</b> , Ancient History
<b>Nihal Dhillon</b>	<b>University of Birmingham</b> , History
<b>Sebastian Dobson</b>	<b>Northumbria University, Newcastle</b> , Real Estate
<b>Jack Arthur Dooley</b>	<b>Loughborough University</b> , Economics

## E

<b>James Oliver Ellison</b>	<b>University of Southampton</b> , Computer Science
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## F

<b>Rebecca Clare Flaherty</b>	<b>University of Oxford</b> , Biochemistry (Molecular and Cellular)
<b>Elsa Jane Amanda Foster</b>	<b>The University of Edinburgh</b> , Veterinary Medicine

## G

<b>Pollyanna Rose Greene-Wright</b>	<b>University of Cambridge</b> , Classics
<b>Ronald Edward Greenwood</b>	<b>Northumbria University, Newcastle</b> , Business and Entrepreneurship
<b>Daniel Grimmitt</b>	<b>University of Reading</b> , Real Estate

## H

<b>Archie Montgomery Hall</b>	<b>University of Cambridge</b> , Computer Science
<b>Isobel Hartop</b>	<b>University of Nottingham</b> , Natural Sciences with International Study
<b>Florence Maye Harvey</b>	<b>Newcastle University</b> , Psychology
<b>Niamh Rose Hennessy</b>	<b>University of Glasgow</b> , Common Law
<b>Benjamin Hill</b>	<b>Loughborough University</b> , Sports Technology (2025)
<b>Lily Elizabeth Hirst</b>	<b>University of Oxford</b> , Law
<b>Nate Lincoln Holdsworth</b>	<b>Nottingham Trent University</b> , Sport Science and Coaching
<b>Benjamin Holt</b>	<b>Newcastle University</b> , Sport and Exercise Science (2025)
<b>William John Gerald Hunt</b>	<b>University of Hull</b> , Economics (with Placement Year)
<b>Ahmad Hussain</b>	<b>University of Birmingham</b> , Money, Banking and Finance
<b>Zain Hussain</b>	<b>University of Bradford</b> , Foundation in Clinical Sciences and Medicine leading to Clinical Sciences
<b>Lialah Sofia Hussain</b>	<b>University of Nottingham</b> , English and Philosophy
<b>Alice Sarah Rowan Hustler</b>	<b>University of Liverpool</b> , Politics



**J**

**Henry Jackson**

**Lancaster University**, Business Management (Study Abroad)

**Shairyaar Sami Javed**

**University of Leeds**, Interdisciplinary Science with Foundation Year

**Jawahir Jelani**

**University of Bradford**, Clinical Sciences with Foundation Year

**George Thomas Jenkins**

**University of Warwick**, Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics and Economics (MORSE)

**K**

**Rory Kenyon**

**Newcastle University**, Modern Languages and Business Studies

**Muhammad Usman Khalid**

**Imperial College London**, Computing

**Aarzo Tazarab Khan**

**Lancaster University**, Medicine and Surgery

**Alisha Leila Khan**

**University of Manchester**, Economics

**Uzair Khan**

**University of Huddersfield**, Law

**Hugo Lawrence Kirwin**

**University of Nottingham**, Natural Sciences

**Laura Sophie Kraft**

**Durham University**, Natural Sciences

**L**

**Amelie Lane**

**Durham University**, Biological Sciences (2025)

**William Arthur Leach**

**Northumbria University, Newcastle**, Business and Entrepreneurship

**M**

**Luca Michael Christopher Macy**

**University of Nottingham**, Economics (2025)

**Jyoti Kaur Mangat**

**University of Nottingham**, Philosophy and Theology

**Joseph Marchewka**

**Falmouth University**, Creative Writing with Professional Placement

**Aisha Matib**

**University of Nottingham**, Veterinary Medicine

**Matthew McGowan**

**Aberystwyth University**, International Relations and Military History

**N**

**Aminah Noor**

**University of Leeds**, Medicine

**O**

**Avani Olak**

**University of Leicester**, Law

**P**

**Kayan Dylan Parmar**

**University of York Philosophy**, Politics and Economics

**Vanisha Arunbhai Patel**

**University of Sheffield**, Biomedical Science

**Tej Patel**

**University of Bristol**, Finance

**Annabel Jasmine Petyt**

**Durham University**, International Relations

**Jessica Carys Poulsen**

**Newcastle University**, Combined Honours



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

## R

<b>Ibrahim Raja</b>	<b>University of Bradford</b> , Psychology (with placement year)
<b>Ruqaiyah Rashid</b>	<b>University of Bradford</b> , Psychology
<b>Muhammad Rashid</b>	<b>University of Bradford</b> , Accounting and Finance
<b>Jack Raynor</b>	<b>Northumbria University, Newcastle</b> , Business Management Foundation Year
<b>Adheeb Razmi</b>	<b>Durham University</b> , Engineering (Aeronautical)
<b>Thomas Alfred Reeson</b>	<b>Durham University</b> , History
<b>Syed Mohammad Raza Rizvi</b>	<b>University of Sussex</b> , Biomedical Science
<b>Lydia Robson</b>	<b>Newcastle University</b> , Marketing and Management
<b>Milli Roebuck</b>	<b>Manchester Metropolitan University</b> , Marketing

## S

<b>Leah Schlosshan</b>	<b>University of Manchester</b> , Biomedical Sciences
<b>Atika Hussaina Batool Shah</b>	<b>University of St Andrews</b> , Classical Studies
<b>William James Shann</b>	<b>University of Sheffield</b> , Computer Science with an Industrial Placement Year
<b>Benjamin Sheard</b>	<b>Northumbria University, Newcastle</b> , Business and Marketing
<b>Abhijna Anil Shenoy</b>	<b>Keele University</b> , Neuroscience
<b>Sahib Sohal</b>	<b>Lancaster University</b> , Economics (2025)

## T

<b>Emari Tariq</b>	<b>University of Warwick</b> , Philosophy
<b>Dylan Ata Thompson</b>	<b>Durham University</b> , Computer Science
<b>Sophie Emily Thompson</b>	<b>Newcastle University</b> , Modern Languages
<b>Thomas Henry Threlfall</b>	<b>London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London</b> , Philosophy, Politics and Economics
<b>Olivia Kate Town</b>	<b>Northumbria University, Newcastle</b> , Physiotherapy
<b>Oliver Jonathan Tuggey</b>	<b>University of Manchester</b> , Politics, Philosophy and Economics

## W

<b>Edward Westlake</b>	<b>Northumbria University, Newcastle</b> , Geography
<b>George David Williams</b>	<b>Durham University</b> , Geography
<b>Rosie Wood</b>	<b>Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London</b> , History of Art

## Y

<b>Amelia Yeadon-Bee</b>	<b>Newcastle University</b> , English Literature
<b>James Anthony Young</b>	<b>Newcastle University</b> , Politics and History
<b>James Anthony Young</b>	<b>University of Reading</b> , History and Politics

## Z

<b>Yusuf Zahir</b>	<b>University of Bradford</b> , Clinical Sciences
<b>Muhammad Zain</b>	<b>University of Huddersfield</b> , Biomedical Science



# Examination Results 2024

General Certificate of Education (A Level) 2024

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

## A

<b>Marvellous Adenuga</b>	Biology <sup>A*</sup> , Chemistry <sup>A*</sup> , Mathematics <sup>A</sup>
<b>Zara Adnan</b>	Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science
<b>Malaika Ahmed</b>	Biology, Chemistry, English Language
<b>Eesa Akbar</b>	Biology <sup>A</sup> , Chemistry <sup>A</sup> , Mathematics <sup>A</sup>
<b>Haider Ali</b>	Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematics
<b>Isa Ali</b>	Business Studies, Economics, Religious Studies
<b>Jonty Ali</b>	Computer Science <sup>A*</sup> , Economics <sup>A</sup> , Mathematics <sup>A*</sup> , Mathematics Further <sup>A</sup> , Physics <sup>A*</sup>
<b>Mikaal Amini</b>	English Literature, Mathematics, Physics
<b>Anu Anand</b>	Biology <sup>A*</sup> , Chemistry <sup>A*</sup> , Psychology <sup>A</sup>
<b>Zainab Asif</b>	Economics <sup>A</sup> , English Literature <sup>A*</sup> , Mathematics <sup>A</sup> , Politics <sup>A</sup>
<b>Alaina Aslam</b>	Biology, Computer Science, Psychology
<b>Amelia Atkinson</b>	English Language <sup>A</sup> , English Literature <sup>A</sup> , Music

## B

<b>Will Baker</b>	Business Studies <sup>A</sup> , French, Physical Education
<b>Carla Barennes</b>	Art <sup>A*</sup> , Biology <sup>A</sup> , Chemistry <sup>A</sup>
<b>Sarah-Rose Basit</b>	Classical Civilisation, Psychology, Spanish
<b>Zara Beckett</b>	D&T Product Design <sup>A</sup> , German, Mathematics
<b>Alekss Belskis</b>	Economics, Mathematics <sup>A*</sup> , Politics <sup>A</sup>
<b>Amelie Benson</b>	Biology, Chemistry <sup>A</sup> , Spanish <sup>A</sup>
<b>Tayjus Bhan-Mistry</b>	History <sup>A</sup> , Mathematics <sup>A*</sup> , Politics <sup>A*</sup> , Spanish <sup>A*</sup>
<b>Nida Bibi</b>	History, Mathematics, Politics
<b>Joe Bishop</b>	Computer Science <sup>A</sup> , Mathematics <sup>A</sup> , Mathematics Further, Physics <sup>A*</sup>
<b>Grace Breeze -Clark</b>	English Language <sup>A</sup> , Mathematics, Spanish <sup>A</sup>
<b>Anna Buck</b>	Biology <sup>A</sup> , Chemistry, Physical Education
<b>India Burns</b>	French, History <sup>A</sup> , Politics
<b>Mariam Butt</b>	Chemistry <sup>A</sup> , English Literature <sup>A*</sup> , Mathematics <sup>A</sup>
<b>Daniel Byrne</b>	Biology <sup>A*</sup> , Chemistry <sup>A*</sup> , Mathematics <sup>A*</sup>

## C

<b>Will Caygill</b>	Biology <sup>A</sup> , Chemistry <sup>A*</sup> , Mathematics <sup>A*</sup> , Physics <sup>A*</sup>
<b>Vivek Chaudhuri</b>	Biology <sup>A*</sup> , Chemistry <sup>A*</sup> , Mathematics <sup>A*</sup> , Mathematics Further <sup>A*</sup>
<b>Joseph Chiemeka</b>	Business Studies <sup>A</sup> , Economics, Mathematics
<b>Olivia Clark</b>	Art <sup>A*</sup> , Drama <sup>A</sup> , History
<b>Charity Clifford</b>	Art <sup>A*</sup> , Classical Civilisation <sup>A</sup> , History, Latin <sup>A</sup>
<b>Keira Coldwell</b>	Drama <sup>A</sup> , English Literature, History

## D

<b>Charlie Denton</b>	Classical Civilisation, History, Politics <sup>A</sup>
<b>Nihal Dhillon</b>	English Literature, History, Politics
<b>Sebastian Dobson</b>	History, Politics, Psychology
<b>Jack Dooley</b>	Economics <sup>A</sup> , History <sup>A</sup> , Mathematics <sup>A</sup>

## E

<b>James Ellison</b>	Computer Science <sup>A*</sup> , D&T Product Design <sup>A*</sup> , Mathematics <sup>A*</sup> , Physics <sup>A</sup>
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## F

<b>Rebecca Flaherty</b>	Biology <sup>A*</sup> , Chemistry <sup>A*</sup> , History <sup>A*</sup> , Mathematics <sup>A*</sup>
<b>Elsa Foster</b>	Biology <sup>A*</sup> , Chemistry <sup>A</sup> , Mathematics <sup>A</sup> , Music <sup>A</sup>

## G

<b>Pollyanna Greene -Wright</b>	Classical Civilisation <sup>A*</sup> , Greek <sup>A*</sup> , Latin <sup>A*</sup> , Mathematics <sup>A*</sup>
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## Ronnie

<b>Greenwood</b>	Business Studies, D&T Product Design, Economics
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<b>Daniel Grimmitt</b>	Business Studies, Physical Education, Politics
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## H

<b>Archie Hall</b>	Computer Science <sup>A*</sup> , Mathematics <sup>A*</sup> , Mathematics Further <sup>A*</sup> , Physics <sup>A*</sup>
<b>Isobel Hartop</b>	Biology <sup>A</sup> , Chemistry, Geography <sup>A</sup>
<b>Florence Harvey</b>	Art <sup>A*</sup> , Psychology, Spanish
<b>Dhaya Hayre</b>	Biology <sup>A</sup> , Economics <sup>A</sup> , Mathematics
<b>Niamh Hennessy</b>	Economics <sup>A</sup> , Mathematics, Politics <sup>A</sup>
<b>Ben Hill</b>	Chemistry <sup>A</sup> , Mathematics <sup>A*</sup> , Physics <sup>A*</sup>
<b>Lily Hirst</b>	French, History <sup>A</sup> , Latin <sup>A</sup>
<b>Nate Holdsworth</b>	Geography, Physical Education, Psychology
<b>Ben Holt</b>	Business Studies, Physical Education, Psychology
<b>Will Hunt</b>	Economics, History, Psychology
<b>Ahmad Hussain</b>	Business Studies, Economics, Mathematics
<b>Fahim Hussain</b>	English Language, Mathematics, Politics
<b>Lialah Hussain</b>	English Literature <sup>A</sup> , Mathematics, Politics
<b>Zain Hussain</b>	Biology, Business Studies, Mathematics



**I**

**Leyla Irani** Art <sup>A\*</sup>, English Literature <sup>A</sup>, Psychology <sup>A</sup>  
**Huda Irfan** Biology, Chemistry, Psychology <sup>A</sup>

**J**

**Henry Jackson** Economics, Politics, Religious Studies  
**Sami Javed** Biology, Chemistry, Psychology  
**Jawahir Jelani** Biology, Chemistry, Psychology  
**George Jenkins** Mathematics <sup>A\*</sup>, Mathematics Further <sup>A</sup>,  
Religious Studies <sup>A</sup>

**K**

**Serena Kaur** Biology, Chemistry <sup>A</sup>, Mathematics <sup>A\*</sup>  
**Rory Kenyon** Geography, Psychology, Spanish  
**Usman Khalid** Computer Science <sup>A\*</sup>, Economics <sup>A\*</sup>,  
Mathematics <sup>A\*</sup>, Mathematics Further <sup>A\*</sup>  
**Aarzo Khan** Biology <sup>A</sup>, Chemistry <sup>A</sup>, Mathematics <sup>A</sup>  
**Uzair Khan** Biology, Chemistry, Religious Studies  
**Hugo Kirwin** Biology <sup>A</sup>, Chemistry <sup>A</sup>, D&T Product Design <sup>A\*</sup>  
**Laura Kraft** Computer Science <sup>A</sup>, Mathematics <sup>A\*</sup>,  
Mathematics Further <sup>A</sup>, Physics <sup>A</sup>

**L**

**Amelie Lane** Biology <sup>A\*</sup>, Chemistry <sup>A</sup>, Geography <sup>A\*</sup>  
**William Leach** Business Studies, Economics,  
Physical Education  
**Harry Lockett** Business Studies, D&T Product Design, Politics

**M**

**Luca Macy** Economics, Mathematics <sup>A\*</sup>, Physics <sup>A</sup>  
**Zaara Mahmood** Biology <sup>A</sup>, Chemistry, Latin, Spanish <sup>A</sup>  
**Jyoti Mangat** Chemistry, English Literature,  
Religious Studies <sup>A</sup>  
**Ronan Massey** French, Politics, Psychology  
**Matthew McGowan** History, Mathematics, Politics  
**Maryam Mohbeen** Biology, Chemistry, Geography

**N**

**Aminah Noor** Biology <sup>A</sup>, Chemistry, Psychology

**O**

**Avani Olak** Biology, Chemistry, English Literature <sup>A</sup>

**P**

**Kayan Parmar** Computer Science, History, Mathematics,  
Religious Studies  
**Tej Patel** Biology <sup>A</sup>, Chemistry <sup>A</sup>, Mathematics <sup>A</sup>  
**Vanisha Patel** Art <sup>A\*</sup>, Biology, Chemistry <sup>A</sup>  
**Annabel Petyt** Economics, English Literature <sup>A\*</sup>, Politics <sup>A\*</sup>  
**Jessica Poulsen** History, Music, Politics <sup>A</sup>

**R**

**Ibrahim Raja** Economics, Geography, Psychology  
**Fergus Ramage** Classical Civilisation, History <sup>A</sup>, Politics <sup>A</sup>

**Muhammad**

**Rashid** Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics

**Jack Raynor** Business Studies, Economics,  
English Literature,

**Adheeb Razmi** Chemistry, Mathematics <sup>A\*</sup>,  
Mathematics Further, Physics

**Tom Reeson** Biology <sup>A\*</sup>, Chemistry <sup>A</sup>, History <sup>A\*</sup>, Music <sup>A</sup>

**Haaniyah**

**Rehman** Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics

**Raza Rizvi** Biology <sup>A</sup>, Chemistry, Geography <sup>A</sup>

**Lucy Robertshaw**

**-Wareing** Chemistry <sup>A</sup>, Mathematics <sup>A</sup>, Physics <sup>A</sup>

**Milli Roebuck** Biology, English Language, Psychology

**S**

**Adam Sadiq** Biology, History

**Atika Shah** Biology <sup>A</sup>, Chemistry, Classical Civilisation <sup>A\*</sup>

**Will Shann** Computer Science <sup>A</sup>, Economics <sup>A</sup>,  
Mathematics <sup>A</sup>

**Ben Sheard** Business Studies <sup>A</sup>, D&T Product Design,  
Psychology

**Abhijna Shenoy** Biology, Chemistry, Physical Education

**Sahib Sohal** Chemistry, Economics, Physics

**T**

**Emari Tariq** English Literature, Psychology,  
Religious Studies <sup>A</sup>

**Dylan Thompson** Chemistry <sup>A</sup>, Computer Science <sup>A\*</sup>, Latin <sup>A</sup>,  
Mathematics <sup>A</sup>

**Sophie Thompson** Classical Civilisation <sup>A</sup>, French, Spanish

**Tom Threlfall** History <sup>A\*</sup>, Latin <sup>A\*</sup>, Mathematics <sup>A\*</sup>,  
Mathematics Further <sup>A\*</sup>

**Olivia Town** Biology <sup>A\*</sup>, Physical Education <sup>A\*</sup>, Psychology <sup>A\*</sup>

**Oliver Tuggey** Computer Science <sup>A</sup>, Economics <sup>A</sup>,  
Mathematics <sup>A</sup>, Physics <sup>A</sup>

**W**

**Edward Westlake** Economics, Geography <sup>A</sup>, Politics

**Lila Whiteley**

**-Guest** Art <sup>A\*</sup>, Biology <sup>A</sup>, Chemistry,  
D&T Product Design <sup>A\*</sup>

**George Williams** Geography <sup>A\*</sup>, Greek, Politics <sup>A</sup>

**Rosie Wood** Art <sup>A\*</sup>, History, Politics <sup>A</sup>

**Y**

**Amelia Yeadon**

**-Bee** English Literature, Geography <sup>A</sup>, Psychology

**Jim Young** English Language, History, Politics

**Z**

**Yusuf Zahir** Biology, Chemistry, Religious Studies

**Muhammad Zain** Biology, Chemistry, Economics



# Celebrating Exam Success

GCSE and A Level Examinations 2024

## Magnificent Seven among A\* winners at BGS

Several students at Bradford Grammar School achieved A\* grades across the board in their A Level results.

Six students received four A\* grades each with an additional student taking a self-taught extra fifth A Level and gaining three A\* and two As.

The Magnificent Seven were joined by their friends and families at BGS, where many students had secured places at their first-choice universities.

Results revealed Bradford Grammar had secured a 100 per cent pass rate with one in five grades awarded being an A\*.

Delighted students included Vivek C who gained four A\*s in Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Further Maths. He will study medicine at Oxford University.

"I'm really happy with my results, particularly to get A\*s across all subjects," he said.

"I took advantage of the school's support preparing for university interviews and the hard work has paid off."

Fellow high-flier, Tom T, gained four A\*s in History, Latin, Maths and Further Maths and will study Philosophy, Politics and Economics at the London School of Economics.

"To get all four A\*s is such a nice thing and I was relieved when I saw them," he said.

Pollyanna G-W was also one of the Magnificent Seven, gaining A\*s in Classical Civilisation, Greek, History and Latin. Pollyanna joined BGS in Year 9 having previously lived in Athens. She was the only student on the A Level Greek course and will be pursuing her love for it by studying Classics at Cambridge University.

"The school really helped me follow my passion by allowing me to study Greek at A Level and the Classics department is amazing," she said.

Elsewhere Jonty A ended up with a staggering five A Levels, with A\*s in Computer Science, Maths, and Physics and As in Economics and Further Maths. The teenager took an additional subject, Further Maths, halfway through his A Levels and taught himself much of the course.

"I didn't do anything special in my GCSEs, but I came into myself for A Levels and enjoyed narrowing down the subjects I studied. It was great the teachers trusted me and had faith in me to take on an extra subject." Jonty will study Physics at Durham University.

**Headmaster, Dr Simon Hinchliffe, said: 'While we're delighted that our students have excelled academically, they've also achieved other great things during their time with us, representing their country in sports and becoming top musicians. They've managed to balance their training and practice while pursuing their academic endeavours, which is remarkable.**

**'We're proud of their results and the grounded, well-rounded individuals they've become. We know they'll go on to achieve incredible things.'**





## Ukrainian student triumphs with exceptional GCSE results

A Ukrainian teen who escaped the devastation of war in his homeland and endured immense personal loss, celebrated achieving ten GCSEs – eight of which were Grade 7 (formerly Grade A) and above.

Oles K fled Kyiv and came to the UK with his mother Mila in late May 2022 while his father, Roman, remained in the Ukraine until his untimely passing last summer.

The 16-year-old gained an Assisted Place at BGS where in August he learned he'd achieved ten GCSEs, including three 8s, five 7s and two 6s.

Said Oles: 'I'm so grateful to BGS, especially the teachers who have helped me on an individual basis. I had all the support I needed and one-on-one encouragement.'

Oles will study for his A Levels in Psychology, Business and History at BGS, and take the Extended Project Qualification, with aspirations to working in Law or Management.

During his studies, Oles faced significant hardship, losing not only his father but also his grandfather and great-grandfather in a short period. His father Roman, who had been volunteering in Ukraine, passed away from sepsis in June 2023, a condition initially missed by doctors. The events left Oles with no immediate family in Ukraine, and he was not even able to return to attend their funerals.

Oles said: 'The UK has become my home, and I see my future here. It's where I want to build my life and continue my education.'

Mila praised her son's hard work and commitment to his studies. She said: 'Moving to a new country, leaving behind everything familiar and dealing with the personal loss of our loved ones has been tough.'

'But seeing Oles achieve such outstanding results has made it all worthwhile. We are deeply thankful to Bradford Grammar School for their support and for providing him with the opportunity to succeed.'

**Simon Hinchliffe, Headmaster, said: 'Oles' extraordinary accomplishments are a testament to his dedication and determination to succeed against all odds.'**

**'His journey from a war-torn country to achieving excellent results at BGS is nothing short of inspiring. We are incredibly proud to have such a resilient and courageous student in our community.'**







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## Kind hearted teenager transforms personal tragedy into hope for others

A remarkable teenager, whose compassionate acts of kindness transformed his personal grief into a powerful force for good, was looking forward to university after achieving top A Level grades.

Oliver T achieved As across the board in Maths, Economics, Physics and Computer Science, at BGS and will study Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Manchester University.

During his A Level years, Oliver became a lifesaving stem cell donor through charity Anthony Nolan. His uncle, Jonathan Tuggey, who tragically passed away from leukaemia at the age of 13, was present in his mind throughout the process.

Moreover, the sporty teen, who played First XV rugby at BGS, also committed to running the Great North Run, the world's largest half marathon, alongside five of his school friends. They are raising funds for Sue Ryder, a charity that supported his mother, Amanda, before her untimely death from cancer when Oliver was only two years old.

Oliver said: 'The Great North Run is my way of honouring my mum's memory and giving back to a charity that supported her. Everything I do is driven by the desire to make both my parents proud.'

Oliver joined the stem cell register with a DNA saliva swab in November 2022, following an Anthony Nolan presentation at BGS about the charity's life-saving work connecting donors with patients in need.

Jemma Hay Bryant, Youth Engagement Coordinator at Anthony Nolan, described the teenager as 'inspirational'. She said: 'It's incredible that he became a lifesaving stem cell donor while completing his A Levels.'

Looking to the future, Oliver aspires to work in public service or in law, motivated by a desire to contribute positively to society.

**Dr Simon Hinchliffe, Headmaster at Bradford Grammar School, said: 'Oliver's achievements are a profound testament to his character and dedication. His academic success is remarkable, but it's his extraordinary commitment to helping others that truly sets him apart.'**



... motivated by a desire to contribute positively to society.

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## Sporty trio's A-class results

Three athletics stars proved successful off, as well as on, the field when they scored outstanding grades across the board in their A Levels.

The BGS trio included Team GB runners Rebecca F and Amelie L and triathlete, Ben H who is a member of the Yorkshire Triathlon Academy.

Rebecca and Amelie have won medals, including golds, across the world competing for England and Team GB.

Rebecca was delighted with her top grades – four A\*s in Biology, Chemistry, Maths and History – which secured her place at Oxford University to study Biochemistry.

Said Rebecca: 'It's been busy juggling sport and my studies but being able to go running while revising for exams really helped clear my mind, so I didn't get overwhelmed. The school also did a great job in preparing me for my Oxbridge interviews.'

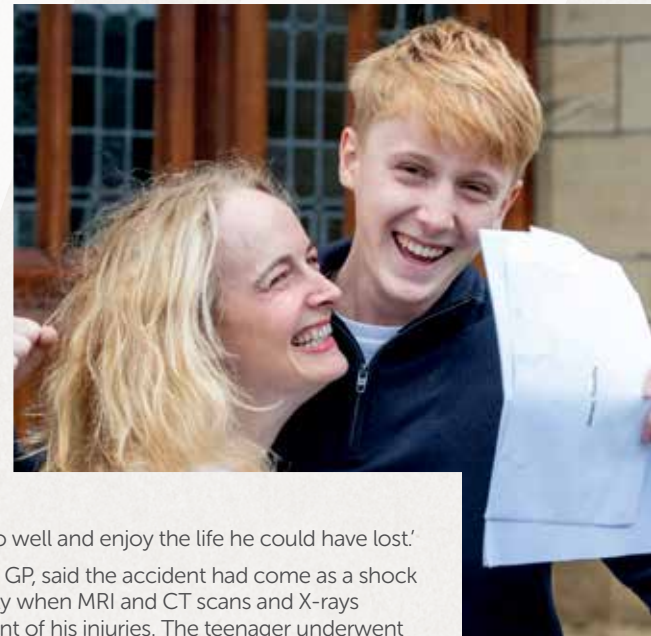
Amelie received two A\* in Biology and Geography and an A in Chemistry. The teenager will be taking a gap year to focus on her running before studying Biological Sciences at Durham University.

Said Amelie: 'I'm looking forward to focusing on my running more abroad in my gap year. I've really loved my time at BGS and I'll be sad to leave!'

Ben also gained two A\*s and an A and will be taking a gap year before heading to Loughborough University to study Sports Technology. Ben enjoyed using BGS's on-site swimming pool for two hours before school every day and during his time with the Yorkshire Triathlon Academy he's had support from Olympians Jonny and Alistair Brownlee, who both attended Bradford Grammar School.

Said Ben: 'It's really good how the Brownlees give back to the next generation. They're very humble and down to earth which is nice to see. Loughborough has a really good triathlon programme so I'm looking forward to progressing there.'

**Dr Simon Hinchliffe, Headmaster at Bradford Grammar School, said: 'Rebecca, Amelie and Ben have spent hours dedicated to their chosen sports while balancing their academic ambitions. They're an inspiration to all our pupils who are looking to get the most out of BGS co-curricular life, whether that's sport, music or art.'**



## Student who broke his neck celebrates GCSE results

A teenager who had spinal surgery after breaking his neck in a mountain biking accident was delighted to gain 10 GCSEs – all Grades 7 and above.

BGS student Tim J spent three months in a neck brace following lifesaving surgery at Leeds General Infirmary after the accident in July 2023.

The keen sportsman had been having fun with his friends at Shipley Glen when a jump went wrong and he fell from his bike, fracturing his neck and rupturing a disc at the top of his spine. Surgeons later said his full-face helmet likely saved his life.

The 16-year-old was all smiles as he picked up his GCSEs, which included one 9, four 8s, and 5 7s. He said: 'I'm over the moon and very happy with my grades. The non-stop support from both school and my family and friends made recovery a lot easier. I wouldn't be where I am without the school and I'm grateful to them.'

His mum, Juliet, added: 'This is a super proud mum moment! We're all so grateful Tim is alive and well and he needs to take all the credit. His calm and quietly determined attitude has paid off.

He simply wants to do well and enjoy the life he could have lost.'

Tim's father, Gareth, a GP, said the accident had come as a shock to them all, particularly when MRI and CT scans and X-rays revealed the true extent of his injuries. The teenager underwent surgery to remove the ruptured disc and put in a false disc with plates across his vertebra. Tim spent three months in a rigid neck brace, wore his school PE kit for five months and his friend helped him with his bags.

**Simon Hinchliffe, Headmaster at BGS, said: 'We're so proud of Tim for keeping positive and moving forward with his life and continuing his studies despite his injury. He's been through an extremely traumatic time but come through it with resilience and grace. He's an example to our other students and we know he'll continue to thrive at BGS.'**



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- 40 Arts and Performance
  - 42 Communities, Societies and Activities
  - 56 Trips and Events
  - 64 Sporting Achievements

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# Junior School







Imar Junior School



# Arts and Performance

## A Spotlight on Emerson

– AUTUMN TERM 2023

Emerson G, a pupil in Year 4, is a keen ballroom and Latin dancer, having started as a beginner at the age of four.

His eldest sister was a regular dancer which gave him the opportunity to try this form of dance. Despite none of Emerson's close friends being dancers, he is very proud of his successful hobby. However, this type of success does not happen easily. Emerson practices twice a week and now has a dance partner named Erin B, who is a Year 9 pupil at BGS.

Recently, at the nationwide sequence dance finals in Blackpool, he came fourth out of 100 people. It was a huge achievement as he got through two rounds to reach the final in his category beating boys from all over the UK. Emerson's favourite type of ballroom dance is the quick waltz and his least favourite is the foxtrot. He particularly enjoys speedy rhythm and beat dances. When he grows up, he would like to be a professional ballroom dancer and perhaps even appear on Strictly Come Dancing!

As a school, we are very proud of all of Emerson's achievements and wish him every success in the future.





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## Oliver's Operatic Success

– SPRING TERM 2024

By Anna R and Rushda R, Year 6 pupils

Since October last year, Year 6 pupil Oliver M has been attending rehearsals at Opera North in Leeds for their production of Benjamin Britten's Opera, *Albert Herring*.

It is a fully professional production, with an orchestra and many adult singers, with national newspapers attending opening night on Friday 12 January to write their reviews.

To be part of this performance, Oliver auditioned and was selected to play the part of Harry. Oliver is just one of two children within the cast of this opera. He worked relentlessly to achieve this role and attended practices four times a week.

When he found out about his prestigious invitation, he was overjoyed with happiness since it was his second opera with Opera North. He was quite nervous before going on stage for the first of a series of shows. Fortunately, everyone was very welcoming, and he had made lots of friends. His singing teacher, who he respects very much, is called Heather Watts.

Oliver was nine years old when he first started singing in the Children's Chorus of Opera North (ONCC) and he hopes to continue his amazing journey and be selected for solo parts in further productions. We wish him every success!



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## House Music Competition

– SPRING TERM 2024

By Ben H, Year 5 pupil

On 6 March, Clock House children enjoyed participating in the annual House Music Competition.

Musicians from across the Junior School came together in the Clock House Hall to showcase their talents and compete against one another in their houses with their most show-stopping pieces that they'd been relentlessly rehearsing at home.

Each pupil that entered received one point. The winners of each category then earned three points, second place received two points and third place one point. Additionally, some of the winners were invited to perform their piece(s) at either the Spring Concert or Prize Giving events.

This year, we had a variety of musicians who played different instruments from string to percussion. When every competitor had finished their pieces, the judges decided who they thought was the best in their group. The winner from each group then achieved a house music medal.

Well done to all involved and a huge thank you to Mr Brook for organising.





# Communities, Societies and Activities

## Harvest Appeal

– AUTUMN TERM 2023

On the Thursday and Friday of the last week of half term, an amazing bake sale was hosted where the children of Clock House came together to raise an outstanding £987 for charity.

Harvest Appeal has been a staple in the Clock House calendar for many years and when it was announced this year, it proved more popular than ever. All around the school people started talking about what they were going to be doing. The out-of-this-world stalls ranged from BGS buns to emoji tin can pyramids. Sebastian R in Year 6 was extremely proud of his carrot picking stall which turned heads on the day!

Overall, all the stallholders did an amazing job of raising money.

Mrs Robertshaw-Hughes had this to say: "It was wonderful to see the whole BGS family club together for such a good cause."







## The Singing Children of Africa

– AUTUMN TERM 2023

On 22 September, a group of about 20 children came to visit the whole school and host a special assembly featuring singing and dancing in African style.

They were here to raise money for the charity Educate the Kids. This is a charity run by volunteers and enthusiasts. Established in 1998, so far, they have enabled over 25,000 children access to education that would otherwise have had nothing. Yvonne, Kombe and Maxwell, all former pupils of the special choir, spoke openly with pupils about how the charity has transformed their lives and offered them support and education at a time when they were truly desperate. Pupils and staff were humbled to hear about the impact the charity had on their lives, and it inspired many of us to want to offer as much help to others in similar situations.

Yvonne Craig had this to say: "The Kenyan children really value the cultural and educational opportunities they have when visiting the UK, and schools such as yours. The funds raised from the singing tours are invested into the school infrastructure and teaching team."

A tiny amount of just £11 a month will pay for books, food, uniforms and teachers. It is an incredible charity, helping the poorest children in Kenya to enjoy a happy and safe childhood. If you wish to donate to this legendary charity, please text 'singing' followed by the amount you wish to donate to 70470.

## European Day of Languages

– AUTUMN TERM 2023

E Green, Junior School Teacher, Subject Lead – Humanities

For European Day of Languages this year, as well as doing a fun quiz in teams during lessons, trying to work out the languages of different signs, all children created a language portrait. Everyone considered which languages were part of their identity and colour coded their portrait.

Mrs Green commented: "It was lovely to see the enthusiasm for languages and how important they are to us.



It was lovely to see the enthusiasm for languages and how important they are to us.





## Round up of life at Clock House

– AUTUMN TERM 2023



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### 1. Year 2 – Building friendships on Induction Day

This year and for the first time, Year 2 had an induction day. We completed some fun activities to develop new friendships and get to know Clock House before the rest of the children returned to school after the summer break. The class met new friends and their teachers and created some self-portraits for a display, before having lunch in the dining room together.



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### 2. Year 3 – DT

In DT, Year 3 have been investigating a range of mechanical systems and they have made a number of prototypes. They will be using their new knowledge to create a moving poster to encourage their families to recycle.

### 3. Year 4 – Observing invertebrates

Woodlice, ants, worms and slugs aplenty! What else lurks beneath the soil in the flowerbeds of Clock House? Year 4 enjoyed using scientific equipment to observe invertebrates in our local school environment. We then classified our findings using scientific terminology.

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### 4. Years 5 and 6 – HMC Rugby

On Wednesday 4 October we took a team to compete in the U11 tournament involving NE HMC schools, playing against strong rugby schools such as St Peter's, Yarm, RGS Newcastle and GSAL. The BGS team represented school with aplomb showcasing the RFU values with the emphasis on competitive performance not competitive outcome.

### 5. Year 6 – WW2 artefacts

Year 6 pupils were in for a historical treat this half term thanks to Mrs Green, who kindly collected a WW2 artefact box from the Imperial War Museum North in Salford for the two weeks between 30 September – 14 October. The artefacts came in a big wooden box and the children worked in groups to identify what they were and who they were used by. They then used iPads to take a photo and researched for homework what the item was and who used it to create a poster.

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## Leadership Roles in Year 6

– AUTUMN TERM 2023

In Clock House, pupils in Year 6 are offered the opportunity to fulfil leadership roles at some point during the academic year.

There are a range of roles available, some of which pupils are voted for by teachers and/or fellow pupils. Here is an overview of the fantastic jobs available to our mini leaders:

**Prefects:** They help the teachers to establish a good reputation for our school. They do important jobs including welcoming guests and helping at weekly assemblies.

**House Captains and Vice-Captains:** Every pupil in Clock House is a member of a house (Bradford, Freeman, Royal or Founders) and each House Captain leads activities for the pupils. On Sports Day, Captains also take charge of organising pupils in their houses.

**Treasurers:** The Treasurers support the House Captain and Vice-Captain and are one of the main leaders of the house. The Treasurer's focused commitment is managing the budget for the house. With the money they buy treats and games for their house.

**Digital Leaders:** Any pupil who has an interest in anything IT related can be put forward for the Digital Leader role. The Digital Leaders aid the younger children in accessing tasks during computing clubs.

**Playground Buddies:** Playground Buddies entertain younger pupils in the playground and arrange fun and interesting games for them.

**Science Ambassadors:** Science Ambassadors organise science workshops and promote science across all of Clock House.



## Meet new pupil... Florence

– AUTUMN TERM 2023

Being a new pupil at a new school can be nerve-racking. Having joined Clock House in Year 5 this September, here is Florence C's opinion on beginning life at a new school.

**Are you enjoying Clock House? What is your favourite thing about school?**

I enjoy Clock House and love DT lessons; making things in DT are my favourite things as I love the challenge.

**What is your opinion of the staff / teachers?**

All the staff / teachers are extremely friendly and delightful. I have been made to feel so welcome by everybody.

**What are your three favourite subjects currently?**

Maths, Art and DT are definitely my favourites. It's so hard to choose!

**Do you do anything outside of school?**

Outside of school, I enjoy dancing, playing the piano and singing. I also love the clubs on offer at Clock House as it means you can try out new hobbies.

**Have you made lots of friends at Clock House?**

It's such a friendly environment. I've made so many friends.

**How did it feel settling into Clock House?**

It was a nervous yet exciting experience. I feel like I have been here a while now.

**Name an opportunity that has come your way.**

I have signed up to attend the Young Voices event. I can't wait!



## Secret Santa

– SPRING TERM 2024

Kit E, Year 6

Several Clock House pupils may have noticed that on Friday 8 December 2023, children were being called from the playground inside.

These pupils paid a small fee to take part in the annual Secret Santa event. Lots of wonderful gifts were displayed to be picked and given as a festive Christmas present to friends or relatives. All the children enjoyed this opportunity to have a bit of merry, cheerful fun!

Some children may not know what Secret Santa is. This is when someone gives someone else a present, but the receiving person does not know who gave the gift. The receiving person also gets a present for another person, but it remains a mystery who gave it to them.



## The Book Fair

– SPRING TERM 2024

Samuel L, Year 5

Whether it's novels or picture books, we can all agree that books are great – that is why we hosted a book fair just before the Christmas break.

We will use the profits to buy more books for use in our lessons and the library. It was held from 28 November to 4 December – thanks to all your generous purchases, we managed to raise over £400 for our fund to purchase more books.

We cannot forget about our helpers, Anna R, Georgia M, Ayla M and Tilly L who helped manage the money and reserve books for people who didn't have enough money to purchase a certain book on that day. Mrs Robertshaw-Hughes, who organised the event, had this to say: "This year's addition of the Year 6 helpers ensured that the event ran smoothly. They were a fabulous support to the team of staff running the book fair and their consistent expertise made for lots of happy customers."

We do hope that this tradition of hosting a book fair will continue!







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## Year 2 And 3 Nativity

– SPRING TERM 2024

By Sebastian R, Year 6

For the Year 2 and 3 Nativity towards the end of last term, many children worked hard and practised for several weeks to put on an amazing show!

There were many highlights, however when all the children sang together, the audience was blown away.

There were many, many roles but the main roles were not Mary or Joseph, but a young girl called Sarah. The audience watched in awe as the children gave it their all – the excitement of the crowd cheered on the younger pupils as they performed what they had been practising for about one and half months!

This was a fantastic event, and everyone is already looking forward to this year's nativity!



## Round up of Life at Clock House

– SPRING TERM 2024

Welcome to a round up of life at Clock House during the term, including climate projects and a Book and a Brew event.

### 1. Year 2 – DT lesson

As part of our Cooking and Nutrition – Design and Technology project this half term, Year 2 have been working in pairs to learn about the preparation of fruit and vegetables, in order to design healthy salads. As well as learning how to safely prepare many varieties of fruits and vegetables, the children have also enjoyed sampling their final creations.

### 2. Year 3 – The Iron Man

This term, Year 3 children have really enjoyed reading *The Iron Man* and exploring the different writing techniques used by Ted Hughes.

### 3. Year 4 – Tooth Decay

Year 4 enjoyed investigating the impact of a range of liquids on their teeth by soaking eggshells (to represent the enamel of the tooth) in sugary and non-sugary liquids. The children were left wondering, will anyone drink Lucozade ever again?!



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### 4. Year 5 – Book and a Brew

Year 5 pupils and teachers recently hosted a Book and a Brew event where parents visited the library to enjoy reading a book with their children and a warm drink. Parents explored the vast range of books in our fabulous library and found out what their child's reading interests were. The Book and Brew event is extremely popular and always goes down well with both parents and pupils! We look forward to other year groups hosting their events.

### 5. Year 6 – Geography Climate Project

Year 6 pupils have been learning about weather and climate this half term, including what we can do to tackle climate change.

There have been amazing homework projects completed on a range of environmental themes and we have been both impressed and proud of our children for their incredible efforts. We can see that the future is safe in their hands.



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## Meet ... Mrs Tapscott

– SPRING TERM 2024

As we undergo exciting expansion plans, our newly appointed Early Years Foundation Stage Lead, Laura Tapscott, talks about what new Reception and Year 1 pupils can look forward to in September.

'I love working with little children and I get such job satisfaction from it. For younger children, the world is so big and it's so exciting and everything you teach them is just... 'wow'. Their wonder is everything to me. When you see them going through the school, growing up, it's lovely to see them mature and know I've taught them to read and write from an early age. Their memories of their early years in school are core memories, and they're pivotal in child development.

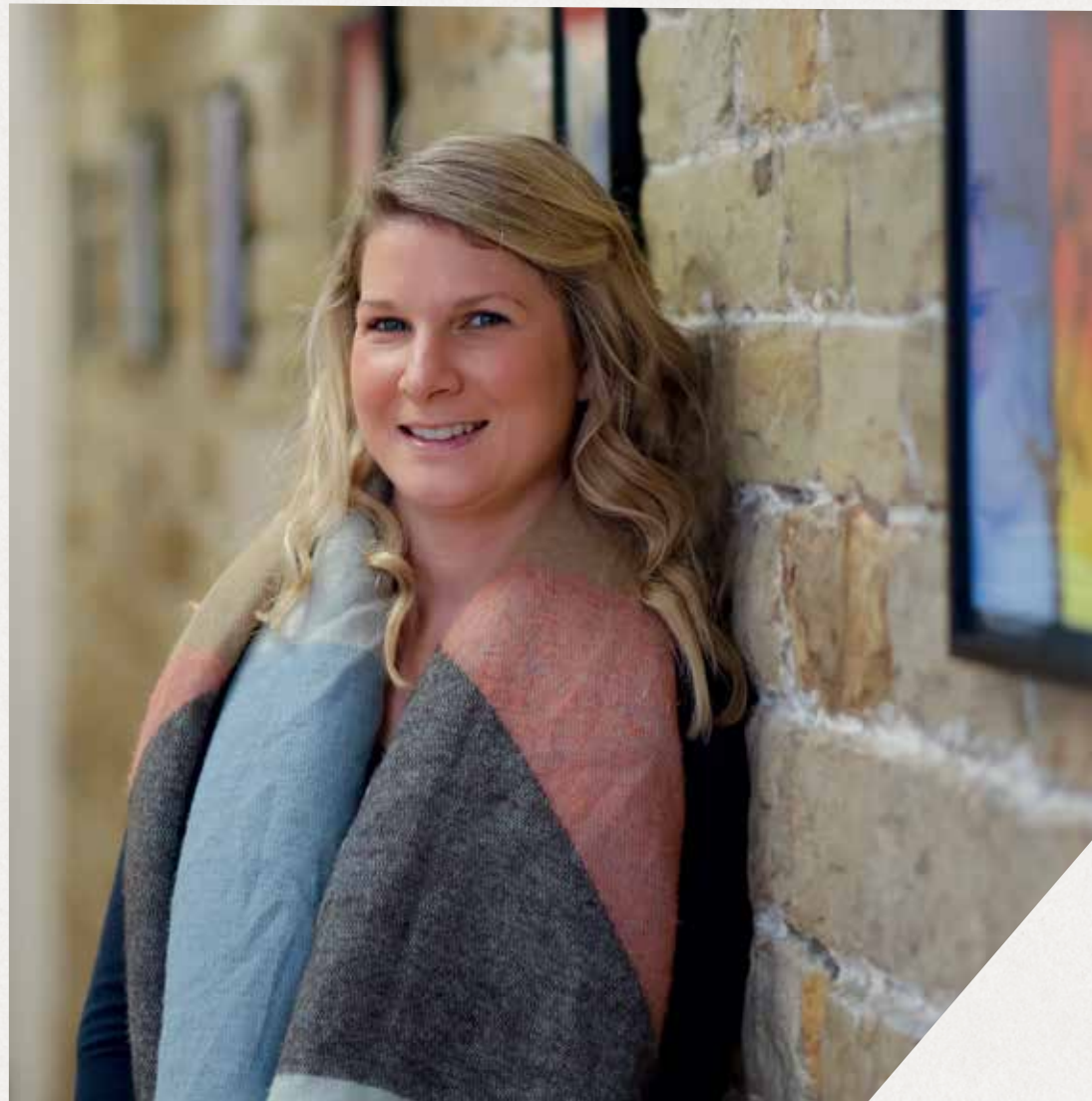
At the moment, there are lots of projects ongoing, with the building, the budgeting, the provision for the Key Stage 1 playground, the menus for the children, all of the assessments – it's a very busy time and there's a lot of logistics!

I'm so looking forward to meeting my new pupils. One thing I loved about my last school was that it was like a family, and I know Clock House will be the same.

The experience these children will get will be second to none.'

**Read the article on our website ...**

[bit.ly/meet-laura-tapscott](https://bit.ly/meet-laura-tapscott)



Their wonder  
is everything  
to me.





## Year 5 pupils turn classroom lessons into profitable ventures

– SUMMER TERM 2024

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Read the full article here ...**

**[bit.ly/year-5-enterprise](https://bit.ly/year-5-enterprise)**

## Round up of life at Clock House

– SUMMER TERM 2024

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

1. Our Year 3 explorers enjoyed the outdoors during their residential visit to Clapham – gorge scrambling was one of the fun activities the children experienced!
2. We welcomed our new House Captains at the beginning of term – a collective highlight was leading their teams at Sports Day.
3. This year's Spring Fair was full of fun and fundraising! Ben A in Year 5 enjoyed diving (in slime) for sea creatures!
4. Clock House children across the whole school had a blast on the Governors' Lawn on a sunny day in May. Rolling down the hill was a popular activity!
5. In Science, Year 5 investigated air resistance and surface area by making paper airplanes and releasing them off the Price Hall balcony.
6. Our Year 2 children got hands on with practical programming in their IT lessons and enjoyed using the Bee-Bots.



... sometimes  
in business  
you have to make  
risky decisions.





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## Earth Day Excellence

– SUMMER TERM 2024

Samuel L (Year 5) and Kit E (Year 6)

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

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

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

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



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## Junior Development Update

– SUMMER TERM 2024

R Ribeiro, Junior School Headmaster

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

The building's interior has been decorated and equipped with state-of-the-art fixed furnishings.

It is a contemporary and spacious setting which draws in plenty of natural light and is a superb space in which our very youngest pupils will learn and flourish.

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

Outdoor learning, creativity and imaginative play are key to child development, and from September, pupils will have access to an all-natural adventure playscape (complete with rope nets, swings and balance beams), an outdoor performance space with amphitheatre seating and a raised teaching deck in and amongst the trees in our woodland zone. These exciting new spaces are located behind the original playground and will be brought into everyday use with the Junior School boundary extended into the woodland area.

Finally, we are now in the process of recruiting experienced teaching assistants to work with Mrs Tapscott and the teaching staff for our new Reception and Year 1 classes. We're delighted to start welcoming our new families to view the building and outdoor spaces. Exciting times ahead for Bradford Grammar Junior School!



... our very youngest  
pupils will learn  
and flourish.



## Being a Buddy makes me happy

– SUMMER TERM 2024

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

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

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

### **Why did you volunteer to become a Reading Ambassador?**

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

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

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

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

I wanted to be a Buddy because of my younger brother, I really like looking after him. Kit joined the Junior School in Year 6 when he was ten.

I think he was nervous and he was a bit quiet at first. I told him everything about the school and I told him some jokes too. (My dad always makes me laugh and he tells them to me!). I introduced Kit to my friends and now he's friends with them as well and he's got his own friends.

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

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

### **Read more Junior School case studies here ...**

[bit.ly/case-studies-junior](https://bit.ly/case-studies-junior)







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

– SUMMER TERM 2024

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

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

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

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

I enjoy all my subjects, particularly DT and PE. We get to do loads of fun things at Clock House – we're doing different experiments in Science at the moment, and in PE we're doing Gymnastics and Athletics. My favourite sport though is Netball and having indoor courts in the Sports Barn means we can play whatever the weather.

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

As I am a shooter, it's important to practise my shots as much as possible and I try to do at least 200 a day. I have to make sure when I get any homework, to do it as soon as I can – I work it around when I'm playing Netball and I always get it done on time!

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

With my Oldham team, we recently won the ENG U10 Northern Cup Finals – I was also player of the tournament and scored a long bomb on the final buzzer. It was an amazing feeling. We have now qualified for the national finals in April near London.

I really admire Eleanor Cardwell who plays as goal shooter for England. She is very inspirational, and watching her play helps improve my gameplay. I'd love to play netball for England one day and be the next Eleanor!

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

**Read more Junior School case studies here ...**

[bit.ly/case-studies-junior](https://bit.ly/case-studies-junior)





## Reading Buddies

– SUMMER TERM 2024

Abreshmina K and Anna R, Year 6

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

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

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

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

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



Reading Buddies are  
a huge part of the  
Clock House family...



# Trips and Events

## Chess Tournament

– AUTUMN TERM 2023

On 11 November 2023, BGS arranged a fabulous chess tournament where students of various ages gave their all at this nail-biting event.

Several Clock House pupils with an enthusiasm for chess took part in the fabulous tournament. Many teachers were there cheering on pupils including Mrs Green, Mr Brook, Mrs Riley, and Mr Ribeiro, plus many others from the Senior School. The main chess games took place in the Price Hall while parents waited in the Sixth Form Centre. Most of the participants in the Sixth Form Centre played chess even when they were waiting for pupils in the Price Hall to finish their games!

One participant, Sebastian R in Year 6 had this to say: "Pupils who had never been to a chess tournament before knew exactly what they were doing. It was an amazing layout but dissimilar to any others I have seen in the past. I loved every second!"







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## Year 6 adventure to Eden Camp

– AUTUMN TERM 2023

On Thursday 5 October, Year 6 travelled to Eden Camp Modern History Museum in Malton.

Pupils discovered the contents of the huts at the former prisoner of war camp, bringing learning to life and providing an insight into daily living during World War II.

Year 6 discovered even more about the topics they had learned about in their lessons as well as discovering new information.

'It was quite an eye-opening experience, especially the blitz den,' admitted Anna R in Year 6.

Overall, the visit to Eden Camp gave pupils an experience they will always treasure. When pupils arrived at school the next day, their attitude to learning in history was in high spirits after their historical adventure!



It was quite  
an eye-opening  
experience...

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## Year 4 Residential

– SPRING TERM 2024

Aamina U, Year 5

The Year 4 residential took place on 25 – 27 January 2024. The trip involved travelling to an outdoor centre called Robinwood in the market town of Todmorden.

Pupils and staff were greeted with a variety of challenges to experience, and many were bursting with excitement upon arrival.

Anthina B-V, a pupil in Year 4, had a fantastic time on the trip and shared a few of her feelings and experiences. Before the trip took place, she had a range of mixed feelings including being excited and nervous. However, on the trip she conquered a lot of her fears, with the support of her group leaders! Even though things were scary, she did not dislike anything. One of her most enjoyable activities was conquering the zipline but her absolute favourite was the giant swing!

This was a fantastic residential and one to look forward to in years to come for younger pupils at Clock House! Thank you to Mr Tatham, Mrs Atkinson, Miss Yates and Mrs Watson for making the trip possible.





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## Alhambra Theatre Visit

– SPRING TERM 2024

Maryam A, Year 6

On Tuesday 12 December, all of the Junior School went to the Alhambra Theatre to watch the Cinderella pantomime.

The Alhambra Theatre is in the centre of Bradford and was built in 1914. The reason for the Alhambra's popularity and significance is that it is one of the most stunning theatres in the country.

The bus journey was quite short, and many children occupied themselves by playing games. Pupils were filled with excitement before the show, and we were also provided with refreshments by our class teachers. Before the show began, Christmas music was being played and the curtains with lovely designs adorned the stage. The whole room was filled with eye-catching, bright colours. Due to the lights at the front of the stage, the red curtains looked magenta!

Here is Year 6 pupil Hamnah C's opinion of the Alhambra Theatre visit:

### **What was your favourite part?**

My favourite part was when the actors began saying the tongue twisters – it was very funny since they were mixing up their words.

### **What was your least favourite part?**

My least favourite characters were the witch and stepsisters, so my least favourite part was when they made an appearance.

Hamnah said she found the pantomime quite funny and enjoyed it a lot.

It was my first time going to the Alhambra Theatre – it was a fantastic experience, and I enjoyed the pantomime greatly! There were excellent effects, and I was mesmerised throughout the whole show!

The whole school enjoyed the pantomime and found it an unforgettable experience!







## Community Comes Together for Iftar

– SUMMER TERM 2024

Maryam A, Year 6

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

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

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

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

//

I was thrilled for the Iftar to happen.



## Year 5 and 6 Conquer the Great Outdoors!

– SUMMER TERM 2024

Ben H and Ishaan S, Year 5

### Hoc Age on Hols!

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

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

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

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

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



Maryam A, Year 6

### In the Wilds of Windermere

On Wednesday 15 May, Year 6 embarked on a trip to rural Windermere.

Pupils faced challenges of canoeing, walking a huge distance and climbing, yes, ... a huge hill! Windermere is famed for its vast lake which spans over 18km and its natural beauty.

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

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

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









We got to touch the Moon.  
It was really incredible.



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## Rare space rocks land at Clock House

– SUMMER TERM 2024

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

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

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

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

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

**Read the full story here ...**

[bit.ly/space-rocks-land-at-clock-house](https://bit.ly/space-rocks-land-at-clock-house)





# Sporting Achievements

## Gymnastics competitions

– SPRING TERM 2024

Misbah N, Year 6 pupil and R Parkinson,  
Teacher of PE and Games

### Super Achievements in Newcastle!

On Friday 26 January, BGS took part in a gymnastics competition at RGS Newcastle.

All the gymnasts that represented BGS performed well – it was a fantastic opportunity for those who had not competed in gymnastics before.

This was the first time boys had ever represented school in gymnastics. The boys team finished in third place overall with Ben A receiving second place on vault and Oliver G scoring the highest score on floor.

The BGS girls A team finished in fourth place, missing third place by just 0.3. Bea J scored 15.5 on floor placing her individually in fourth place and Misbah N scored 15.8 on vault placing her in second place.

In the BGS B team Amina R scored highly on the vault with 15.7 putting her in joint third place, along with Bea J and Safa N. Sophia B scored the highest floor score for the B team with a score of 14.6.

The BGS gymnasts enjoyed the day immensely. It was an eye-opening experience to those that wanted a taste of competing in the gymnastics world!





### Further success in Sheffield!

On Friday 2 February, our gymnastics teams travelled to Sheffield for the annual Yorkshire Floor and Vault and the Milano Team competitions, the first time both have run alongside each other.

The floor and vault involved the gymnasts performing individual floor and vault routines, and in the Milano competition they performed an additional team floor routine. This year we took a range of experienced and new gymnasts which included boys – a BGS first for these competitions.

The U14 floor and vault team consisted of pupils from Years 4 to 7 performing in an older age category. They performed their routines and vaults to perfection, with very little errors made. These gymnasts were crowned Yorkshire champions and now qualify for the National Finals in May.

Our U13 mixed team consisting of Misbah N, Bea J and Issac R entertained the judges with a synchronised team routine which also placed them in first place, making them Yorkshire champions and they now qualify for the National Finals later in March.

Such amazing achievements for our mixed team gymnasts and the first Yorkshire gold medals the school has ever won!





## Ethan's Cross Country Journey

– SPRING TERM 2024

Ishaan S, Year 5 pupil

Ethan P is a Year 5 pupil and talented sportsman. He is a successful runner, holding the school records for Year 3 300 metres and Year 4 600 metres. In recent times, he has started to achieve great things in the long-distance running category and as such he has been interviewed about his cross country journey.

Ethan's mum noticed that he was a fast runner from a very young age. When his family lived in London, he went to Junior Parkrun every week which is a 2k race. Ethan also used to attend an athletics class at the Sir Mo Farah Training Track at St Mary's University in Twickenham, near to where he used to live. When he moved closer to Bradford, he began running for the West Yorkshire club, Ilkley Harriers. Although he didn't begin running in West Yorkshire competitions, Ethan still trained hard, practising up to seven days a week.



Below are some of his responses to a recent interview.  
We wish Ethan and his team continued success for the future:

**At what age did you begin long distance running?**

I was eight years of age.

**Have you had any successes in recent races?**

I have! I finished first in an inter-school XC race and third in the Bingley Harriers Schools XC races back in September. I came 14th in my most recent West Yorkshire league race. The West Yorkshire league is made up of some of the fastest runners from each of the local clubs. I run in the under 11 category which is both Year 5 and Year 6, so I'm one of the younger runners. In the last race, I came 14th out of approximately 40 runners.

**How often do you train?**

My running schedule varies a lot but includes Parkrun, a 5k race on a Saturday morning. My best time for this is 21.59.

**What club do you run for?**

I run for the Ilkley Harriers.

**Do you want to be a cross country runner when you are older?**

I may do. I'm also considering being a sprinter, but you never know what the future will bring.

**Have you ever achieved higher than West Yorkshire (e.g., county, national)?**

I'm hoping to get to Yorkshire next academic year.

**Do you recommend cross country to others?**

If you have good stamina and know when to pace yourself, yes, but if you don't, it will be tiring.







@woodentops.org.uk



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## Shining Sportsmanship at Gymnastics National Finals!

– SUMMER TERM 2024

Misbah N, Year 6

As I woke up trembling with excitement, my emotions were going on a scary roller-coaster!

It was the day of the Floor and Vault National Finals in Stoke-on-Trent (21 April).

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

We were placed sixth overall out of fourteen schools – it was our first trip to the National Finals. There were notable performances from Fia, who achieved sixth on vault, Isaac who individually came third overall and I was placed 11th on floor. We were only 1.105 points away from getting a medal! It was an experience we will never forget.



It was our  
first trip to the  
National Finals.

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- 
- 70 BGS helps to inspire young minds at the Ilkley Literature Festival
  - 71 A busy and musical summer for Thomas!
  - 72 Music at BGS
  - 74 Artists of the term, Autumn 2023
  - 76 Artists of the term, Spring 2024
  - 78 News from the Music Department
  - 78 Sibling Success: Phoebe and Lexi Earn Distinctions in LAMDA Speaking for Performance Exams
  - 79 The Addams Family Musical: A Spooktacular Success!
  - 80 Artists of the term, Summer 2024
  - 82 The BGS Book Awards 2024
  - 83 Music Roundup

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Senior School and Sixth Form

# Arts and Performance







# Arts and Performance

## BGS helps to inspire young minds at the Ilkley Literature Festival

– AUTUMN TERM 2023

In a delightful partnership, Bradford Grammar School proudly sponsored the Jacqueline Wilson author event at the Ilkley Literature Festival on 7 October.

Dame Jacqueline Wilson, celebrated as one of Britain's most cherished children's authors and the creative genius behind iconic characters like Tracy Beaker and Hetty Feather, returned to Ilkley to talk about her brand new book, 'The Best Sleepover in the World!'. The long awaited sequel to her hugely popular book 'Sleepovers', Wilson's session delved into themes of friendship, siblings, and the challenges of feeling left out.

The audience had the privilege of delving into Wilson's creative process, learning how she breathes life into her characters and the work that goes into her literary creations.

Over 350 attendees were captivated by her storytelling expertise and they also had the opportunity to pose questions, making the event an interactive and enlightening experience for all.

Bradford Grammar School's continual sponsorship of the Ilkley Literature Festival not only enriches the festival experience but also underscores our commitment to nurturing a love for literature and learning within the community.

Photo credit: Rich Bunch Photography





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## A busy and musical summer for Thomas!

– AUTUMN TERM 2023

During the summer, Thomas H, now in Year 12, joined the Opera North Youth Company for their production of Gilbert & Sullivan's high-spirited opera, 'Trial by Jury', opening at the Howard Assembly Room in Leeds before touring to the International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival in Buxton.

This junior performing wing of Opera North trains 8 to 19-year-olds under the expert guidance of professional directors, singers and orchestral musicians.

Thomas and the rest of the cast went to Durham School for five days to rehearse and plan for performances and had a lot of fun making the production as sustainable as possible – reusing materials from Opera North's stores and using unconventional materials such as a wedding bouquet made of a head of broccoli – green eco friendly and biodegradable!

During rehearsals, they did lots of drama exercises and games to give the Youth Company real ownership of the production and to think of ways of staging that were more relevant to a modern audience. It was amazing to see the difference in confidence by the end of rehearsal week and play to packed audiences in Leeds and Buxton.

Well done, Thomas!

Photo credit: Opera North and Tom Arber.





## Music at BGS

– AUTUMN TERM 2023

By E White, Director of Music

What an incredible term it's been in the Music Department with 10 concerts taking place before the Christmas break.

### Concert Band

The school year kicked off with a spectacular concert in St George's Hall, Bradford, as the Concert Band and String Trio helped Sovereign Health Care celebrate their 150th birthday.

With celebrity compere, and Old Bradfordian, Dr Amir Khan, the Concert Band played a variety of music interspersed with videos detailing the philanthropic work Sovereign Health Care undertake in the local community, as well as contributing significantly to our Assisted Places programme at school. We were entertained wonderfully at the drinks reception beforehand by the String Trio. It was a real privilege to perform in such an iconic building in Bradford.

### Senior Choir

On 17 October the Senior Choir provided the music for Founders' Day at the Cathedral. Singing 'Let All the World in Every Corner Sing' by Vaughan Williams and leading the hymns was a privilege and it was a real pleasure, as always to sing in Bradford Cathedral.

A particular mention must go to our 13 tenors who really nailed those top As!

The Senior Choir also visited Leeds Minster on 16 November in a joint Evensong with the Minster Choir conducted by the Director of Music at Leeds Minster, Mr Alex Woodrow, who also teaches the piano at BGS. This was a beautifully reflective service and the choir sang canticles by Stanford, an anthem by Vaughan Williams, and responses by Ebdon. It was the choir's first visit to Leeds Minster, and we enjoyed it immensely. Thank you to the Minster for such a warm welcome.

### Chamber Music

After half term, our Tuesday evening recital series started with beautiful performances from our pianists and string players.

The standard of performance at the piano recital was incredibly strong, with pieces ranging from Christopher Norton Jazz classics to Coleridge-Taylor and Bach. The string recital featured many of our solo string players as well as our smaller string ensembles, Cello Choir and String Trio. Once again, there was a wide variety of music on offer and it was lovely to see performers from Clock House to Year 13.

The Autumn Chamber Concert in November provided another platform for our most advanced instrumentalists and singers to perform as well as the termly concert for our small ensembles. Starting the concert off with the Junior Brass Ensemble performing music by Monteverdi then The Beach Boys really highlighted what variety was on show in the Concert. Congratulations to all musicians who performed in the groups and volunteered for a solo.





### Julian Lloyd Webber

We were incredibly excited to welcome Julian Lloyd Webber to the Music Department on Saturday 2 December. Julian and his wife Jiaxin worked with cellists from BGS and other local schools and we loved seeing such a musical legend in action! Thank you to our wonderful cello teacher Sam Laverick for organising this event.

### Christmas Concert and Carol Service

We immensely enjoyed two of our biggest events of the year, our Christmas Concert on 5 December and our Nine Lessons and Carols Service in the Cathedral on 11 December. Year 7 pupils particularly enjoyed rehearsing their performance for the Christmas Concert and it was a joy to hear so much singing in the department on a daily basis!

The Carol Service was a more reflective event, with readers telling the Christmas story and music from the Senior Brass Ensemble and our four school choirs. Well done to all involved.



... we loved seeing  
such a musical  
legend in action!







## Artists of the term

– AUTUMN TERM 2023

1. Aeysha R
2. Anna R-P
3. Caitlin R
4. Charity C
5. Falaq K
6. Hassan K
7. Inaayah K
8. Lara S
9. Lara T
10. Lila W-G
11. Melody C
12. Phoebe M
13. Samuel D



8



9



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11



13



12



## Artists of the term

– SPRING TERM 2024

1. Alice M, Year 9
2. Anastasio M-S, Year 9
3. Austin A, Year 8
4. Eesa A, Year 9
5. Emma C, Year 10
6. Esme U, Year 9
7. Eesa R, Year 8
8. Isaac S, Year 10
9. Lucy H, Year 8
10. Mahiba A, Year 9
11. Oscar D B, Year 7
12. Shreya B-M, Year 8







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## News from the Music Department

– SPRING TERM 2024

By E White, Director of Music

What a great spring term we've had in the Music department! A real high point was the joint Drama and Music production of 'The Addams Family'.

Performing to a sell-out Hockney Theatre for three evening performances in late January/early February, this show was the culmination of months of hard work, rehearsals after school, weekends and hours of practice at home. The 17-piece orchestra sounded stunning and accompanied the musical so well. The chorus mastered the challenging singing parts, and the main roles delivered their songs with panache and aplomb. It was a truly wonderful production and one which will live in the memories of the performers forever!

Our Spring Chamber Concert, held on 14 March was a hugely enjoyable occasion. Featuring our small ensembles and soloists, we were treated to music from Mozart, Debussy, D'angelo and Billy Joel. It's always so exciting to see such a wide variety of music performed so well. Congratulations to our soloists and a special thank you to our music teachers who put so much time into directing our school ensembles!



## Sibling Success: Phoebe and Lexi Earn Distinctions in LAMDA Speaking for Performance Exams

– SPRING TERM 2024

Sisters Phoebe M in Year 10 and Lexi M in Year 7 achieved stellar results earlier this term in their LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) Speaking for Performance exams.

Phoebe, tackling Grade 7, and Lexi, mastering Grade 5, both earned Distinctions, maintaining their streak of excellence since they began at Grade 1. Their success in these exams, known for rigorous assessment of communication skills, showcases their dedication to the performing arts.

Said Phoebe: 'Achieving a Distinction in Grade 7 felt amazing. I always enjoy and look forward to my LAMDA lessons, exams and taking part in local festivals. I'm lucky to have a great teacher and I'm also really proud of my sister who achieved a Distinction at Grade 5.'

Their achievements underscore the value of dedication, discipline, and a genuine love for one's craft. Phoebe and Lexi stand as shining examples of the power of passion and hard work, proving that excellence extends beyond traditional academic pursuits.

Congratulations to the talented sisters on their well-deserved success.





## Family Musical: A Spooktacular Success!

– SPRING TERM 2024

S Seager, Assistant Head of Sixth Form  
Enrichment and Teacher of English

This year's production of 'The Addams Family' proved another triumph for our Drama and Music departments, playing to sold out audiences across three nights in late January/early February.

Over 50 pupils were involved in the production, either as cast, band, technical or backstage crew, demonstrating the wealth of talent on display at BGS.

'The Addams Family' is a musical comedy based upon Charles Addams's beloved macabre cartoon strip, depicting an anything-but-normal American family with an affinity for all things ghoulish. Addams's creation has long been adapted for the big and small screen and has enjoyed huge commercial success for decades, most recently with Netflix's hit series 'Wednesday', but the musical version sees the iconic family pulled in a new direction.

Head boy Tayjus B-M leads the company as Gomez, the amorous patriarch, whose devotion to his family, especially wife Morticia, played by Harriet C, is evident from the opening number 'When You're An Addams', a rip-roaring ensemble number featuring the Addams' ancestors, an outstanding troupe of dancers expertly captained by Charlotte D. Uncle Fester, superbly played by Sulayman B, calls upon the ancestors for help with a family emergency: Wednesday, Gomez and Morticia's dark and sadistic daughter, has fallen in love ... with a boy from Ohio!



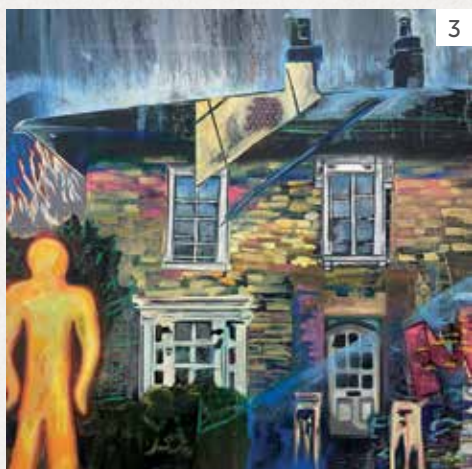
What follows is a hilarious caper as Wednesday and her new boyfriend Lucas, played respectively by Georgie M and Lucas A, attempt to introduce their equally unusual families to one another. In the Addams' mansion, however, one normal night is quite a tall order, especially as the far-from-angelic Pugsley (played wonderfully by Dermot M), devastated not to be tortured anymore by his sister, conspires to break up the happy couple by stealing a truth serum from Grandma. Lauren F plays the wickedly funny old hag, even though it later transpires that nobody knows if she's actually part of the family at all. Lucas's parents, Mal and Alice (Will S and Jessica P) learn to throw off their inhibitions and move towards the darkness. James J steals the show at the end, as the hitherto silent Lurch reveals his stunning bass vocals.

So, full disclosure: if you didn't make it down to the Hockney Theatre to see it, you missed a real treat. Congratulations to Julia Sharp and Elizabeth White for directing another outstanding BGS musical.

**Head over to the BGS Flickr page to view photos from this spooktacular event ...**

**[bit.ly/taf-2024](https://bit.ly/taf-2024)**





## Artists of the term

- SUMMER TERM 2024

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







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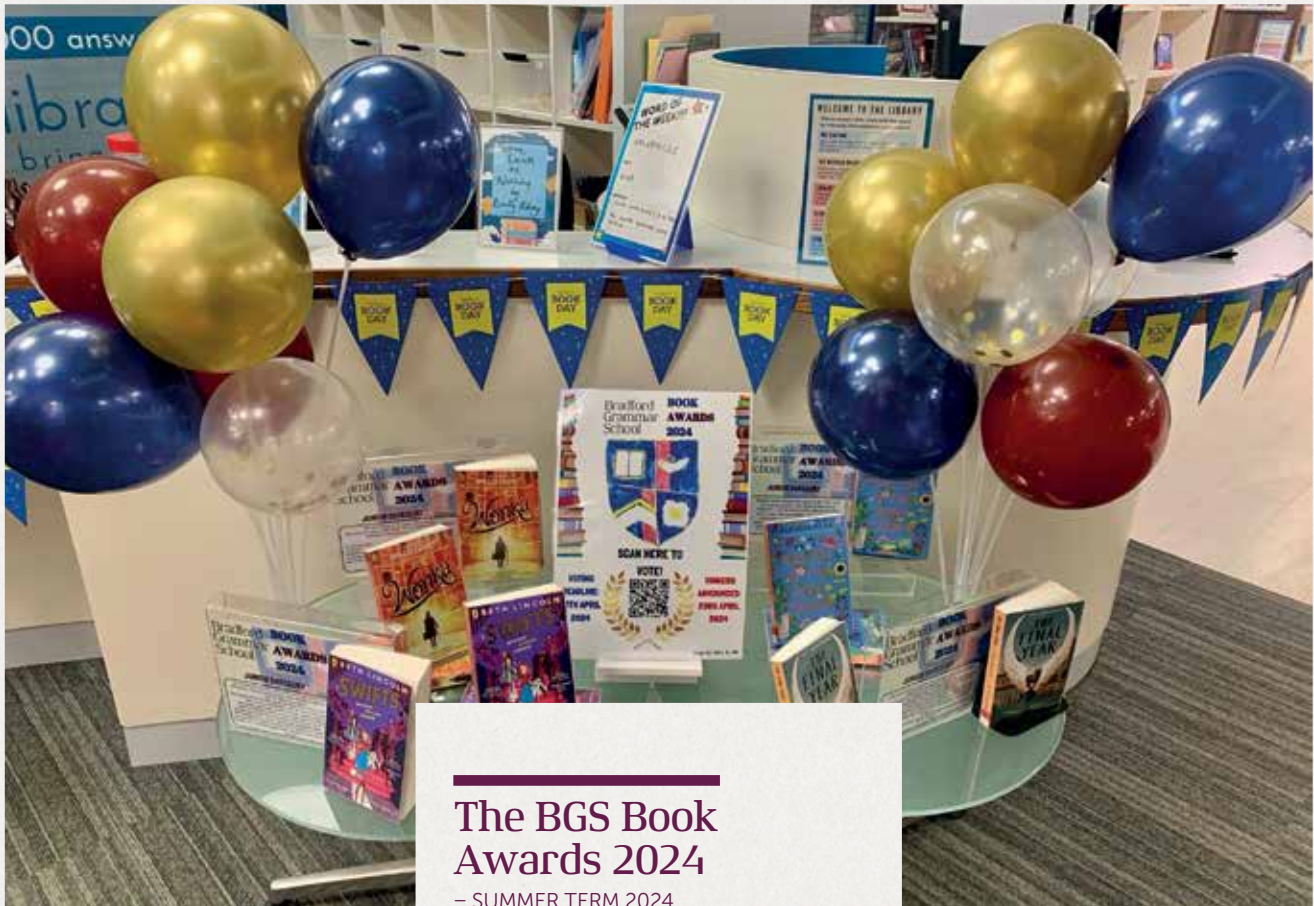


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## The BGS Book Awards 2024

– SUMMER TERM 2024

B Heywood, Senior Library  
and Archives Assistant

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

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

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

The winners were announced on 23 April:

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

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





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## Music Roundup

– SUMMER TERM 2024

By E White, Director of Music

### Leavers' Concert

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

Eleven Year 13 students performed a variety of solos, from Rihanna and Saint-Saëns to ABBA and a movement from Devienne's Flute Sonata – they really showed us how much they have contributed to music at BGS. We bid all our Year 13 musicians a fond farewell and hope they continue making music after school. The other musical items on the night were provided by our four school choirs, singing an incredibly wide variety of music from George Michael to Old Bradfordian, Frederick Delius.

Our large ensembles wowed us with a selection of film music and choreographed items, from Concert Band and our Soul Band, Dixieland Crackerjacks, Wickermen and Big Band, they treated us to some real show-stopping numbers by Nile Rodgers, Lin Manuel Miranda and Bret Zvacek.

It was a wonderful evening – congratulations to all involved and to the hundreds in our wonderfully supportive audience!

### Trinity and Associated Board Exam Results

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

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

**Would you like your child to start learning an instrument at BGS? Please complete our online form if you would ...**

**[bradfordgrammar.com/senior-school/music-lessons](http://bradfordgrammar.com/senior-school/music-lessons)**



- 
- 86 Cheerleading Worlds goal for Alice
  - 87 New recruits in the Development Office
  - 88 Matthew achieves cadet's highest honour
  - 88 BGS does Eurovision!
  - 89 Laura excels in the University of Oxford's Quantum in Pictures Study
  - 90 Young Carers Mentoring Scheme Returns to BGS
  - 91 A day in the life of a Sixth Form student
  - 92 Spotlight on ... Photography Society
  - 94 Computer Science successes!
  - 95 Triumph in the BPhO Physics Challenges
  - 96 BGS Handmade Club joins #knitthestripes
  - 97 Fashion Show 2024
  - 98 Spotlight on ... Duke of Edinburgh's Award

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Senior School and Sixth Form

# Communities, Societies and Activities









# Communities, Societies and Activities

## Cheerleading Worlds goal for Alice

– AUTUMN TERM 2023

Year 8 pupil Alice S has her eye on Cheerleading Worlds, in Orlando, America, after a successful year competing.

Alice discovered she loved cheerleading when she went along with a friend to try a class at Panache Cheer School, in Brighouse – where she soon found a passion for it given its gymnastic and teamwork elements.

Alice went on to win two medals in her first team cheerleading competition in Germany and plans to compete in national UK competitions in the run up to worlds, which take place next April.

Said Alice: “There were four routines and I was in one. It was really fun and the team is really nice and I’ve made lots of friends through it.”

The role Alice has within the team is a ‘base’ and she has been undergoing strength and conditioning training in the BGS gym alongside weekly cheer routine practise.

Her hard work and commitment to the club paid off and she secured two medals in Germany, including a silver.



... I’ve made a lot  
of friends through it.





## New recruits in the Development Office

– AUTUMN TERM 2023

We have two new recruits in the Development Department: Anya Friis and Ali Brook. The duo will help strengthen fundraising, events and communications amongst our Old Bradfordian community and help raise vital funds to support the provision of Assisted Places.

The department has also just launched its annual Impact Report, which looks back on 2022/23 and the successes of the 1662 Campaign, in what has been a challenging year for everyone financially.

**You can view the report here ... [bradfordgrammar.com/impact-report-2023](https://bradfordgrammar.com/impact-report-2023)**

We hope you enjoy reading the stories from our OBs – including ones from our latest cohort, the Class of 2023 – who have benefitted from an Assisted Place.

The 1662 Campaign is dedicated to ensuring BGS offers children from all socio-economic backgrounds access to an exemplary education.

If you're an OB, don't forget to connect with us on LinkedIn and Beyond Bradford. We'll be scheduling a range of events in the coming weeks – watch this space!

**Connect with us on LinkedIn ... [bit.ly/obs-linkedin](https://bit.ly/obs-linkedin)**

**Beyond Bradford ... [bradfordgrammar.com/old-bradfordians/beyond-bradford](https://bradfordgrammar.com/old-bradfordians/beyond-bradford)**



## Matthew achieves cadet's highest honour

– AUTUMN TERM 2023

Combined Cadet Force (CCF) member Matthew M has been honoured with the highest award possible for a cadet.

Matthew, who has been part of BGS's CCF since he was in Year 9, was appointed one of four Lord-Lieutenant's Cadets in a special ceremony at Carlton Barracks, in Leeds, West Yorkshire.

As part of his award, Matthew had to give an address to the Lord-Lieutenant, Ed Anderson, and other civil dignitaries before he was presented with his award.

He said: 'I'm honoured to have been chosen as one of His Majesty's Lord Lieutenants Cadets for West Yorkshire and I know it's a great privilege to represent my school and area in this way. I look forward to working with the Lord Lieutenant and his deputies who have a wealth of experience to share with myself and my fellow cadets.'

Matthew, who is in Year 13 studying Maths, Politics and History A Levels, said he was looking forward to his new role.



'I've learnt a great deal from being in the CCF, such as teamwork, and it's been a great way to get to know other people from around the country,' he said. 'I've also grown in confidence as time has gone on. I've learnt so much and I couldn't recommend it more.'

**Simon Hinchliffe, Headmaster at BGS attended the ceremony and said: "Congratulations to Matthew on his Lord-Lieutenant's Award. We're very proud of him and he can be proud of himself for all of his dedication and hard work. The CCF is an excellent place to learn about leadership and teamwork and we're very lucky to have a thriving force with Army and RAF sections here on site at BGS.'**



## BGS does Eurovision!

– AUTUMN TERM 2023

L Kingsley, Head of Modern Foreign Languages

The Modern Languages Department celebrated this year's European Day of Languages with their very own Eurovision song contest.

Sixth Form linguists took charge, recording and editing three superb videos (including some excellent lip-syncing and cameo appearances from teachers) to create entries for France, Germany and Spain.

The whole school voted for their favourite – it was a close contest, but Spain were the winners (did Dr Hinchliffe's performance swing it?) ¡Enhorabuena España!

At lunchtime there was more European-themed fun and games, including the whole school lunch menu, face painting, quizzes, snacks and even karaoke.

Huge thanks to everyone involved – watch this space for next year's celebration!



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## Laura excels in the University of Oxford's Quantum in Pictures study

– SPRING TERM 2024

Last summer, Year 13 student Laura K took part in the Quantum in Pictures study, an educational project used to teach quantum physics via the pictorial method to UK schoolchildren – who then collectively beat the average exam scores of Oxford University's postgraduate physics students.

The experiment involved 54 schoolchildren, aged 15-17, who were randomly selected from around 1,000 applicants.

Laura spent two hours a week in online classes and after eight weeks she was given a test using questions from an Oxford postgraduate quantum physics exam. Here is what Laura had to say about her experience:

'From June to August last year, I took part in the Quantum in Pictures programme led by Oxford University. It was a study to show that high school students can learn quantum theory, previously only taught to undergraduates.

I participated in weekly lectures and seminars to be introduced to the quantum world. The course ended with an exam, and I'm thrilled that I passed it – I really enjoyed the experience!

Ross McOwen, Head of Year 13 was delighted to hear of Laura's contribution to the experiment: 'Laura's participation, hard work and success in the study is hugely impressive, and certainly speaks to the high-calibre and capability of Laura, the physicist.'

Well done, Laura!







## Young Carers Mentoring Scheme Returns to BGS

– SPRING TERM 2024

S Seager, Assistant Head of Sixth Form Enrichment and Teacher of English

The Young Carers' mentoring scheme has made a very welcome return to Bradford Grammar School, after the pandemic and external funding cuts made it unfeasible to run successfully for the past couple of years.

Thanks to the generosity of the Parents' Association, the programme is back up and running and has already made a significant impact on some of Bradford's most vulnerable young people.

Every Monday evening, a dozen Young Carers from across Bradford come to spend time in our Sixth Form Centre to receive tuition and mentoring from Year 12 volunteers. Our volunteers offer them academic and emotional support, as well as advice on how to revise effectively. This not only improves the young carers' grades, but also gives them confidence in their own ability and, for a short time, they can focus on themselves and not who they are caring for at home.

The two hours are mutually beneficial, as our students have developed useful tutoring and mentoring skills. One pupil who volunteers with the programme said: 'I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience with the Bradford Young Carers' scheme. It is incredibly fulfilling to help other people and it has helped me gain confidence when speaking to new people as well as developing transferable skills that will be useful in later life as I'm aiming to become a teacher.'

The programme will continue running until April.



## A day in the life of a Sixth Form student

– SPRING TERM 2024

Annabel P, Year 13 student  
and Senior Prefect

Towards the end of the last term, a videographer visited BGS to capture the essence of Sixth Form life. Six Senior Prefects led the narrative - here's what one of them had to say about the experience:

'For the Senior Prefects, having the opportunity to film a 'day in the life' video and talk about our experiences at BGS was fantastic. Prior to the day, we scheduled when each of us would be busy, to ensure that all parts of our day were covered. Getting to spend the day as a team talking about the things each of us love was a real privilege. For me, having the chance to talk about the opportunity for expression in art was hugely important. Fortunately, the British weather went in our favour, and we all enjoyed watching each other play sport and chat about our experiences and success in the sporting world.



The staff were incredibly helpful in making us feel comfortable talking about our daily lives and more personal things, like our relationships with subject teachers. These relationships are very important as, in Sixth Form, work is enjoyable and able to be of tailored interest.

For the six of us, extracurricular activities are hugely significant, and seeing so many examples of this in one day truly put it into perspective how lucky we are to have such resources at our disposal. There is always something to do, and I feel that the video really did this justice. In particular, Oliver said he 'felt proud to be able to show off the school and all it offers'.

The BGS value of opportunity is evident throughout the school day, and, as prefect Raza said, the video created an 'accurately enthusiastic representation of BGS'. Thankfully, the videographer managed to pick out some useful words, because – as we found out – we are not naturals in front of the camera and were laughing much of the time!

Ultimately, all six of us thoroughly enjoyed helping to document a 'day in the life', and being given the opportunity show off our school was a genuine privilege.'

**To view the latest BGS Sixth Form video, visit ...**

**[bit.ly/sixth-form-video](https://bit.ly/sixth-form-video)**





## Spotlight on ... Photography Society

– SUMMER TERM 2024

R Skelton, Head of Religious Studies

The Photography Society (that now meets on a lunchtime every Tuesday in T2 at 1pm) started in 2020 when students were being taught on Microsoft Teams due to COVID-19.

Teachers were asked to share their interests and from student responses to photography competitions, the Photography Society was created.

The original members of this group (and those who have subsequently joined) have continued to pursue and develop their skills in photography. Each student has developed their own style and are keen to share their particular passions, interests and styles.

### 1. and 2. Marcus E and Edward M, Year 9:

We like taking action photos (planes, cars, football, sport, etc). This skill may be used to take photos in other areas in various ways. We have shared our most popular and liked images.

### 3. Freddy B, Year 9:

I take photos of landscapes when I go on holiday to places like Northumberland. I also like to take pictures of buildings and fascinating rooms like the Winter Gardens in Blackpool. I then edit and enhance colours using filters to bring out the vibrancy of the landscapes as well as taking photos in black and white which enhances the texture and contrast of the photo.



### 4. Dermot M, Year 9:

I take landscape pictures of beautiful scenery and also portrait photos of trees, bushes, rocks, etc.

I like to take my phone on walks because I usually take photos of whatever catches my eye rather than planning it. I often edit my photos to make them more vibrant and colourful, which I think has a nice effect on pictures of nature. I think I have a unique and interesting style of photography that I have never seen before.

### 5. Zoila R, Year 7:

As an artist and photographer, I take pride in capturing the beauty of nature and light, usually as close-up photos. My main subjects tend to be things such as flowers or small insects – recently I have taken pictures of buildings like BGS as well, which I enjoy thoroughly. I am also fond of experimenting with filters to make my pictures become colourful and lively. Furthermore, I often edit photographs so that the colours, textures and lighting are brought out.



### 6. Joe B, Year 13:

I like taking photos of wildlife and motorsports. While these might seem opposed, they are both very opportunistic styles of photography, working with telephoto lenses and fast shutter speeds.

### 7. Lukas G, Year 9:

I enjoy taking action photos of trains and other modes of transportation, which has allowed me to get some good still photos and also panning shots, as well as landscape photos capturing the rolling countryside and urban landscape shots. I have previously used post editing to make some photos more vibrant, or to put them into black and white.

### 8. Haruka N, Year 7:

I like taking pictures of nature, especially when it's early in the morning and the sky is a lovely pink colour. I also enjoy capturing images of wildlife in action, for example, a butterfly as it begins to fly away. I love seeing the vibrant colour in a close-up picture. I enjoy taking beautiful photos and fiddling with the filter to make them even more colourful. My favourite filter at the moment is dramatic and noir. I also enjoy taking pictures of busy environments and looking at them after and seeing all the colours against a black and white filter.







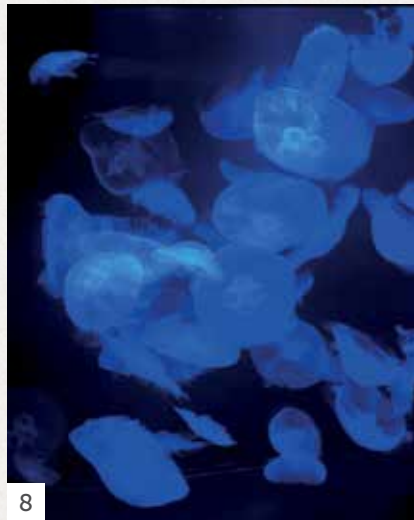
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9

**9. Neeve M, Year 7:**

For me, photography is about capturing the beauty of the world in one picture. I like taking pictures of landscapes, whether that's a city skyline or in the middle of the countryside. I especially like taking pictures of sunrises and sunsets and sometimes pictures of nature too. I mainly take pictures in colour but every so often I use filters such as black and white.



... photography is about capturing the beauty of the world in one picture.





## Computer Science successes!

– SUMMER TERM 2024

N Asghar, Head of Computer Science

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

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

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

Further triumph awaited us in the realm of Lego Robotics.

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

The pinnacle of the competition, the National Final held in Harrogate on 20 April, witnessed 72 teams vying for top honours in robot games and innovation projects.

Both BGS teams made it and shone brightly, with 'Lego of My Bricks' clinching the top spot for their innovation project, and 'The IncrediLEGOS' earning the esteemed Judges' Motivate Award while securing eighth position overall.

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

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







## Triumph in the BPhO Physics Challenges

– SUMMER TERM 2024

J Boardman, Deputy Headmaster and Teacher of Physics, and V Powne, Head of Physics

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

Each participant – Tom V, James N, Eliza S, Thomas P, and Rowan R – received recognition for their outstanding performance.

Notably, Rowan's achievement earned him a coveted gold award, placing him in the top 9 per cent of all entrants and securing an invitation to the prestigious Royal Society Annual Awards event.

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

These successes not only highlight individual brilliance but also underscores the school's commitment to academic excellence.

Congratulations to our exceptional pupils on their remarkable accomplishments.





## BGS Handmade Club joins #knitthestripes

– SUMMER TERM 2024

E Tomlinson, Head of Year 7 and Teacher of Modern Languages

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

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

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

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



## Fashion Show 2024

– SUMMER TERM 2024

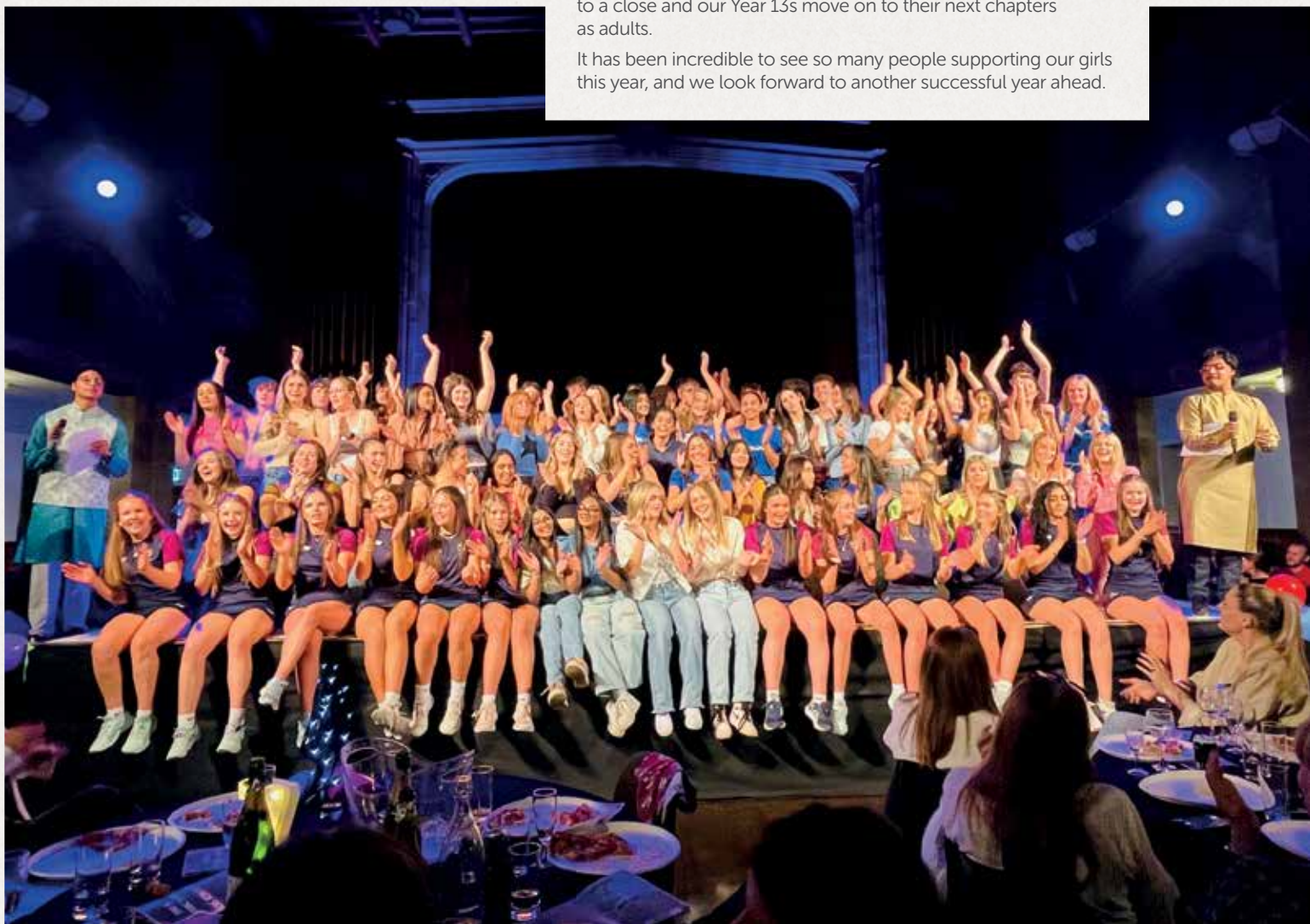
L Kelly, Acting Specialist Sports Coach, Netball

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

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

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

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





## Spotlight on ... Duke of Edinburgh's Award

– SUMMER TERM 2024

S Hoath, Teacher of Biology and DofE  
Award Leader

After the lockdown years, the award is finally back up and running and thriving across all three levels. The DofE Award has always attracted large numbers of students interested in gaining additional experiences and skills, and at BGS numbers are booming.

The award now has three members of staff to manage the three different levels: Mr Hoath at Gold, Mrs Heywood at Silver and newly appointed Mr Winstanley is the leader of the Bronze Award.

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

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







... students showing  
the commitment and  
determination to complete  
their award ...



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- 102 Year 7 residential
  - 102 Year 12 and 13 French and German trip to the Black Forest
  - 103 When in Rome ...
  - 104 Future Innovators on the Factory Floor
  - 104 Spanish cultural trip to Calafell, Catalunya
  - 105 Slopes, Sunshine and Snowy Delights!
  - 106 Opal Coast Trip
  - 107 Senior Ski Trip to the Rockies

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## Senior School and Sixth Form Trips







# Trips

## Year 7 residential

– AUTUMN TERM 2023

E Tomlinson, Head of Year 7

Our new Year 7 cohort began their BGS journey in true 'Hoc Age' style by embarking on their first Senior School residential in September.

We glamped for two nights at PGL Caythorpe Court in Lincolnshire and enjoyed a variety of activities such as raft building, archery, abseiling, laser tag and Jacob's ladder.

Going away so early into term is a nerve-wracking prospect for some, but the benefits to both pupils and staff are huge. We came back gelled, having made new friends and had new experiences demonstrating excellent teamwork, resilience and communication skills. We are excited for Year 7! Hoc Age!



## Year 12 and 13 French and German trip to the Black Forest

– AUTUMN TERM 2023

P Sugden, Head of German

We embarked upon our European adventure on Thursday 19 October and travelled to the beautiful city of Colmar in the Alsace.

Year 12 and 13 students took it in turns to enquire about transport links, seek directions to food establishments and book tickets. We spoke to waiters in French, customs officials in German and bus drivers in both! We sampled Maultaschen, Pfannkuchen/tarte flambée (depending on which side of the border we were on), Käsespätzle, Brezeln, SchwarzwälderKirschtorte, foie gras burger, Munster fermenté, Schwipp Schwapp and a giant Babybel.

Our journeys included regional trains, ICE trains, trams, coaches, a cable car, a minibus and a couple of aeroplanes.

The camaraderie developed as our group visited Freiburg and Titisee, immersing ourselves in the culture of the Black Forest region and enjoying the autumn colours from our Bootsfahrt.

On our final day, we travelled to Strasbourg and were captivated by the impressive Louise Weiss European Parliament building, where we were able to experience the Parliamentarium, the Hemicycle and discover more about how European democracy works and about the history of the world's largest transnational parliament. A truly European adventure.







## When in Rome ...

– AUTUMN TERM 2023

R Skelton, Head of Religious Studies

**What a treat for all staff and pupils!  
With an early morning start, leaving  
BGS at 2.45am on Wednesday 25  
October, our journey to Italy and  
ancient Rome was just beginning.**

A very excited school group of Religious Studies and Classics students arrived in a warm and sunny Rome, where our busy schedule began in the ancient port of Rome, Ostia Antica and then continued underground into the Catacombs of Saint Sebastian (of which the Necropolis, an ancient city of the dead was a particular marvel). A very busy and full day ended with a lovely restaurant meal in the heart of Rome.

On our second day we began with an unforgettable experience of the Metro in Rome and managed very skilfully to navigate a very busy commuter train! Underground was a theme to the beginning of our day, exploring the wonders and eccentricities of Nero's extravagant palace, the Domus Aurea and then travelling to the dizzying heights of the Victor Emmanuel II monument, pausing to learn about and reflect on the tomb to the unknown soldier, guarded by Italian marines. Pupils were able to practise their Italian and order lunch, while Dr Reeson ordered lunch with ease in fluent Italian! Our afternoon was another busy exploration of ancient art, symbolism and culture of Rome in the Capitoline Museum, moving to the Borghese Museum, exploring the power of the sculptures of Bernini and the art of Caravaggio.

With each day being crammed full of activity, our last full day was no exception. We started with a tour of the Colosseum followed by a tour of the Roman Forum, followed by more Metro navigation to the Vatican Museums which took our breath away as we walked down corridors of statues, paintings, artefacts and the beautiful frescos of the Sistine Chapel.

It was a trip of adventure, discovery, sensory overload and great excitement – thank you to all staff and pupils for making it a trip to remember.





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## Future Innovators on the Factory Floor

– AUTUMN TERM 2023

S Cowdell, Teacher of Design & Technology

On the morning of 12 October, Year 12 set off on possibly the closest educational visit on record.

Making the 10-minute walk down Frizinghall Road to Ernest Cummins Printers, the A Level students were excited about seeing the industrial application of the design theory they were studying at the time.

Over the past four years, the DT department has taken the opportunity during Bradford Manufacturing Week to visit the local factory to complement the 'Paper and Boards' unit. On the surface this topic may not sound overly exciting, however teaching is complemented by hands-on experience as well as industry insight and a design competition judged by a leading senior designer at UK Greetings, a Dewsbury based greeting card design studio.

Visiting the Ernest Cummins factory allowed students to compare printing processes, such as digital and offset lithography, as well as finishing techniques including foiling and embossing. Seeing the machines running as well as speaking with the staff who maintain the operations and oversee quality control, embedded their theory knowledge by bringing it to life.

It is important that we provide these opportunities for students to see manufacturing taking place and be exposed to people and places they may not normally come into contact with.



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## Spanish cultural trip to Calafell, Catalunya

– AUTUMN TERM 2023

B Cuesta-Gonzalez, Head of Spanish

On 23 October a group of 43 pupils from Years 10 to 13 took part in our annual Spanish trip.

This year we visited the beautiful region of Catalunya, staying at the coastal town of Calafell. Upon arriving in Spain, we took a cable car to visit the Monastery of Montserrat; nestled in the mountains, the site is one of the holiest places in Spain, surrounded by spectacular scenery.

We spent a day exploring the cosmopolitan city of Barcelona, with a guided visit to Gaudi's Sagrada Familia.

A visit to the city of Tarragona and PortAventura theme park was a fitting end to this extremely enjoyable trip.

Once again, we made the most of the opportunities to practise our Spanish and enjoyed the beautiful weather and Spanish culture.





## Slopes, Sunshine and Snowy Delights!

– SPRING TERM 2024

A McOwen, Head of Politics, Head of Sixth Form Enrichment and EPQ Coordinator

During February half term, the Junior Ski Trip saw 79 Year 8-10 pupils visiting Folgarida in Italy.

The pupils enjoyed five days on the piste, four of which were drenched in beautiful sunshine. The advanced group also took advantage of the connection to Madonna di Campiglio, skiing the iconic Tomba Wall.

Thomas H won the Mountain Goat award, whilst Catriona W distinguished herself as a highly accomplished skier. Master of Disaster was awarded to Edward S.

The evening entertainment programme had something for everybody, with George N demonstrating a unique style on the ice-skating rink, Freddy B and Lorna Y leading the Macarena, and Samuel S delivering a great rendition of Supersonic. Evie S used tin foil to transform herself into a convincing cat, whilst Alice S's binbag biceps showed great ingenuity in the Folgarida's Top Model contest. Plenty of pizza and pasta was enjoyed by all, as was the fantastic Italian hospitality provided by the hotels.





## Opal Coast Trip

– SUMMER TERM 2024

K Whyte, Head of French and Teacher of Modern Languages

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

The adventure began at 5.30am and after a lengthy journey, we arrived in Desvres by 6pm.

Our first evening was spent meeting our animateur Julio, being shown around the hotel grounds, unpacking, and enjoying our first French evening meal.

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

The highlight of the trip was the visit to the Sea Life Centre in Boulogne-sur-mer, where pupils enjoyed the sights and learned fascinating sea life facts. Afterwards, we visited La Coupole, a decommissioned Nazi missile bunker, which particularly interested our history enthusiasts. On the final evening after the evening meal, pupils had the opportunity to taste some escargots. They were surprisingly popular!

On the final day, after breakfast and packing, there was a quick visit to a local art workshop where pupils made their own notebook.

Thanks to a slow queue at passport control, we almost missed the ferry back to England but made it just in time thanks to our driver. A quick stop at a service station meant that we returned to Bradford by 11pm, concluding a memorable trip.





## Senior Ski Trip to the Rockies

– SUMMER TERM 2024

Penny B, Year 12 student

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

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



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

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

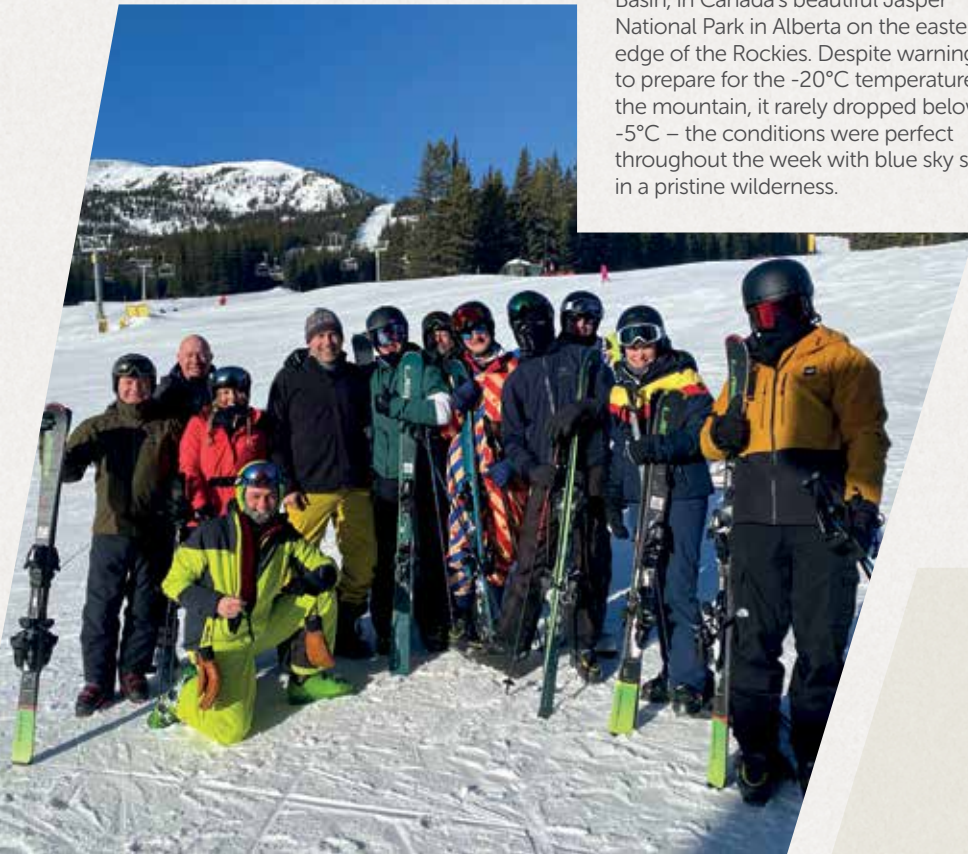
We also went swimming, ice skating, watched a local ice hockey session, took trips into the town of Jasper, ate huge ice creams and chilled out in the outdoor hot tub.

Spending time with friends doing a sport you love is a real privilege and has created lifelong memories.

Thank you to Mr Taylor who organised the trip and to all the teachers who made it so great.



... blue sky skiing  
in a pristine wilderness.





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- 110 BGS has faith!
  - 111 BGS chemists head to the National Finals
  - 111 Exciting Alumni Events & Initiatives
  - 112 Emile's epic marathon triumph and Old Bradfordian Celebrations
  - 113 A morning of magic and literacy with Ross Welford
  - 113 Leavers' Lunch 2024

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Senior School and Sixth Form

# Events and Visiting Speakers









# Events and Visiting Speakers



## BGS has faith!

– AUTUMN TERM 2023

R Skelton, Head of Religious Studies

'Faiths in the City' day on Wednesday 18 October was a day of collaboration and exploration as pupils explored religious responses to compassion, generosity and hospitality.

The event was richly rewarding and stimulating for our 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 pupils through a variety of activities (which focus on exploring our theme), such as dance, musical performance, art, and drama.

The workshops this year included a Hindu dance workshop that performed Bharatanatyam, a classical Indian dance style. Year 9 pupils were certainly put through their paces!

In one of the Christian workshops led by 'Riding Lights', pupils performed their own dramatic sequences as well as explored the work of this theatre group and their Christian witness. The other Christian workshop explored the Christian approach to compassion and generosity through discussion and reflection, with reference to biblical stories and teachings focusing on hospitality.

The Islamic calligraphy workshop was led by Zareena who inspired our pupils to make beautiful traditional calligraphy designs.

The Sikh workshop allowed pupils to learn about and play traditional Sikh musical instruments as well as dance.

We also invited three different Buddhist communities to the school, from Manchester, Sheffield and Keighley. The pupils were able to build on their learning of Buddhism through their engagement with these different Buddhist communities.

Well done to all of Year 9 for making this event a very special and rewarding day.



... celebrating and  
exploring the richness  
and diversity of faith  
in our community.





## BGS chemists head to the national finals

– SPRING TERM 2024

M Tate, Head of Year 8 and Teacher of Chemistry

On Wednesday 17 January, Poppy H-C, Fausto K, Liberty P, and Rowan R won the Central Yorkshire round of the annual Royal Society of Chemistry Top of the Bench competition at York University.

The four students came out on top following five written and two laboratory-based challenges. In these challenges they demonstrated their excellent knowledge, analytical skills, and precision in experimental technique, all whilst working as a cohesive team. This victory means that they will proceed to the national finals in Edinburgh, and everyone at BGS will be wishing them all the best in competing against other top Chemistry students from around the country.

## Exciting Alumni Events & Initiatives

– SPRING TERM 2024

A Friis, Head of Development

As we step into spring, the Development Office is looking ahead to a range of events to engage with OBs across the country.

We kicked off with our Swimming and Water Polo Gala earlier this month where BGS pupils took on Old Bradfordians (OBs) in an afternoon of competitive fun. Our annual Reunion Lunch returns on 20 April – this is an exciting event as it will be the first year we welcome the 1960s cohort to join us for this special occasion.

As we enter May, we will be hosting social events in Leeds and London, providing the perfect opportunity for our alumni community to reconnect, network and reminisce about all things BGS.

Before our Year 13s depart for study leave, the Development Office will be holding drop-in sessions to support students setting-up LinkedIn profiles so they can begin creating their identity in the professional world. We have a vast network of OBs on LinkedIn who are always happy to support and guide our students as they embark on their next adventure.

If you're an OB and you'd like to hear about upcoming and future events, please connect with us on LinkedIn, and ensure your details are up to date to receive publications and correspondence.

Connect with us on LinkedIn ... [bit.ly/obs-linkedin](https://bit.ly/obs-linkedin)

Update your details ... [bit.ly/OB-update-my-details](https://bit.ly/OB-update-my-details)





## Emile's Epic Marathon Triumph and Old Bradfordian Celebrations

– SUMMER TERM 2024

A Brook, Development Officer – Engagement

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

### Emile's Home Run

Emile Cairess (2016) made headlines by securing a third place finish out of 53,000 runners in the 2024 London Marathon.

This remarkable feat makes Emile the second-fastest British marathon runner ever, earning him an automatic spot in the Paris Olympic Games. We eagerly anticipate watching him compete in the Olympics in a few weeks and extend our best wishes to him from everyone at BGS.

### Old Bradfordian Events

The past three months have been a whirlwind of social events for our Old Bradfordians, featuring reunions, a swimming and water polo gala, hockey and cricket festivals, and culminating in rugby matches and the Ilkley sevens. It has been wonderful to see so many OBs from various years participating and competing against our current students in these sports.

One stand-out event was May's London Social, where we celebrated 40 years of girls at BGS in collaboration with the Old Bradfordians Club (London). Assistant Head Jane Chapman was our guest of honour and attended with her family and over a hundred OBs to reminisce and share memories. As Jane retires after 35 years at BGS, she fondly recalled the early days of girls joining the school before it became fully co-educational, paying tribute to the 1,400 girls who enriched and shaped our school: 'Our BGS girls have always fully embraced Hoc Age and school life. From the moment they arrived 40 years ago, they have enriched and developed our school in so many ways, making it what it is today.'

It has been wonderful to see so many OBs from various years ...





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## A Morning of Magic and Literacy with Ross Welford

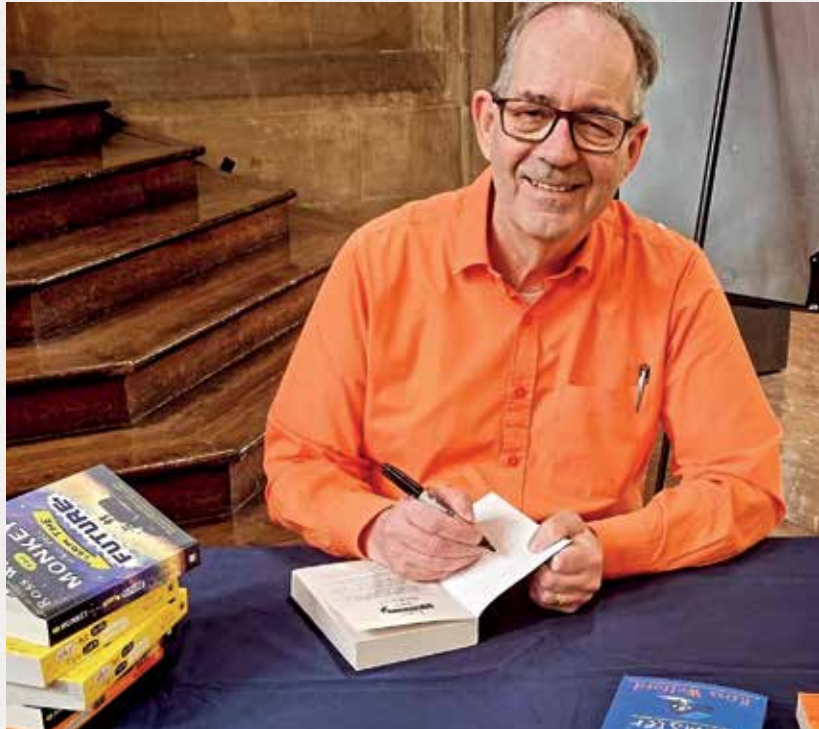
– SUMMER TERM 2024

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

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

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

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



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## Leavers' Lunch 2024

– SUMMER TERM 2024

R McOwen, Head of Year 13 and Teacher of Music

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

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

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

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

View the Flickr album for this event at ...

[bit.ly/leavers-lunch-2024](https://bit.ly/leavers-lunch-2024)





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## **116 Sporting Achievements**

- 116** Sporting highlights, Autumn term 2023
- 117** Bella participates in the British Rowing National Development Camps
- 118** Equestrian success at the Horse of the Year Show
- 119** Sporting Highlights, Spring term 2024
- 120** Ben scores in England hockey debut
- 121** BGS Gymnasts Soar: Yorkshire Gold and National Qualification!
- 122** Orienteering, Summer term 2024
- 123** Sporting Highlights, Summer term 2024

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## Senior School and Sixth Form

# Sport

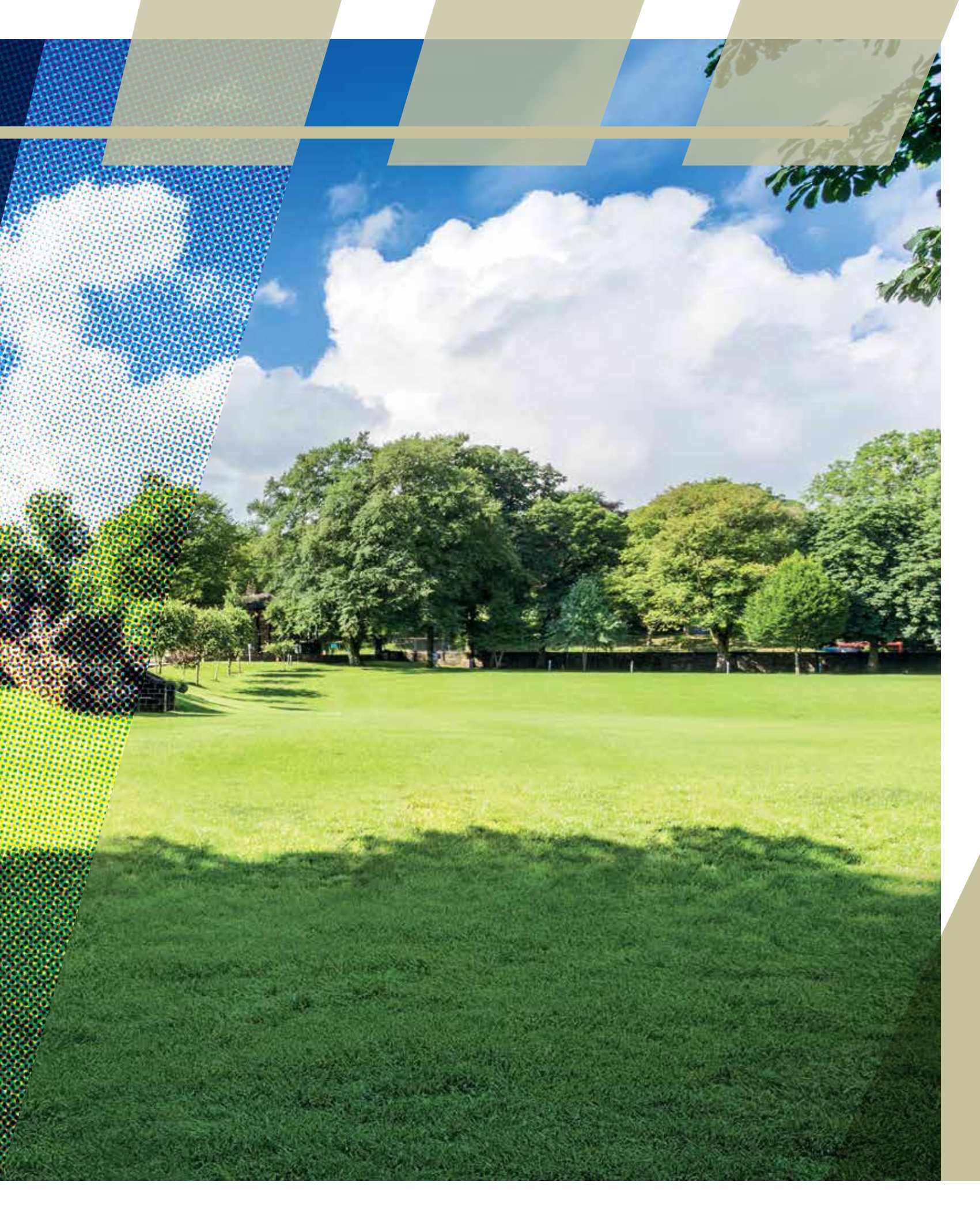
### **124 Sport Reports**

- 124** Athletics
- 125** Cricket
- 129** Cross Country
- 130** Gymnastics
- 131** Hockey
- 136** Netball
- 139** Orienteering
- 139** Rowing
- 140** Rugby
- 143** Squash
- 144** Swimming
- 145** Table Tennis
- 146** Tennis
- 148** Water Polo

### **150 Sport Tours**

- 150** Rugby
- 152** Netball







# Sporting Achievements

## Sporting highlights

– AUTUMN TERM 2023

J Moran, Director of Sport

The term started strongly with numerous pre-season activities in preparation for a packed calendar of fixtures and events in the autumn term.

Thirty boys headed to North Wales on a rugby camp that comprised of training as well as a team building and quarry karting session. At the end of the trip, they attended the King's School Macclesfield Festival playing four matches against opposition from across the country.

Following the successful summer tour of South Africa, the senior girls' hockey team attended the Nottingham High School Festival. They competed well in every game, progressing all the way to a final. True 'Hoc Age' spirit was on display throughout the tournament.

There was national success in the opening weeks of term, as Amelie L won the English Schools U18 Fell Running Championship, hosted at Giggleswick School, with Martha J finishing fifth after a strong return to the fells. This running success was capitalised on later in the term as the senior girls' team qualified for the National Finals. Amelie added to her Fell Running success, taking first place in the qualifying race for schools in the North of England. The girls were bolstered by the returning Rebecca F for the National Finals at Woodbridge School towards the end of term. Rebecca claimed first place, with Amelie a respectable third. The efforts of Martha J, Carla B and Phoebe M, ensured a landslide victory for BGS in the final standings.

In Orienteering, 30 students from Years 7 to 12 enjoyed a joint orienteering and cross-country trip to Leicestershire in October. The main focus was the British Schools Score Championships which took place in Martinshaw Woods, Groby. The Year 10 to 13 boys retained their British title from 2022, and the Year 7 to 9 boys and girls also stood on the team podium. Captain and Year 13 student Tom T and Year 11 pupil Henry S both earned individual silver medals, and Year 7 pupil Ben R went one better to clinch gold.

During half term, the Year 9 netballers went on tour to Disneyland. Day one consisted of a masterclass, with expert coaches and day two was tournament day. Both teams did extremely well, setting standards high and encouraging one another. After some close fought matches, against some strong opponents, our B team was placed third in the Plate competition, after winning the third/fourth playoff with a golden goal! Our A team had an incredible afternoon, progressing through to the final. The girls stuck to the task in front of them, winning 13-7 and being crowned Showdown Cup Champions.

The girls celebrated their successes exploring Disneyland. To top off what had been an amazing day, that evening the girls continued their celebrations at the awards evening. Later in the term the U14 squad had further success qualifying for the regional rounds of the National Netball Cup. The U16 squad also got in on the action, qualifying for the next round on a great day of netball where BGS hosted all three competitions in the barn.

The U16 girls tennis team reached the LTA National Schools Finals in Bolton for the first time in BGS history. The team made up of Jameela T, Katy H, Ava R and Evie S, acquitted themselves with distinction to finish fourth overall. The highlight was an excellent team effort against King's High School, Warwick.

The amount of sporting participation and performance has been staggering this term, with 'Hoc Age' spirit at the heart of it from pupils, staff and parents.





## Bella participates in the British Rowing National Development Camps

– AUTUMN TERM 2023

M Jones-Gerrard, Assistant Coach – Rowing

Following Bella M's successful summer season last year, in October she was invited to take part in a regional talent testing day.

Bella, in Year 11, once again showed her strength and maturity at this event and as a result, she has been invited to participate in the British Rowing National Development Camps for the 2023/24 season.

Said Bella about her selection: 'Being selected for the Performance Development Camps was a great achievement for me. The weekend was very intense and included strength testing, time trials, rowing machine testing and skills assessments. I look forward to seeing how much I can progress in future camps!'

The National Development Camps look to improve all aspects of a young athlete's rowing, from their athleticism to boat handling skills and performance lifestyle skills, including nutrition and race tactics.

Congratulations to Bella on her fantastic achievements to date and good luck for the coming season!



The amount of sporting participation and performance has been staggering this term ...



## Equestrian success at the Horse of the Year Show

– AUTUMN TERM 2023

Two students enjoyed huge success after taking part in the largest equestrian show in the UK calendar.

Lucinda L and Tilda H both competed in the prestigious Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham in October.

Year 10 pupil Lucinda competed in two classes at HOYS – the 14hh Working Hunter Pony of the Year on Rose and the Junior Large Breeds Pony of the Year on Harry, a Connemara pony.

Lucinda won and went champion on Harry which qualified her for the Supreme Championship, riding against the winners of all the other show classes. It followed success earlier in the week when Rocky, who Lucinda won the Open Section A of the Year on last year, was also in the Supreme this year ridden by her brother.

Said Lucinda: 'I was thrilled to win the Junior Large Breeds Pony of the Year and become champion on Harry and it was beyond my wildest dreams to be in the Supreme Championship, among the best of the best. I never thought it would be possible to ride in the Supreme Championship at HOYS with my brother, it was an experience of a lifetime.'

Tilda, in Year 8, qualified five ponies for six different showing classes, ranging from Junior Small Breeds Pony of the Year to 138cm Show Pony of the Year.

She said: 'I was really pleased with the way all the ponies performed. HOYS has such a high standard and it's a privilege to qualify and compete there. I was especially pleased to be placed 9th with Robin, at only my second show with him, and 2nd with Edward, against other competitors much older than me, some even up to the age of 17.'

'It can be nerve-wracking for a 12-year-old girl to enter a ring where everyone has their eyes on you, however, I've gradually become less affected by nerves. I've developed many strong friendships along the way and I also love the proud feeling I get when I know I've improved, even just from one ride or from over the years.'







## Spring Term Sporting Highlights

– SPRING TERM 2024

J Moran, Director of Sport

Since returning from the Christmas holidays there has been an incredible amount of sporting action packed into the first five weeks of term.

It was brilliant to officially open the new Cardiovascular Gym Suite above the Sports Hall. This project was generously supported by the Parents' Association and was orchestrated by Mr Nabozny sourcing state of the art equipment and curating artwork, featuring some of our Old Bradfordians who have had success on the senior, professional and international sporting landscape, to serve as inspiration to our current aspiring athletes.

In hockey, the boys' season has had an excellent start. The 1st XI mounted an impressive Independent Schools Hockey Cup run defeating QEGS Wakefield and St Peter's School, York, before bowing out to a superb Yarm School outfit in a tight, high-quality encounter. There has also been festival action across the age groups with BGS squads progressing beyond initial stages in all instances. The girls 1st XI also secured a landmark victory for the first time over Cheadle Hulme School at home.

For the first time BGS were one of few schools with both U14 and U16 squads in attendance at the Yorkshire Regional round of the National Schools Netball Cup. The U16s put in a gallant effort facing tough opposition to finish sixth in Yorkshire. The U14s played superb netball during the day falling agonisingly one goal short of the top two places to qualify for the national rounds. All pupils and staff should be proud of their efforts enabling them to compete on the regional stage.

The rugby sevens season has started apace with only the U15s not having played a tournament (due to cancellation). The highlights have been runners up performances for the U12s and the U16s at the Pocklington 10-a-side festival and champions at the Wirral Grammar School sevens for the 1st VII in a flawless display.

Away from team games there has been success in the pool for BGS Aquatics, notably a significant victory over local rivals Woodhouse Grove, with senior students managing the teams and administering the races in a true demonstration of BGS values. There was also a large cohort of BGS runners representing Bradford Schools at the West Yorkshire finals. The senior girls tennis teams moved through to the next round of the cup with strong victories over Wakefield Girls and GSAL on a busy afternoon in the barn. In the week before half term BGS played host to the West Yorkshire Table Tennis Finals. In an immense effort by Mr Crabtree, the sports hall was filled with tables and competitors from across West Yorkshire hoping to be crowned champions.

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







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## Ben scores in England hockey debut

– SPRING TERM 2024

BGS student Ben P enjoyed a fantastic debut for the U16 national hockey team after successfully undergoing his England assessment.

Ben, who plays for Ben Rhydding Hockey Club, scored a goal in his first match for England against The Armed Forces, following his selection for the U16 squad.

Ben, who is in Year 11, has been playing hockey since he was in Year 3, and says the hockey on offer at BGS has given him a distinct advantage compared with other schools.

'It's been great to have the opportunity to play hockey here which has given me an advantage over other players,' he said. 'The school supports me off the pitch as well. Staff let me do my schoolwork in the library during games lessons when I need to rest for future sessions, which helps with my academics and with the busy schedule which comes with playing hockey. There's also the athletic development programme at BGS, which helps with my strength, fitness and injury prevention.'

Following a training camp in late December, Ben faced his first international game against The Armed Forces later in the month.

**Read the full article on the BGS website ...**  
[bit.ly/ben-hockey](https://bit.ly/ben-hockey)



It's been great to have the opportunity to play hockey here which has given me an advantage over other players.

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## BGS Gymnasts Soar: Yorkshire Gold and National Qualification!

– SPRING TERM 2024

R Parkinson, Teacher of PE and Games

Battling it out at the annual Yorkshire Floor and Vault and Milano Team competitions in Sheffield on 2 February, our gymnastics teams demonstrated exceptional skill and determination.

For the first time, both competitions ran side by side, and marked a significant event in BGS gymnastics history. In the individual floor and vault event, our diverse team, which included boys – a first for BGS in these competitions – showcased their talents. The U19 squad wowed the judges with their poise, securing a remarkable third place finish.

Meanwhile, the U16 team mesmerised with their artistry in the group routine, narrowly missing out on a podium spot. Year 11 pupil, Charlotte D, one of our seasoned gymnasts, stole the spotlight with an impressive floor routine, earning a remarkable score of 14.8.

The U14 floor and vault team displayed flawless precision, earning the coveted title of Yorkshire champions and securing a spot in the National Finals in May.

Not to be outdone, the U13 mixed team dazzled judges with a synchronised routine, clinching the top spot and earning the prestigious Yorkshire champions title. They now qualify for the National Finals to be held in March.

What a remarkable triumph for our gymnastics teams, showcasing talent, dedication, and the spirit of champions!

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





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## Orienteering

– SUMMER TERM 2024

D Alcock, Teacher of Geography

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

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

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







## Sporting Highlights

– SUMMER TERM 2024

J Moran, Director of Sport

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

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

The volume and quality of tennis fixtures this term has been immense. Both the girls and boys senior teams have progressed to the last 32 of their respective national schools knock-out competitions and sit one match away from a finals day in Nottingham. There have also been wider successes across the age groups in the Bradford Parks League and LTA national knock-out competitions, and block victories over Hymers College, Woodhouse Grove and Queen Margaret's amongst others.

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

In rowing there has been some excellent racing across all age groups. The York Regatta saw Bella M row an excellent race in her single to win the WJ16.

At Eton Dorney, Edwin V-L rowed an exquisite time trial making everything look effortless to achieve an eighth place finish, placing him in the B final, beating several other big-name clubs.

The Tees Regatta was a collective highlight with the girls J14 team winning the double sculls and the J13 boys winning their first ever event. This was followed up by the J14 boys winning their event before Leo M-G won the J15 single sculls.

Individually, Amelie L was selected for GB running in the European Off-Road Running Championships, which included a trip to the continent just days before a crucial A Level exam.

It is testament to Amelie's hard work and conscientious approach to both her studies and her sport that she is balancing these commitments with ease.

Alice S has also become a world champion in cheerleading following a competition in America.



# Sport Reports

There was a new structure to this year's sports day, with lots of smiles.



## Athletics

By G Morrison, Specialist Sports Coach - Athletics & Multi Sports

It has been another successful year for BGS athletics.

This year we saw a record 16 schools enter our Bradford athletics league events hosted by BGS. We again had great success with all four of our BGS teams making the finals. Three of our teams – the Jnr boys, Jnr Girls and Inter girls – all finished second behind first place Woodhouse Grove. Our Inter Boys team finished in first place.

We have also seen a steady increase and interest in our Co-curricular Throwing and Jumping lunch clubs.

We took four teams to the England Schools Athletics regional round at Thornes Park, Wakefield. We again had a number of top three finishes in the individual events with our teams narrowly missing selection for the regional rounds.

We also entered the Bradford Schools' individual event, having similar success. Ten students were selected to represent the Bradford area in the regional round competition held at Leeds.

There was a new structure to this year's sports day, with lots of smiles and healthy competition on the track.

Results were:

Year 7 winners DAP 950 points.

Year 8 was a draw between NAS and BRF, both on 880 points, however a one-off tug of war to decide the winner was won by NAS.

Year 9 winners JSO 860 points.

Year 10 winners KEB 900 points.

We continue to grow and are looking forward to next summer where we can unleash our next batch of BGS athletes onto the competitive track.



To view teams, fixtures and results, please visit [bradfordgrammar.com/fixtures](http://bradfordgrammar.com/fixtures)



## Cricket

### U12

By D Scarbrough, Specialist Sports  
Coach - Rugby

The 2023/24 U12 cricket season was an enjoyable one marked by significant achievements and a showcase of considerable talent.

The team had an impressive blend of skills and knowledge which helped them to a record five wins and two losses, the first win being an excellent performance against Woodhouse Grove.

The U12's displayed a commendable performance throughout the season and the balance between all-rounders, skilled spin bowlers, pace and seam bowlers proved to be one of the team's strongest assets, contributing significantly to their success.

The team's bowling attack was a stand-out feature of the season and proved to be a formidable challenge for opposing teams. Bowlers such as Muhammad YH, James R, and Ben R consistently delivered impressive stats to keep the opposition on their toes.

The batting line up showed notable improvement as the season progressed. The team's ability to build innings, learn new shots and capitalise on scoring opportunities became increasingly evident. Key batsmen, such as Charlie E and Anees K, made significant contributions, their powerful strokes and consistent scoring were instrumental in setting challenging targets for opposition teams - Mr Kellett particularly enjoyed taking them to the Super 6s at Hymers and was impressed with the talents of Oscar DB.



Junaid I was a key player behind the stumps, providing a solid and reliable wicket keeping option, though his relationship with the umpires is something he must work on!

The role of captaincy saw changes throughout the season, with various players stepping into the leadership role. Ultimately, the captaincy settled with Rayyan H, a talented all-rounder who demonstrated both leadership qualities and cricketing prowess.



## U13

By B Hemsley, Graduate Sports Assistant  
- Rugby

The U13's cricket season was filled with ups and downs, but it was an enjoyable year for all who took part. The season began with a high level of attendance in the winter nets setting up the group for the school cricketing summer.

The improvement made by the squad was a privilege to watch with lots of sportsmen and women putting their talents on display. On-field results were gradual, but due to the perseverance of the group, better results started to appear and confidence within the group started to show. Major contributions were made by many of the team this year with the stand-out performer of the year being Shankar K scoring 224 runs at an average of just under 45.

The season started with some very tough fixtures against Woodhouse Grove, QEGS and GSAL, where the games were greatly contested but results did not go our way. Then came a convincing win over Silcoates with the group finding some form going into the two festivals at the end of the season. BGS were runners up in both competitions only losing to the eventual winners of both competitions, GSAL and Scarborough College.

All the above showcases the talent and determination this year group has to offer.

## U14

S Kellett, Specialist Sports Coach – Cricket

The U14s enjoyed a hugely successful season under the stewardship of Mr Wilde.

Despite losing the first two fixtures to the weather, the team recorded victories over GSAL, QEGS, Ampleforth, South Craven and Ilkley GS.

The squad reached the semi-final of the county cup before losing out to a very strong Richmond outfit. What makes it more pleasing is that the results were achieved without the Yorkshire quartet of Anish M, James G, Billy T and Venus W, who were all regular performers for the first X1.

The winter training programme was well attended, and much work was done on honing skills and game management. The year group was highly motivated and enjoyed the sports that were offered. Mr Wilde had many difficult conversations with boys and girls who didn't quite make the team. The B team was created for other boys and girls who were desperate to represent the school having chosen cricket as their summer term option.

The season's success was a real team effort with contributions from the whole squad. Notable performers were Aarez A, Freddie B (who also played first X1), Ayaan A, Harry D, Max H, Ed A and Lizzie P. The team had a real competitive edge but always played within the spirit of the game.

The squad was large and talented and I expect others in 2025 will be selected for the senior squad. They were a real joy to coach and my thanks go to Mr Wilde for his ability to get the most out of the side and making sure everyone had a role within the team.





The improvement  
from start to finish  
was a privilege  
to watch ...



## U15

By J Moran – Director of Sport

The U15A Cricket side had a strong season overall. Despite the season being interrupted by weather, trips and DofE expeditions, the strength of the squad really shone through with BGS always fielding capable sides, when some of our opposition could not.

The opening weekend included a visit to neighbours Woodhouse Grove and a stern test. BGS posted 130 from their 20 overs with Jacob H the main contributor. Tight bowling from Will H and excellent field setting by captain Sam S saw BGS prevail by three runs, a great start to the season. As the season progressed there was a defeat to GSAL and a comprehensive victory over Ampleforth. Toby A made good progress with the bat through the season and Oliver F became a real asset with the ball.

The highlight of the season was the BGS 6s tournament, with the U15s entering two sides. The B side pulled off some phenomenal upsets beating GSAL's A team and the A team performed excellently throughout. A decider with a strong QEGS side proved to be a step too far as the team finished as worthy runners up.

In the final week of term, the squad headed to the Mersey Cup, bolstered by some quality guests from the U14 squad.



## 1st XI

By S Kellett, Specialist Sports Coach - Cricket

The 2024 season was a tale of two halves. With availability, pre-exams, being a major problem, the results were disappointing, however, with more students making themselves available our season turned on its head.

The Senior XI finished with a better win percentage than for some time.

The stand-out performer was Will L who had a season to remember, passing 1,000 runs along the way.

The season started with a pre-season tour to East Anglia where we played strong opposition in the shape of Norwich school and Greshams. We performed with great spirit and skill, the weather was kind and the mini tour proved a real success.

There was lots of excellent cricket throughout the season but sometimes games were lost by lapses in concentration. A young squad will now hopefully learn from these hard lessons.

The batting was dominated by Will L but lots of notable support acts performed well at times – notably Dan G, Charlie M, Jesse P and Nate H. The leading wicket taker was Alfie S with Jesse P a close second. Special mention must be given to our four Year 9 bowlers: Anish M with the new ball was a revelation and the two off spinners, Billy T and James G, have very bright futures ahead. Venus W continued to impress and was rewarded with a call up to the England U19 squad. It was richly deserved for a person with such a good work ethic.

Alex W played for the school when his Yorkshire commitments allowed, and he was also rewarded with national selection. The BGS conveyor belt of producing top class cricket talent showed no sign of slowing down.

The season ended with a successful Mersey Cup with the squad being in contention to win the tournament until a couple of narrow defeats on the last day saw us just come up short.

The BGS 6s proved to be popular once again when our first team just lost out on the silverware.

Special thanks go to Mr AG Smith for his help in coaching the boys pre-season and his fine umpiring throughout the term. Thanks also to our wonderful grounds team which produced outstanding cricket wickets and fast outfielders.

We move into 2025 with positive intent. Our new Director of Sport, Mr Moran, has been a breath of fresh air with his support of the cricket programme.

With no less than 12 cricketers involved in the pathway programme at county level this winter, our future looks to be in good hands. With fine weather next year, it could be a fantastic summer.

## Girls Cricket

By G Jones, Head of Junior School PE & Games

The fledgling girls cricket programme gained significant momentum throughout summer 2024.

With growing numbers committed to training, improving their knowledge of the game and skills, there have been two U15 and two U13 girls cricket teams fulfilling fixtures and gaining victories against Woodhouse Grove and Silcoates teams.

In addition, and perhaps the most pleasing aspect of the season, the four girls teams faced Giggleswick School in April at home and again in the final game, in July, away. Giggleswick came to BGS and took all the spoils in four closely contested games but in the return fixture the BGS teams were victorious in all games by clear margins. This is testament to the hard work and togetherness of the girls.

The 2024 season will be a springboard to further develop cricket at BGS as we look forward to introducing a girls hardball team next year. The current cohort of U13 and U15 players can be proud to have been an important part of the growth of BGS Girls Cricket.



To view teams, fixtures and results, please visit [bradfordgrammar.com/fixtures](http://bradfordgrammar.com/fixtures)



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## Cross Country

By J Moran, Director of Sport

It has been another excellent season for BGS Cross Country. Early in the season Amelie L claimed the English Fell Running Championship at Giggleswick with Martha J finishing a strong fifth in her return to competition.

In December it was the final outing for the all-star team of Rebecca F, Amelie L, Martha J, Carla B, Martha J and Phoebe M, in the English Schools Cross Country Cup team at Woodbridge School in Suffolk. The team swept all before them decimating the field as Rebecca claimed overall 1st place with Amelie joining her on the podium in third. At the other end of the spectrum there are green shoots of the next generation of BGS runners as a large contingent of Year 7 boys competed in the Bradford Schools race with a number going on to race at West Yorkshire Schools. James R has proved himself to be the outstanding runner in this exciting cohort. In the final stages of the academic year, it has been great to receive news of individual successes, most notably Amelie L's selection to run for Great Britain in the off-road championships. We are excited for the 2024/25 season as Mr Carter will be taking over the leadership of the Cross Country club with planning already underway for the season ahead.



**The team swept  
all before them  
decimating the field ...**

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## Gymnastics

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

It was an exceptional year of gymnastics for BGS where we entered more competitions than ever and made two National Finals.

The annual Yorkshire Floor and Vault and Milano Team competitions in Sheffield witnessed our gymnastics teams demonstrate exceptional skill and determination. For the first time, both competitions ran side by side, and marked a significant event in BGS gymnastics history.

In the individual floor and vault event, our diverse team, which included boys – a first for BGS in these competitions – showcased their talents. The U19 squad wowed the judges with their poise, securing a remarkable third place finish. Meanwhile, the U16 team mesmerised with their artistry in the group routine, narrowly missing out on a podium spot. Year 11 pupil, Charlotte D, one of our seasoned gymnasts, stole the spotlight with an impressive floor routine, earning a remarkable score of 14.8. The U14 floor and vault team displayed flawless precision, earning the coveted title of Yorkshire champions and securing a spot in the National Finals in May. Not to be outdone, the U13 mixed team dazzled judges with a synchronised routine, clinching the top spot and earning the prestigious Yorkshire champions title. They now qualify for the National Finals in March. What a remarkable triumph for our gymnastics teams, showcasing talent, dedication, and the spirit of champions!



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and results, please visit  
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Our junior gymnasts also took part in the participation competitions held at Hipperholme Grammar and RGS Newcastle. Our Clockhouse gymnasts relished the experience and can't wait to try again next year.

In June, numerous gymnasts travelled down to Stoke-on-Trent to compete in the ESGA National Competition. The girls had worked immensely hard over previous weeks to perfect individual and pair floor routines, alongside their vaults. The U9s did well with three of the four competing in categories higher than their age, finishing in 11th place. Our U10s excelled in floor and they enjoyed the competition, but a few faults left them just out of the medals.

The U14s, consisting of Fia S, Becky J, Misbah N and Bea J, excelled and finished in second place with 119.053! With 1st place scoring 119.753 the margins were tiny. An amazing achievement for the BGS team!





## Hockey

### Senior Girls

By D Birch, Specialist Sports Coach - Hockey

After the success the senior girls had at the pre-season Nottingham tournament, the 2023/24 hockey season was set to be a thriller, and it was just that.

As with every season, the games came thick and fast with early cup games against Stockport Grammar and Stonyhurst - the girls setting their intentions early with 4-0 and 8-0 wins! With the aim of doing well in our cup competitions, BGS continued to then play higher quality oppositions, holding their own against the likes of St Peter's and RGS Newcastle, which was excellent preparation for later in the season.

The girls had further cup success with victories over Wakefield Girls' High School (5-2), AKS Lytham (1-0) and Pocklington (5-3). They eventually reached the stage of the cup where they were one win away from making the national finals. We then hosted The King's School, Worcester who made the eight hour round trip to us in what promised to be a tense affair. It was probably the best the senior girls had played all year, but sadly, it was not to be. The girls can be extremely proud of reaching the last 16 in the country, competing against opposition with international experienced players. This carried on into our indoor season, where the girls finished second in their tournament with wins over GSAL, Queen Ethelburga's and Mount St Mary's.



We also celebrated our 2XI who once again qualified for the Yorkshire finals day and, for the third year in a row, were the only 2XI to be at this stage of the competition - a fantastic achievement and a credit to how hard the whole of our senior girls have worked this year.

Whilst our cup success was a huge highlight of the season, the squad also competed in some exciting fixtures and ended up beating strong opposition, including the likes of Worksop College, Giggleswick, Cheadle Hulme and Kirkham Grammar. One of our mini successes in the season, however, was defeating Sedbergh 1XI at a 7 a-side tournament. Sedbergh, who are one of the top teams in the country, fielded their best seven against BGS without a goalkeeper, and we came away with a 3-1 victory.

The girls have worked extremely hard to balance their academics, club and pathway hockey, and social commitments the ensure they performed well during the season.

This season was Mr Birch's last season as BGS's Specialist Sports Coach - Hockey, and he had a few words to say: 'I am unbelievably proud of, not only the group of girls at senior level, but the level the school programme has reached. You only need to look at our results from this season to six years ago to see the transformation and each season's senior team has played a part to where we are now. BGS Hockey has never been in a better position, and I can't thank the players enough for their efforts over the years - I wish them all the best for the future.'



... a credit to how hard the whole of our senior girls have worked this year.



## U15 Girls

By D Birch, Specialist Sports Coach - Hockey

After a superb 2022/23 season for the U15 girls team, 2023/24 was set to be an exciting year! The girls had a hard couple of games early on in the season but quickly found their rhythm going on a five-game unbeaten streak with victories over Queen Margaret's, Silcoates, Mount St Mary's and St Bede's. The squad drew Stockport Grammar away in the Independent Schools Hockey Cup, where we dominated the game, but it sadly finished 2-2 which meant another dreaded penalty shoot-out. All too familiar to last year's story, we came out second. This was another tough pill to swallow but the team is certainly heading in the right direction and being able to compete in tough competitions.

The team showed great resilience to bounce back with another four-game unbeaten streak. The squad is relatively small so it's a testament to all the players and parents' commitment to school sport that we are able to field a team each week and perform brilliantly.

There are lots of individual successes to celebrate, with many pupils going on to play for clubs for the first time, representing the school senior teams, being selected for older age groups for indoor competitions or progressing on the England Hockey player pathway. Well done to all involved on another fantastic season.

## U14 Girls

By D Birch, Specialist Sports Coach - Hockey

The U14 age group is always an exciting group to represent during their journey to become a senior hockey player, making the jump from a seven a-side format to an 11 a-side one. As with most newly born teams, it takes a while to gel and find a style of play that works well for a group. The squad attended training regularly throughout the season and ended up having a really successful season in terms of positive outcomes on the pitch but also having a fantastic team morale.

The team had an up and down start to the season, starting brilliantly with a 5-1 win against Hymers in their first match as an U14 side. They had their cup competition in a West Yorkshire round where they sadly missed out on qualification in what was a tight tournament - all games were decided by one goal. This was a tough experience to have so early on as an 11 a-side team but one that can be used to fuel motivation for future competitions. The season went on, and with the group having such a brilliant attitude to their development, results began to look up with victories over St Bede's, RGS Newcastle, St Peter's, Rishworth and GSAL.

There are lots of successes away from BGS hockey to celebrate, the stand-out being Alice M being selected for UK Lions, who won the tournament in the Netherlands against some of the best teams Europe can offer.

Well done to all, on a fantastic first season as an 11 a-side team.



Well done to all  
involved on another  
fantastic season.



### U13 Girls

By D Birch, Specialist Sports Coach - Hockey

Our U13 girls squad are a fantastic group who are extremely committed and have a great team culture of supporting one another whilst aiming for excellence. The girls have worked extremely hard throughout the course of the season and have put in some excellent performances.. The highlight was their West Yorkshire tournament as part of the In2Hockey competition, with BGS finishing third overall. We claimed victories over Silcoates, Kettlethorpe and Rishworth.

It was so pleasing to be able to give pupils who are new to the game and school, an opportunity to represent BGS. Some had never been part of a fixture before. Since those debuts, they have gone on to represent the school on numerous occasions. Many of our pupils have been looking to develop themselves further either through joining a local hockey club, becoming part of the England Hockey pathway, through county hockey or signing up to holiday coaching camps, indoor and outdoor. This shows the group's attitude, and the desire to improve themselves.

We look forward to seeing this age group grow into an 11 a-side team in the next 12 months. Making the jump from a seven a-side format to an 11 a-side format is always a daunting challenge but this group of pupils are most certainly up to it..

### U12 Girls

By R Parkinson, Teacher of PE and Games

This year's U12 cohort was filled with a depth of talent and desire to improve and represent school. The start of the season went well with strong wins for the A team against Queen Margaret's, Silcoates and St Bede's. Likewise, the B team gained a 4-1 win against Mount St Mary's and a 1-1 draw with St Bede's.

Midseason the team faced some tough opposition against an experienced RGS Newcastle and Worksop College however, experiencing losses helped the team to build resilience and good sportsmanship. The B team fought hard against much of their opposition to come away with draws against Rishworth and Pocklington.

By the end of the season, many of the girls had found a real passion for hockey and numbers increased at co-curricular training where they worked on consolidating skills, game play and built on team cohesion. For the last game of the season the squad met with GSAL - both teams displayed some of their best hockey and played with true grit and determination. The A team dominated and came away with a 2-0 win, the B team unfortunately came away with a 4-1 loss. The loss prompted much needed reflection on game play.

A thank you to Charlotte H and Haaniya N who captained the teams this season. Overall, the girls had a great season and Head Coach, Mrs Parkinson commented on how she looks forward to seeing the talented and committed group progress next season.



... this group of pupils  
are most certainly up  
to the challenge.





## Senior Boys

By J Zoers-Benstead, Assistant Coach - Hockey

The senior boys were set for an exciting season ahead, and Mr Zoers-Benstead put the boys through their paces early on in the year to get them up to scratch.

The group had a tough start to the season with fixtures against high quality opposition in Yarm, Scarborough College and The King's School, Macclesfield but the boys showed glimpses of what was to come, playing some excellent free flowing attacking hockey and building a fantastic culture which stemmed from their pre-season South Africa tour in August.

The boys luckily peaked at the right time of the season where they faced local rivals, QEGS in the first round of the England Hockey Tier 2 cup. It was a tense affair which saw QEGS enjoy most of the possession and better chances in the first half. Some minor adjustments from stand-in coach, Mr Birch, saw the team grow in confidence and eventually they found the winner with three minutes to spare courtesy of Archie A. This was the start of an excellent run of form for the boys where they saw further cup success against St Peter's, running out 5-3 winners. This then brought us back to Yarm, a regular competitor. The game was the highest standard of senior boys hockey the school has ever seen, both sides having international talent and throwing everything at each other.

A special mention to Harrison C, who was the sole reason for keeping BGS in the game for so long. Fine margins in a tight affair, the lads came away from the game and competition with their heads held high, proud of their performance and knowing that they are heading in the right direction.

## U15 Boys

By R Parkinson, Teacher of PE and Games

The U15 boys are a vibrant and talented group of individuals who always strive to be better - with this they have taken every opportunity to develop their skills on and off the pitch this season. The start of the term witnessed a disappointing 1-1 draw against Silcoates, a wake-up call for the squad. After two game cancellations due to bad weather, the boys hosted GSAL where they demonstrated a huge desire for a win but unfortunately, they couldn't quite finish. With a great deal of attention given on finding connections the boys then went on to win 3-0 against Pocklington.

They started the Independent School Hockey Cup against an experienced King's Macclesfield - they played with resilience, but the game finished 5-0 to the opposition placing them into the plate competition. They then progressed through the next round meeting GSAL, this time finishing on top with a thoroughly deserving 2-1 win. The boys then travelled to Yarm where they played some pleasing hockey, sadly this was the end of their cup run losing 3-0.



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## Senior School and Sixth Form Sport – Sport Reports

Particular highlights from the season were qualifying from the West Yorkshire round after beating Gateways and Silcoates and progressing to the North East and Yorkshire finals day of the In2Hockey competition where the boys played the top schools in our region. The boys competed brilliantly throughout the day scoring some excellent goals and defending superbly well as a unit.

We have been immensely proud to see this group develop across the course of the season and look forward to them pushing on in future seasons to come. We are excited to see this group progress into 11 a-side next season. Well done to all who represented BGS on a fantastic season.

A midseason highlight for some of the squad was the Manchester Power Play competition. The boys adapted to the style of competition as the tournament progressed, with two losses, one win and one draw which placed them into the plate competition. The squad worked hard to gain a win against MGS but narrowly lost out to Calday in the semi-final, an overall great experience.

Overall, the boys have had a great season and Head Coach for the U15 boys, Mrs Parkinson commented on how she looks forward to seeing the talented group progress next season when training with the 1XI team.

### U14 Boys

By J Zoers-Benstead, Assistant Coach - Hockey

Despite a fair share of results not being in the favour of the U14 boys squad, every game was played with a 'never say die' attitude and were tightly contested. The U14 boys have lived and breathed the true meaning of 'Hoc Age'.

Each player that represented the school over the course of the season has done so with an excellent attitude and effort. It was a real achievement to get 23 boys representing the school within one season.

The Yorkshire finals came thick and fast for the group, where they had Silcoates, Mount St Mary's and St Peter's waiting for them. BGS beat Mount St Mary's and Silcoates with ease but sadly lost out to St Peter's (the eventual national finalists) by a single goal.

Despite the disappointment of missing out on the chance to play at a national final, the boys picked themselves up and put in some superb performances throughout the season coming away with victories against Hall Cross Academy, Ashville, Pocklington and GSAL.

Given this was the boys' first year of playing 11 a-side hockey, they have done themselves and BGS proud. They are a very talented group with a huge amount of potential and we look forward to seeing them develop and mature.

Well done all on a fantastic season!

### U13 Boys

By D Birch, Specialist Sports Coach - Hockey

It was a fantastic season for the U13 boys this year, a very spirited and talented group. Mr Birch, Head Coach, always looked forward to working with the group. They were intrinsically motivated, and had a healthy competitive spirit, and were always eager to learn. Across the entire squad, there was growth from all individuals skill wise and tactically even in such a short amount of time.

### U12 Boys

By J Zoers-Benstead, Assistant Coach - Hockey

The U12 Boys have taken Senior School hockey in their stride. The talent that has come through Clock House and the talent that has only just joined BGS, was an exciting prospect in itself! Whether they represented the A or B teams over the course of the year, everyone has made big improvements in their game technically and tactically, as well as growing socially and as teammates. Well done to all pupils!

For the first time BGS decided to enter the In2Hockey competition for U12 boys, not really knowing the standard of the competition. The boys were superb throughout and managed to win all of their six games without conceding a goal, with victories over QEGS A, QEGS B, Scarborough College, Silcoates, Mount St Mary's and Harrogate. The boys progressed to the final stage of the competition, North Finals, where we played against the best schools in the north of England. They played some excellent hockey during the tournament, but the best part of the day was the exposure to a high quality level of hockey, an experience that will no doubt be useful for future seasons to come.

Every boy should hold their head high - we look forward to seeing them all grow on and off the pitch and ready to make the U13 age group season an even better one!



## Netball

By L Kelly – Specialist Sports Coach - Netball

The 2023/24 season has been another incredible one for BGS netball. I would like to begin by thanking all players, parents, staff, groundsman, catering staff and beyond - without your ongoing hard work and support, none of this would have been possible.

The growth of the netball programme this season has been phenomenal, with us housing A-D teams at Year 7 and Year 8, A-C teams at Year 9 and A-B teams at Year 10, 11, 12 and 13. This season alone, our netball teams have played over 200 fixtures from September through to March, consisting of Saturday fixtures, weekly friendly fixtures, Bradford school fixtures, national cups, district tournaments and the England Netball National Schools competition. We had one very special Saturday fixture with GSAL celebrating the inaugural Naina Krishna Memorial Tournament which moving forward will become an annual event.

Both individual and team successes have been booming with several of our girls now representing clubs, West Yorkshire and a handful of girls finding success at franchise pathways, which is a superb achievement. A particular highlight this season has been our U14 and U16 netball squads both making it through to the regional round of the National Schools competition. A huge well done must go to both teams on accomplishing such a great achievement, you did yourselves and BGS proud!

Our netball community have been busy running unforgettable events. A huge shout-out must go to our fabulous Netball Parents' Association, who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to help organise and run incredible fundraiser events including BBQs, bake sales and of course, the annual Christmas Fayre and Fashion Show. Your support does not go unnoticed, and we cannot thank you enough for all you have done for BGS netball.



Alongside our events, fixtures, intense co-curricular and games programme, our U14 netballers had the opportunity to attend an incredible netball tour to Disneyland Paris. The girls made memories to last a lifetime and returned to school as champions. Over the summer, our senior netball girls headed to Sri Lanka for an unforgettable experience. Once again, a huge thanks to all involved with the organisation and running of these tours.

BGS netball has had one of its best seasons to date and it is thanks to the passion and support from all of those involved. I would personally like to thank the players and coaches at BGS for an unforgettable two seasons - I have made memories which I will cherish for a very long time. Finally, I would like to wish all those involved with BGS netball success for next season.

### U12

By L Kelly, Specialist Sports Coach - Netball

Our U12 group of netballers have been an absolute pleasure to coach this season. They define commitment, enthusiasm and passion for BGS netball. This group have been oozing with talent, and more importantly, their desire to work hard has been incredible from the get-go. We have managed to have over 50 pupils representing the school at A, B or C team level, all of whom have consistently attended training and trained with purpose and positivity in both games and co-curricular sessions.

Across the three squads the U12s have played 40 fixtures; 22 for the A team who secured an impressive 17 wins, and only five losses with notable wins against Stockport Grammar, Kirkham Grammar and Wakefield Girls. A stand-out moment for this talented bunch was facing Yarm in the quarter final of the Sisters in Sport Cup. Unfortunately, the girls missed out on progressing through to the semi-finals by just eight goals - an incredible achievement for a newly formed team.

There were 13 fixtures for the B team who finished the season on seven wins, one draw and five losses with convincing wins against Grove, Ilkley and Hymers. A season highlight was being named champions of the Bradford Schools tournament where the girls dominated, and beat local rivals Ilkley Grammar School, South Craven and BBG for the title. A successful season for a relatively new team.

The C team had a slightly more challenging season, playing six fixtures, one of which they won, against a strong Ashville side and five competitive losses, often facing A and B team opposition. For a team of girls who had never played netball before starting BGS, the progression throughout the season was incredible due to commitment, hard work and impeccable enthusiasm.

It has been a privilege to work alongside this talented cohort of girls this season. The future for BGS netball is looking extremely exciting.





## Senior School and Sixth Form Sport – Sport Reports

The season overall has been a great success. The girls were positive, they supported one another and played some fabulous netball, alongside making lifelong memories.

### U15

By L Kelly, Specialist Sports Coach - Netball

Both of our U15 squads have had a very competitive season and have shown vast improvements throughout.

The A team began the season with a convincing 44-25 win against a physical Sedbergh side in the first round of the Sisters in Sport National Cup. This was just the beginning for this talented group of girls, who then continued to deliver stand-out performances across the season against Bury Grammar, Woodhouse Grove and GSAL. Their hard work and enthusiasm in sessions was rewarded by six of the girls being selected into the U16s National Schools Squad.

The girls worked tirelessly at the county rounds, showcasing some exceptional netball. Their hard work and determination were rewarded by finishing the tournament in second place and securing a spot at the regional round. This was a phenomenal achievement for a young, newly formed team. After tireless months of training, numerous practise games and a trip down to the EIS prior to the competition, the girls were as prepared as ever and ready to go. Although the day was challenging, the positive team spirit and 'never give up' attitude allowed them to walk away from the day with smiles on their faces – exactly what the experience is all about.

The B team have had a slightly more challenging season, playing a total of ten fixtures, five of which they won, one which they drew and four which they lost. Despite the girls facing strong opposition including Stockport Grammar and Woodhouse Grove, their drive and desire to win was impeccable. The girls grew closer as a team throughout the season, solidifying combinations and gelling as a whole.

### U13

By G Jones, Head of Junior School PE & Games

2023/24 has been a successful season for the U13 squad. Throughout the season, 37 Year 8 girls have taken to the court to represent BGS against other schools, whether it be in the Bradford Schools' League, Saturday morning block fixtures or National Cups and tournaments.

Throughout the A, B and C teams, there has been significant progression, particularly in terms of speed of attack and decision making on the court.

The A team were incredibly successful in their fixtures winning 15 and losing only five games, with progression through to the third round of the National Cup. The highlight of the season was an extremely hard-fought victory against GSAL, finishing 24-20. The next step for this squad will be to move closer to the levels of the strong Yarm and Withington Girls' teams to whom they lost.

The B team matched the A team with ten wins and four losses in all competitions, with many girls moving between the two squads throughout the season. The B squad posted impressive wins against Bury Grammar, Stockport Grammar, GSAL and Woodhouse Grove and learned lessons after a chastening defeat to Cheadle Hulme.

There was also the addition of a C team fixture programme which ensured opportunities for all girls to experience good levels of competition. The C team often played fixtures against A and B teams in the Bradford Schools' League which presented a real challenge. Despite this, the girls had a closely fought win against Skipton Girls' School and an emphatic victory over Hymers.

### U14

By L Kelly, Specialist Sports Coach - Netball

Our U14s this season have gone from strength to strength which has been evident by their recent successes. The season has been an eventful one, with a clear highlight being an overseas tour to Disneyland Paris. Both the A and B teams did extremely well at the tournament, setting high standards and encouraging one another. After some close fought matches, our B team were placed third in the Plate, after winning the third/fourth playoff on golden goal! Our A team progressed through to the final after some impressive performances. The girls stuck to task and came out fighting, managing to take the win 13-7, being crowned Showdown Cup Champions! A special shout-out must go to Lizzie P for being awarded player of the tournament.

Our National Schools journey was another season highlight. The girls played with true grit and determination in the county round of the competition, which resulted in them securing a top two position and qualifying for the regional round. The girls prepared well in training by turning up each week to push, challenge and support one another. From the moment we arrived, the girls meant business. The passion and drive to succeed was evident through their performances on the court. They were phenomenal throughout the entire day, however, sadly missed out on progressing through to National Finals by one goal. A special mention must go to Izzy T who was a fantastic captain and player on the day.





This resulted in the girls securing several wins against strong opposition including GSAL, Hymers and BBG Academy. Special mentions must go to Roop H, Jumana A and Laura T for being fantastic leaders all season.

It has been a pleasure to coach such a hardworking, talented group of girls.

## U16

By H Moulds, Graduate Sports Assistant - Netball

Our U16s have had an extremely tough season this year with a number of losses. The girls, however, remained motivated and enthusiastic throughout and always gave 100 per cent when they took to the court.

Lead expertly by Ava R, the A team started off the season on a high with a two-goal win over Stockport Grammar. This was far from easy with the teams being evenly matched, but the girls dug deep and were able to get the win. From here, fixtures for this team became increasingly harder but the girls remained competitive and were rewarded by a fantastic win against Prince Henry's. Stand-out performances by Mille D and Isabelle H allowed them to keep building as a team. As the season drew to a close, the A team finished on a high with a great win against a strong Ashville side.

The B team had a tough season with many games being cancelled due to GCSEs and other schools unable to field teams. This did not stop them being committed and working hard in training. Their hard work paid off in a huge victory against GSAL with Eliza S and Iris E being

named players of the match for their outstanding shooting.

A highlight of the season for the U16s was progressing to the regional rounds of the National Schools Competition. The girls held their nerve against very strong sides to come second in the West Yorkshire rounds which allowed them to progress through to the regional rounds. This was an outstanding achievement for all involved.

## Seniors

By L Kelly, Specialist Sports Coach - Netball

The seniors have had an extremely tough season this year with the number of losses outweighing the number of victories. The girls, however, remained motivated throughout and always gave their all when taking to the court.

Despite both the 1st VII and 2nd VII competing in challenging fixtures against the likes of Sedbergh, Bury Grammar, Cheadle Hulme and Woodhouse Grove, they have still shown great determination and have displayed moments of high-quality netball and excellent game understanding.

The girls' National Schools journey unfortunately didn't go quite to plan. The girls turned up to training each week with great energy, ready to learn, progress and challenge one another. Combinations were solidified, connections and timing through the court were significantly improved and the girls were ready to go. Despite the loss of club captain Isobel H to injury and 1st VII team captain Annabel P to illness just a week before the competition, the girls kept their spirits high, however they unfortunately just missed out on qualifying for the regional round. In spite of the challenges this squad faced and their disappointment,

The girls held their nerve against very strong sides ...



they still managed to make themselves and BGS proud.

Both the 1st VII and 2nd VII team finished their season representing BGS at the annual Queen Margaret's tournament. The day was filled with lots of laughter, face paint and a great display of netball.

We would like to say farewell to our leavers and we wish you all the luck in the world with your future plans.



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## Orienteering

By D Alcock, Teacher of Geography and Orienteering Coach

This year we consolidated our position as a high-achieving orienteering club on the national stage and saw more involvement from older members in planning and running activities, both for the school club and the local club.

In October, a strong team travelled to Leicester for the British Schools Score Orienteering Championships, where our top six scorers retained their Upper Secondary Boys crown. The lower secondary girls won team silver, and lower secondary boys won team bronze. Individual highlights included Ben R's Year 7 gold, Henry S's Year 11 silver, and Tom T's Year 13 silver.

In November, against some very strong schools, BGS placed third at the British Schools Orienteering Championships at Temple Newsam, Leeds. The Year 11 boys team (Henry, Ben and Harry) won team gold, Joseph D was second Year 10 boy, and Ben R was third Year 7 boy. Tom T won the Year 13 boys competition, finally hitting the top spot after seven years in the club.

Lunchtime sessions regularly required two minibuses; Mr Alcock, Mr Merckx and Mr Schofield all appreciated the help of more experienced club members in setting and collecting in courses. Orienteers also kept busy by attending Airienteers events.

The team travelled to Doncaster on 21 April for the Yorkshire and Humberside Schools Championships. As well as celebrating our Year 8, 9 and 10 boys as winning teams, we were the second school overall, and there were many individual successes. Students who placed in the top three were Rosa W (Y7 Girls), Sam C (Y7 Boys), Ethan N and Oliver J (Y8 Boys), Ross C and Fausto K (Y9 Boys), and Joseph D and Will A (Y10 Boys).

Year 9 student Ross C stepped up to plan the annual World Orienteering Day event in May, when all Year 7 and 8 pupils undertook a score event in Lister Park.

## Rowing

By S Darnbrough, Specialist Sports Coach - Rowing

**The story of the 2023-24 rowing year was again the weather, with rain causing the river to remain dangerously high for most of the winter and spring.**

This resulted in very little rowing on the water taking place before Easter, which had a noticeable impact on all our year groups throughout the regatta season.

Because of the weather, the only head race able to run in the autumn was Northwich, held on a canal, in which we entered nine crews from the J15 and 16 squads who all acquitted themselves well despite not having much time on the water.

The rivers remained high during the spring with all the river heads cancelled, and because of the lack of time on the water, it was decided that we would only take the J15 boys quad to the Junior sculling head at Eton Dorney, primarily for the experience. They sculled very well finishing 35th out of 57 crews.

The summer regatta season thankfully saw an improvement in the weather, and we were able to train on the water regularly. Two scullers, Ed VL [J17] and Leo MG [J15] competed at the National Sculling Regatta at Eton Dorney with Ed finishing second in the 'B' final and Leo, in his first single sculling race unfortunately capsizing near the finish line, after a very impressive first 1,750 metres.

During the rest of the season, we had crews entered at York, Tees, Durham and finally Bradford at which we had 30 entries from Years 7 to 13 showing the numbers and depth of competition in the boat club. The stand-out crew this year was the J15 coxed quad of Rufus B [cox] Joseph D, Freddie W, Leo MG and Peter D, whose improvement this year was outstanding.

I must mention Bella M, whose progress this year has been outstanding. She was invited to the National GB trials as a J16 and consequently the GB trial regatta in April. Bella has been awarded a rowing scholarship at Wycliffe College, which is currently one of the top schools for girls rowing. She will be greatly missed!

Finally, may I give my heartfelt thanks to several people in the boat club. Megan Jones-Gerrard for her massive contribution, both in coaching and administration. Her enthusiasm and sheer hard work is being reflected by the crews that she is coaching. Ben H who managed to combine playing rugby for the First XV with the captaincy of the boat club brilliantly. Ed VL, the Vice-Captain, and 24-25 Captain, who supported Ben extremely enthusiastically. As ever, the boat club Parents' Association, whose constant support and enthusiasm continues to make the boat club what it is today, friendly, competitive and great fun.



## Rugby

### U12

By D Pullen, Head of Business Studies

This was clearly a year of development for the Year 7 rugby squad. Many had never played contact rugby before joining BGS or had limited rugby experience. This was evident whilst playing against more experienced opposition, but there were highlights that showed huge promise for the future of this group of boys.

Outstanding performances from Kiyon G and Charlie L at the Barnard Castle festival started the season well and highlighted the raw talent available. The skills and experience of George C and Laith G helped them provide the team with a better framework in A Team wins over Ilkley, Giggleswick and Pocklington. The A Team, though lacking size, were starting to make use of the pace and handling skills of players such as James R, Oscar D and Cam M, playing expansive rugby that was entertaining to watch. They also played in the right spirit, regularly demonstrating good sportsmanship and respect by mixing and matching with other squads when required. The B Team also began to put some good, organised rugby together, with players such as Teddy C and Henry D standing out whilst the rest of the squad made good progress and enjoyed themselves, which is most important!

The main highlight of the year for these boys was their performances in 10 and 7-a-side rugby. It suited their style of play, which was soon evident at the Pocklington 10s where they went undefeated until a close final loss to Hymers. They soon bounced back however, dominating the renowned St Peter's sevens tournament with convincing victories over rugby powerhouses such as WHGS, QEGS and RGS, scoring 28 to 14. The future looks bright for these young players!



### U13

By B Hemsley, Graduate Sports Assistant - Rugby

The U13's rugby season has been a promising one, making major improvements from the previous year. The season began with a great performance and win against Pocklington, overturning last year's loss and showing the development made by this group of young men. Though a small group, the squad committed to regular training throughout the season which enabled the team to develop into a very competitive group throughout the calendar year. The improvement from start to finish was considerable bearing in mind this was only the second season of rugby for the majority. On-field results once again showed the advances that this squad had made; however, it was the development of character and determination across all facets which enabled this improvement, setting them in good stead for future years.

The two victories against Pocklington and narrowing of scorelines in some of the losses from the year before showed that they were finding a way of being competitive in these tightly fought contests. Edward B and George N led the team from the front, with 26 boys representing them more than once.

The sevens season was outstanding with the boys getting their first full season after a frustrating year previously due to the weather. The boys improved at every tournament they played, the highlight being winning the vase at the Durham Sevens Festival. Just a taste of what this group can achieve in the future.

### U14

By M Wilde, Head of PE Outreach

It has been another thoroughly enjoyable season working with this year's cohort of U14 players. Twenty-four players represented the school A XV in 14 games and 36 players represented the B XV in eight. The A XV won six and lost four, but what was most pleasing was the individual and collective development of all the players. It was a pity that we lost our cup game to St Peter's York and whilst we were comfortable victors against SHAC, Pocklington, Birkdale, Giggleswick and Harrogate GS, my personal highlight of the season came in our performance away at QEGS Wakefield. An excellent defensive effort made the QEGS XV work hard to cross the whitewash, resulting in all their scores being conceded out wide rather than through the middle. The boys also enjoyed a good volume of possession, in between the defensive efforts, and were superb at the breakdown. Ultimately the power and pace of a skilful and well organised QEGS side were too much for us on the day and we were beaten by a better side. That said, incredible courage and effort came from the BGS players, and it was a performance I was very proud of. Finally, my thanks to all the boys, the loyal band of parental supporters and my colleagues for their valuable contribution to the Year 9 programme. Rugby forever! #Goslings #Geese.





## U15

By J Moran, Director of Sport

The U15s have had a season of huge growth both individually and collectively. Over 30 boys represented the school, displaying excellent core values of both the game and the school rugby club. There was an even spread of wins and losses, with victories over Ampleforth, Pocklington, Mount St Mary's, Giggleswick and Harrogate Grammar. There were also stellar performances in defeat against a powerful QEGS Wakefield and away at Hymers as an injury-stricken squad demonstrated the true meaning of playing like geese.

In the pack, Captain Harry S, Oliver F and Daniel O set the tone, with determined physical play. William A and Leon A also made great strides in their development, racking up a number of A team appearances in succession as a result of their hard work in training. Behind the scrum, Jacob H was consistently the outstanding performer, with Tom H providing stability in the midfield.

The sevens season was where the squad really began to hit their straps. Playing in five tournaments they reached two semi-finals and a cup final, alongside the capture of the Mount St Mary's Sevens Cup. They won many plaudits for their all-action defence and clinical attack along the way.

The boys have an outstanding team ethos and have laid a strong foundation as they look to transition into senior rugby. They have the makings of an outstanding first XV in years to come.

## U16 / 2nd XV

By G Morrison, Specialist Sports Coach - Athletics

There was a collaboration this year between the U16s and 2nd XV due to availability, yet the U16 boys added to the programme and developed throughout the year supported by the older boys. Many of the U16 players filtered into the seniors, with some managing to get some 1st XV and 2nd XV recognition.

The effort levels were consistently high throughout each game the boys played, as was the desire to play together as a team. It was a shame that often their extra-curricular training numbers did not match this. Co-Captain Daniel B and the experienced Rory K put in some influential performances when stepping into the breach and provided the team a good strength of character to produce a few deserved wins. This on-field character was a theme throughout all the players in the squad, based on grit and resilience.

The stand-out performance was the victory over Pocklington in their second match of the season where some very entertaining rugby was played, with BGS scoring some lovely tries off the back of their best defensive performance of the season. BGS stood strong and defended their try line like their lives were on the line, and the result of their hungry defence kept Pocklington scoreless, finishing the game 15-0. The boys carried this pride in their defence forward into fixtures throughout the rest of the season.

Notable mentions go to Rory K who directed the team around the field all season, Joe B who after a couple of years out of rugby returned with a bang, showing some very strong ball carrying and ruthless defence in every game, and Alex M who continued to trouble teams with his strong carries in the wider channels.



## 1st XV

By D Scarbrough, Specialist Sports Coach  
- Rugby

The 2023-24 Senior Rugby Season was always going to be an interesting one with a large and influential group of boys leaving the gaggle from the previous year. After an enjoyable mini tour to North Wales with the U16s and U18s, the group returned to school via the King's Macclesfield pre-season festival, in which they represented the school well.

The 1st XV took some time to find their feet. With the introduction of some of the Year 11 boys, the squad began to produce better performances and find consistency, ending the season winning seven, losing six and scoring 331 points (25.4 points per match). Captain Luca M was the top try scorer with nine and Vice-Captain Fergus R, who was repositioned in the centre, was a close second with seven. Raman A, ferocious in defence, also offered some great go-forward which enabled Will E to pull the strings at fly-half and orchestrate some superb flowing rugby, often feeding the mercurial Will B full-back, who finished as the team's leading points scorer with 72 points. In the forwards, Adheeb R, who had been a revelation since returning to rugby, played like a wrecking ball all year and proved solid at the front of the scrum. There were some good improvements from many of the group, particularly Yuvraj G, Alex M, Oliver H, Daniel B and Will B and it is exciting to have them in the squad alongside the ever-dependable Arul M as we look forward to next season.

The Senior 1st VII team, although small in number, showed good commitment throughout the programme and an early tournament win at Wirral (played at Chester), followed by some great performances at both the Ripon and Ampleforth sevens beating Ripon, St Peter's twice, Durham, Pocklington and Harrogate Grammar. Sadly, the North of England Sevens was cancelled due to waterlogged pitches and Rosslyn Park didn't quite go as planned for the boys in maroon, who sported their new rugby sevens jerseys, which were kindly donated by the Rugby Parents' Association.

Over the term of their Sixth Form, we were proud to award our highest honour of 'Full Senior Colours' to Fergus R, Luca M and Will B. There were other boys who have really bought into the 'geese' mentality who deserve a mention, particularly Will L who has shown superb commitment on and off the field following the previous year's South Africa tour.

The Year 13 boys leave us having navigated a tough and wet season, their finest performance being a superb win against Harrogate Grammar School on the 1st XV pitch - it is however, a shame for them to have bowed out with a memorable loss against the BGS Staff in the annual Staff vs Pupils touch match!



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## Squash

By J Moran, Director of Sport

It has been great to see more pupils than ever taking part in squash at BGS, this year.

As well as excellent levels of participation in co-curricular practices, it was great to see the first competitive fixtures in squash for a number of years. With the help of Sedbergh School, our squash players took part in a pair of fixtures, one at Sedbergh and one at home. The squad was made up of boys and girls of all ages, with Year 12 student William P captaining the BGS outfit and Year 7 pupil Travis Y, one of the outstanding performers. Plans are already in place for future squash fixtures for 2024/25 and we are excited to see how the competitive schedule can grow and develop at BGS.





## Swimming

By C Robinson, Specialist Sports Coach - Swimming

Fifty BGS pupils faced the might of GSAL in our first inter school fixture of the year, our largest team in at least a decade.

It was still going to be a challenge having watched GSAL clean up in Round One of the English Schools Swimming Association Relays earlier in October, however, the strength and depth of the U15 and U18 age groups helped narrow an April 2019 points deficit of 57, down to just 20.

Twenty-nine BGS girls, led by Captain Carla B, travelled to Harrogate Ladies College to unleash a 48-point thrashing. An undefeatable U12 team combined with strength in the U14 and U18 was enough to secure victory.

The team acquitted themselves with the utmost professionalism against a late arriving St Peter's. The St Peter's team never relinquished their lead, but there were some outstanding swims from Martha J and Finlay J, as well as U12 Evie S who raced seven times to compete the ranks.

Charged solely by a BGS 'roar', the atmosphere at Woodhouse Grove was electric. The volume produced by a 36-strong team was enough to extract from WHG staff a request for quiet (we did not oblige them!) and spur two nail biting victories from George N and Laura K. A close but clear win for BGS, 236 vs 220.

There is always a warm welcome from the Ripon GS captains to a light-hearted fixture with Ripon GS. The choppy 25-yard pool challenges the swimmers. Ripon took the spoils in the relays, which could have been disastrous given they are worth double points, but individual strengths were to be our saviour, BGS triumphing 240 vs 217.



To view teams, fixtures and results, please visit [bradfordgrammar.com/fixtures](http://bradfordgrammar.com/fixtures)



The inaugural Yorkshire Schools Swimming Cup took place at St Peter's in January. We secured overall fourth place and had great fun watching swimmers squirm in their weaker strokes.

In what turned out to be our final inter-school fixture (and win) of the year, a disappointing turnout from WHG U18s robbed some of our Year 13 of a final swim for school. However, our students seized the opportunity to serve our team by organising pupils, starting races, and scoring events. WHG staff were duly impressed, and we were grateful for their dedication. 'This is what we do'.

### Bath Cup

The Bath Cup was not without incident. After a blow to the eye in Water Polo, Finlay J took a trip to hospital. Fortunately, Fin was given the green light and the next day Fin, Will M, James T, Harry S, Anna S, Laura T, Martha J and Sophie T found themselves a lovely view of Battersea Park from the Go Ape High Ropes course. Later, a team propped up with four Year 10 pupils took on a wealth of experience and strength at the Whitgift Invitational. Then, a drive through London for a long evening resting at the Premier Inn before, the highlight of the mini tour, a Nandos! There were some great swims from all at the Bath Cup. The young guns, missed out on finals places, but will return next year with the same two quartets.

Thanks to outgoing Captains, Charlie D and Carla B.



### Old Bradfordians Swimming & Water Polo Event

OBs spanning decades came together to challenge the current students in the swimming while, more importantly, hanging on to their title of Water Polo champions, a title they have had since 1984. There were a couple of early goals from the Bradfordians, but the OBs ensured a comfortable win and a final result of OBs 13 – BGS 5.

The OBs are looking to recruit for next year, and to create a female team to take on the BGS girls for the first time. Email [oldbradfordians@bradfordgrammar.com](mailto:oldbradfordians@bradfordgrammar.com) for more info.





## Table Tennis

By A Crabtree, Teacher of Mathematics  
and Table Tennis Coach

Highlights this year for the BGS Table Tennis Club were third place nationally for the girls U19 team of Evie D and Emma M, national recognition for Aleks B and the school continuing to host the ESTTA Zone finals and West Yorkshire Schools Individual Tournaments.

This year, four BGS teams were county winners at the ESTTA Team competition. The U19 girls team of Evie and Emma defeated Ackworth 3-2 with Evie winning both singles matches and Emma one. The U13 boys also defeated Ackworth and the U16 and boys defeated Kettlethorpe, Beckfoot and Carlton Bolling with the U13 girls defeating Beckfoot.

In January, BGS hosted the Zone finals of the English Schools for winning county teams from the North East. All BGS teams competed well with the U19 girls first, the boys U13 second and the girls U13s second.

Two girls teams competed in the regional finals, the U19s qualified for the ESTTA finals finishing second to the ESTTA Champions. The U13 girls were unlucky not to qualify. Evie and Emma competed well in the finals defeating Burnham School but losing to Chellaston School and Royal Russell.

Individually, Muhammad C and Ellie S came second in the West Yorkshire Schools Individual competition in the U16 boys and U13 girls. Well done also to Ben A and Hamnah C, Clock House individual winners, and Shishir S and Anees K, Senior School Individual Winners, Years 9-13 and Years 7 and 8.

This year five pupils and Mr Crabtree completed a Table Tennis England Coaching Course. Aleks B, Evie D, Shishir S, Muhammad C and Harris N helped coach younger students and each other as part of the course.

Aleks came second in the Pride of Table Tennis Awards, which was richly deserved. His commitment and willingness to help and encourage others has been remarkable. He has had a great impact on Table Tennis by encouraging and coaching pupils at the school. His practical assistance has also helped to maintain the facilities.

I also received a Lifetime Achievement Award for more than 30 years of volunteering.

**Headmaster, Dr Simon Hinchliffe, said:**  
"His award is apt recognition for Mr Crabtree's generous leadership of BGS Table Tennis over his career."



... willingness to help  
and encourage others  
has been remarkable.





## Tennis

### Schools Team Tennis (Years 7-8 and 9-10)

By B Crichton, Specialist Sports Coach - Tennis

This year BGS teams were entered in both Division 1 and Division 2 LTA schools team tennis leagues across all age groups. The previous year set a high standard, with every BGS team winning Division 1 and 2 of the West Yorkshire Schools Team Tennis.

This year presented tough competition, especially from Holmfirth High boys, who provided fantastic fixtures against our Year 9 and 10 boys. Our boys gained valuable match experience against county-level opposition, winning against all teams in the league.

The Year 9-10 girls team had a successful campaign, winning all their matches in the group stage. They have qualified for the regional knockout phase in September, and we wish them the best of luck in their quest to repeat last year's national finals appearance.

In Division 2, BGS teams won three out of their four leagues, with the Year 7-8 girls and boys, as well as the Year 9-10 girls, emerging victorious against local competition.

### Year 11-13 Cup

In this year's Year 11-13 Winter Cup, the girls teams qualified for the Northern Finals in Sunderland for the third consecutive year. To reach this stage, they defeated Leeds Grammar School, Wakefield Girls' High, and South Hunsley School. Unfortunately, the boys team faced disappointment. After last year's narrow loss to Altrincham Grammar due to a coin flip, this year they fell short against Yarm after beating High Storrs, Birkdale, and Leeds Grammar School.



At the Northern Finals, the girls faced tough competition against Stonyhurst and the eventual winners, Strathallan School. Despite a valiant effort, including a nail-biting shootout loss to Stonyhurst, the girls could not overcome Strathallan's depth. Ava R was a stand-out player, winning all her matches except against Strathallan. Special mention goes to Anna B and Amelie B, who played their final Year 11-13 Cup for the school.

### Bradford League

This year, the U15 and U18 teams aimed to build on their success of winning the Bradford Tennis League for two consecutive years. The Bradford League has been an excellent platform for rotating players and providing opportunities to play singles and doubles. This year, we managed to involve 33 different players across the teams. Despite some closer matches due to this rotation, both the U15s and U18s won their leagues, marking their third consecutive league title. The toughest competition came from Cleckheaton Tennis Club, whose quality players led to a shock loss at the season's end. However, the U18s had already secured the league title. The teams will be presented with their trophies at the Bradford League presentation evening at Ilkley Tennis Club in October.

### Glanville Cup

In this year's Glanville Cup, the goal was to surpass last year's result of reaching the regional semifinal. The boys started strong with a straightforward 12-0 win against Woodhouse Grove. In the second round, they faced a talented Ampleforth team in tough, windy conditions. Despite some shaky doubles matches, singles wins from Shishir S and Will B secured a 4-2 victory and a valuable home fixture in the next round.

In the third round, the team faced another strong opponent, Stonyhurst, a school with a solid tennis academy. The boys' performance marked significant progress, with singles wins from Lucas A, Shishir S, and Will B. Although Stonyhurst managed to bring back both doubles matches, a shootout win by Shishir and Will secured the boys' place in the regional final.

The boys were just one match away from reaching the national finals, facing Ilkley Grammar. Despite a strong challenge, they found themselves 3-1 down after singles and lost both doubles matches, meaning Ilkley qualified ahead of us. Although it was disappointing to go out at the last hurdle, the team's progress was evident.



To view teams, fixtures and results, please visit [bradfordgrammar.com/fixtures](http://bradfordgrammar.com/fixtures)



## Eton

Last year's annual trip to Eton was a great success, with pairs picking up more wins and Jameela T and Katy H reaching the last eight of the U13s. This year, Katy moved up to the U19s to partner with Ava R. The girls won all five matches in their qualifying group, progressing to the last 32, where they defeated a Cranleigh pair 6-1, 7-6, marking the first time a BGS pair reached the last 16 of the U19s girls tournament. Although they faced a strong Eastbourne pair in the last 16, the experience was invaluable for these young players.

There was also success in the U13s, with Jameela T partnering with Ruby R. The girls won their qualifying group and progressed to the last 16, where they faced Kings High Warwick, Queenswood, and Wimbledon High. Despite losing to Queenswood, the girls finished second in their group and qualified for the last eight. They were eventually defeated by Bristol Grammar, but finishing in the top eight was a fantastic achievement.

The boys' first team also reached a milestone, advancing past the first round for the first time by defeating Cranleigh. Although they were ultimately outmatched by a strong Warwick side in the last 16, the experience of competing against the best teams was invaluable.

## Individual Success

Throughout the year, several individuals achieved notable success. Four of our Year 12 and 13 students earned their Level 1 tennis coaching awards, with Will B securing employment in New Zealand—a superb opportunity to travel and work.

Jameela T has added to her trophy cabinet, winning multiple Grade 5, 4, and 3 tournaments. Recently, she gained her first U14s Tennis Europe world ranking points in Bosnia and Croatia. Jameela also partnered with Ava R to win the Yorkshire County section of the Road to Wimbledon, earning them a spot in the National Finals on grass.

Ava R has also added to her collection of silverware, winning multiple tournaments and enhancing her national ranking.

## Aberdare Cup and Year 9-10 National Finals

The top highlights of the year were the two national finals reached by the girls teams. After winning Division 1 last year by defeating eight schools, Jameela T, Ava R, Katy H, and Evie S won the Northern Finals after a shootout victory against Wilmslow High in Sunderland. The girls progressed to the final four teams in the country, competing against Queenswood, Kings High Warwick, and Talbot Heath – schools with multiple national-level players. Despite tough competition, the girls finished 4th overall, a superb achievement and a significant milestone in BGS Tennis history.

In the Aberdare Cup, the girls first team had a superb run, making it to the National Finals. They defeated Pocklington, South Hunsley, St Peter's, and GSAL in the regional qualifying round, with stand-out performances from Katy H, Ava R, and Jameela T. At the National Finals in Nottingham, the girls faced the top 16 school teams in the UK. Despite a tough draw against a seeded Millfield School team, they secured a 14th-place finish nationally – a remarkable achievement considering the competition started with over 300 teams. With only one senior player, there is much more to come from this young team.



## Conclusion

The 2023-24 academic year has been a stand-out year for BGS Tennis, with two National Finals, two last 16 finishes, and a last eight finish at the ISTA Championships. There have been multiple individual successes, and the tennis program at the school continues to grow. I look forward to the 2024-25 year with new additions to the program and the continued development of our existing players.



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## Water Polo

By C Robinson, Specialist Sports Coach - Swimming

Unable to secure as many games as we have had in the past against St Bede's and St Joseph's (SBSJ), it was a harder run into the English Schools this year.

As usual, the U18 team were up against the cream of northern water polo - they managed to perform admirably in defeat against SBSJ, snuck one past an impregnable Manchester Grammar, and eventually showed an improvement from last year by beating Newcastle-under-Lyme (3-2) in the knockout stages.

Just one week later, the U15s took to the Jason Kenny Centre pool in Bolton with two veterans of the U18 campaign in their ranks. The competition was still too strong for a BGS team with a great deal of new blood. However, because BGS drew a new school, Tytherington, in the group stages, there was some experience on their side, and they triumphed 6-0.

This result bought them a knockout stage game against the formidable St Ambrose, which was eventually lost. However, it also bought them a ticket into the Plate Stages of the competition, a feat the U18s did not achieve.

And so, in late February, the U15 headed to Northampton for the Plate Semi Finals. Six minutes into the first game and Captain, Finlay J, took a strike to the eye and was unable to continue. The team worked hard to limit the damage, and the more experienced Fred D and William M maintained a wall in front of goal that Hadrian would have been proud of.

All in all, it was a good season - this showed in the final water polo outing of the year against the Old Bradfordians (OBs), which finished 13 vs 5 in favour of the OBs - a scoreline that in previous years may have been more reflective of the half time score!



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# Sport Tours

## Rugby

By D Scarbrough, Specialist Sports Coach  
- Rugby

### Rugby Tour to Canada

In July, 22 pupils from our school embarked on an exhilarating rugby tour to Canada. The trip, which spanned Toronto and Ottawa, was a unique blend of competitive sports and cultural exploration. All in all, it was a well-rounded and memorable experience for everyone involved.

Newly appointed Rugby Captain for the 2024/2025 season, Arul M's, leadership was particularly significant, as he follows in the footsteps of his father, Richard, who was the 1st XV Rugby Captain at Bradford Grammar in 1989. Arul remarked on the honour of leading the team this year, noting the proud family tradition that added a personal touch to his role.

The tour was meticulously managed by Mr Pullen and supported by Mr Scarbrough, Mr Hemsley and Mr Nabozny. Their balance of expertise and guidance ensured that the tour was both educational, developmental and enjoyable.



The tour was not solely focused on rugby as the boys clocked up a significant number of 'Steps' while exploring the big cities. It also comprised a variety of activities designed to enhance the pupils' Canadian experience including the thrill of white-water rafting and an adrenaline-pumping jet boating experience on the rapids which provided an unforgettable rush and showcased the natural beauty of the Canadian landscape.

A cruise to Niagara Falls offered spectacular views and a profound appreciation for one of Canada's most iconic natural landmarks, while the iconic CN Tower, in Toronto, provided stunning panoramic views of the city.

The team had the opportunity to watch an international rugby match between Canada and Romania, which was both inspiring and educational, and witnessed the colourful spectacle of pomp, pageantry and music in the changing of the guards on parliamentary square.

The team participated in fixtures against several local clubs, which proved to be both challenging and rewarding.

The match against Brock Rugby Club provided valuable competitive experience in a true grass roots rural rugby club environment. The picturesque setting of Balmy Beach added a unique backdrop to a highly competitive fixture and finally the fixture at Ottawa Ospreys rounded off the final match as the 1st XV chalked up their third victory.

The tour noted impressive performances from several players: Jesse P, having returned to rugby half way through last season, was a stand-out player, scoring seven tries and showing great pace and an instinct for the try line.



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and results, please visit  
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Newcomers, Harrison P and Robbie A, joined the team for their first tour and both expressed their enthusiasm for the trip: 'As a new student to Bradford Grammar, it was a privilege to be invited on the senior rugby tour to Canada and experience rugby abroad - the activities were also fantastic!' Their fresh perspectives and energy were welcome additions to the squad.

The top tourist was Alistair G for his 'team first' approach and positivity throughout the tour.

I would like to give thanks to the Rugby Parents' Association which helps provide support and financial help to allow all pupils to be able to go.

Finally, please save the date, Saturday 7 December for the popular Christmas Ball - tables of ten are available. Please book early to avoid disappointment by contacting [BGRugbyPA@gmail.com](mailto:BGRugbyPA@gmail.com)





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## Netball

L Kelly, Acting Specialist Sports Coach -  
Netball

### Netball tour to Sri Lanka

The Senior Netball squad enjoyed an action packed ten days in Sri Lanka at the start of the summer holidays.

The tour saw the girls travel some distance across the country starting in Kandy, then travelling to Galle and Colombo.

The girls played some outstanding netball throughout the tour against a range of local schools. There were five match days where the tour party was graciously hosted by all of its opposition.

Alongside the sport there were some enriching cultural excursions. These included the Royal Botanical Gardens, The Temple of the Tooth and Sigiriya Rock, an Eighth Wonder of the World. A couple of highlights of these excursions were the turtle conservation and rescue centre and the elephant orphanage, where the girls were able to get up close to some of the residents.



In the final few days of the trip, the tour party visited the Foundation of Goodness, which has worked extensively following the 2004 Tsunami, helping to rebuild the lives of thousands of Sri Lankans. The foundation provides opportunities and empowers the less privileged rural communities while teaching them the importance of goodness in life. The girls spent a fulfilling day supporting the work of the charity, meeting children who directly benefit from it. The touring party also donated more than £1,000 from their fundraising efforts throughout the season which will support the development of eight young netballers and empower rural disadvantaged communities.

On the final evening, the tour was concluded with awards, gifts, poems and speeches. A special mention must go to the ever-present tour guide Tikiri and all the people in Sri Lanka who helped make the tour the success it was. The memories made on tour will last a lifetime on a trip that was about more than just netball.



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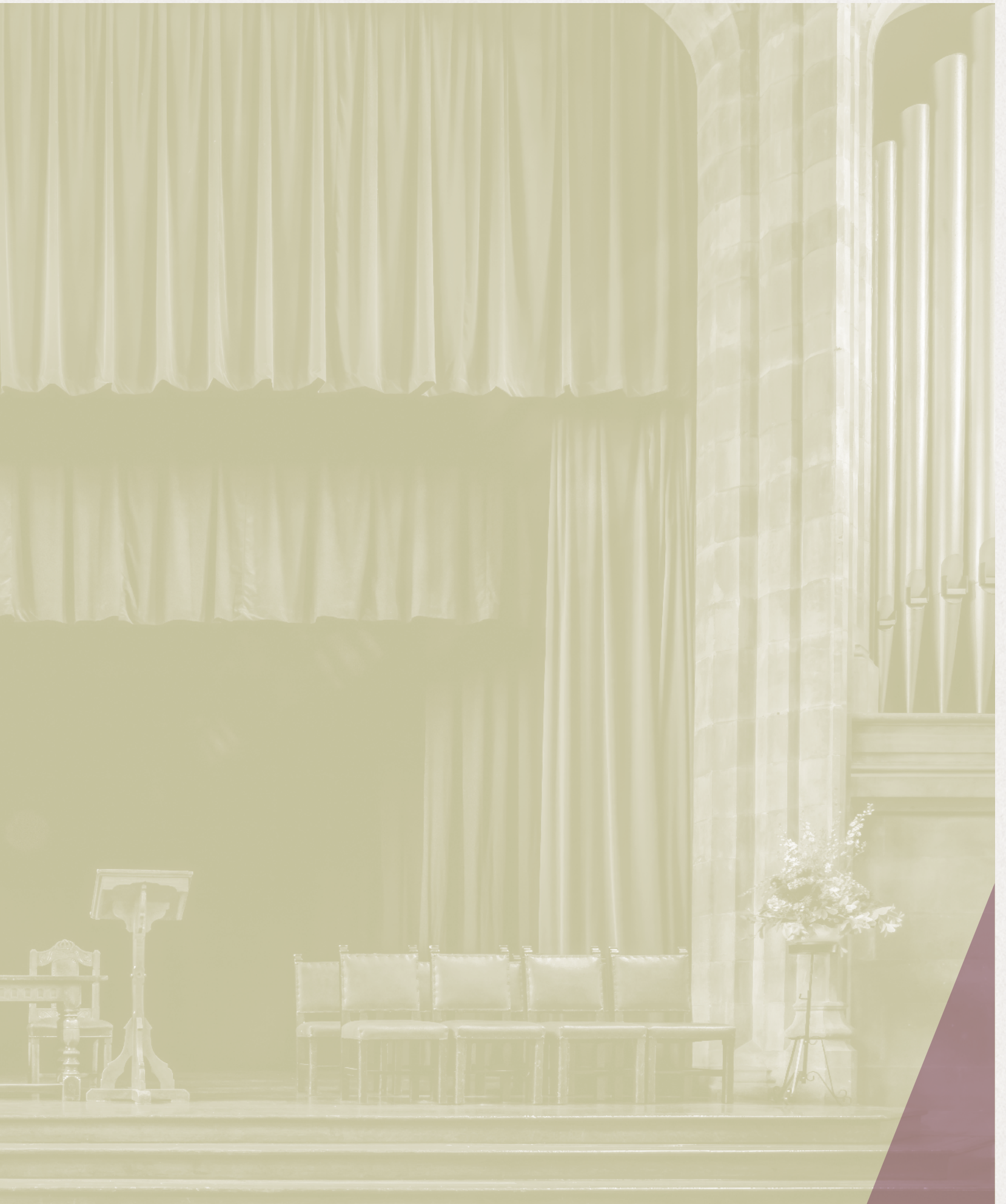


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## Thank you ...

To all pupils, parents and staff members for helping to make this year at BGS truly remarkable, yet again.









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