

#### CONTENTS

Pages 4-5 Headmaster's Report

Pages 6-7 Assisted Place Student - Oles Kyzomko

Pages 8-9 Assisted Place Student - Marvellous Adenuga

> Pages 10-13 Chris Murphy Q&A

Where are they now? Blaine Thomas

Bursar's Reflections

Pages 18-21 Thank you to our Supporters

A Legacy for Change - The Keeling Society

**Development Summary** 





































# HEADMASTER'S report

"This is our vision and purpose, with opportunity, excellence and positive impact at the core."



It is my pleasure to introduce the latest Impact Report for the 1662 Fund for Assisted Places.

The school year is now in full swing. Well over a thousand young people go about their busy lives in the classrooms and corridors of BGS, bringing fresh energy and impetus to our historic school. Amongst their number we count many in receipt of transformational Assisted Place Awards thanks to the vision and commitment of our benefactors.

A recent donation from an individual who wishes to remain anonymous has, for example, enabled us to welcome an additional seven deserving students into our Sixth Form.

We hope that others will be inspired by their generosity and positive impact.

Educational, commercial, and public benefit priorities represent the bedrock upon which BGS is grounded and goes forward. We are and will remain a high performing school that makes a difference locally and nationally.

To that end, there can be no complacency at BGS, and we routinely seek opportunities to improve and fine tune all aspects of what we do.

I am pleased to report that exam results last August were strong in absolute terms, but most pleasingly with respect to measures of added value and individuals exceeding expectations, something that has improved in recent years.

Additionally, over the summer we completed our new Special Educational Needs Department (SEND) hub, alongside wider expansion of provision in this field - a particularly satisfying development in terms of our academic and pastoral provision. Moreover, we have successfully opened our new building to house Reception and Year 1 classes, an extension of the age range at BGS to the youngest years.

The growth of our Junior School, Clock House has been accompanied by the creation of some exciting outdoor learning infrastructure to enrich the curriculum and provide opportunities for adventure play, exploration and a little bit deserving young people from of risk taking. These examples of progress disadvantaged backgrounds. at BGS speak of ambition, a deep understanding of education and child development, and also confidence as we embrace the opportunities and challenges of the present times.

The imposition of VAT on the fees that parents pay, and other cost pressures including the loss of Business Rates Relief, will however have an impact on BGS given our catchment and context. We are not naive. Some families will be forced to withdraw their children, and I have grave concerns regarding the education and wellbeing of these young people; whilst other parents who would once have considered BGS will no longer be able to do so. These changes will bite incrementally over time.

That said, BGS is an efficient and effective business, and we will strain every sinew to meet new challenges without compromising our standards.

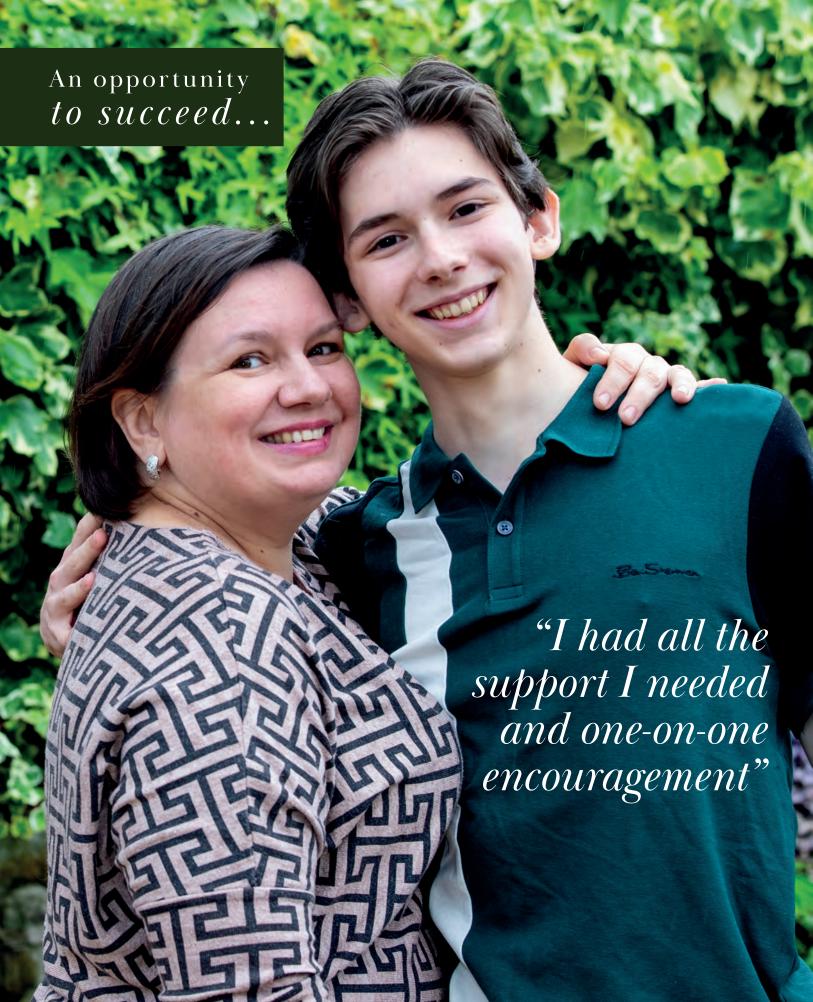
Crucially, in this moment of mounting pressures, I continue to extend my gratitude to our benefactors. Through their support we are able to protect Assisted Places for bright and

Many organisations talk about 'levelling up' and harnessing the youth of the UK regions, unlocking their potential. BGS is one of the few that actually does it. Our benefactors make that difference.

This is our vision and purpose, with opportunity, excellence and positive impact at the core. I hope you will be inspired by this latest iteration of our Impact Report, want to join our extended family of benefactors and support the transformational work of Bradford Grammar School.

Thank you,

Dr Simon Hinchliffe Headmaster



# Assisted Place Student Oles Kyzomko

A Ukrainian teen who escaped the devastation of war in his homeland and endured immense personal loss is looking forward to continuing his studies at BGS.

Oles celebrated gaining ten GCSEs in August – eight of which were Grade 7 (formerly Grade A) and above – and is now studying for his A Levels at BGS's Sixth Form.

Oles 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 relocated to Silsden, near Bradford, West Yorkshire, and gained an Assisted Place at BGS.

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, who has aspirations to work in law or management, also took online exams and earned the Ukrainian Certificate of Secondary Education — the country's equivalent to GCSEs — all while adapting to a new language, culture and educational system in the UK.

Oles and Mila had relocated to Yorkshire through the UK's Homes for Ukraine programme after initially seeking refuge in a rural village near Kyiv, then moving to Poland and later to the Czech Republic. Their journey followed the outbreak of war on February 24, 2022, when Russia launched a large-scale military invasion of Ukraine.

BGS recognised Oles' potential early on, awarding him an Assisted Place for his GCSE studies and later extending the Assisted Place to cover his A Level education.

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 last June, 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: "After everything that's happened, I don't have anyone left in Ukraine. 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."

# Assisted Place Student Marvellous Adenuga

A teenager who moved to the UK aged five is looking forward to a degree in Chemical Engineering after excelling in her A Levels at BGS.

Marvellous gained an A\* in Biology, A\* in Chemistry, and an A in Maths in her recent A Level results, as well as an A\* in her EPQ. She will now continue her studies at Manchester University.

Marvellous, of West Bowling, joined Bradford Grammar School on an Assisted Place at the start of Sixth Form where she soon began enjoying school life.

"I joined the netball team when I got here, and it was a really nice way to integrate into school life and make friends," she said. "I've enjoyed the atmosphere at BGS, they support your mental health, they support you academically and also it's been lots of fun."

Marvellous said she was 'really happy' with her A Level results after two years of hard work. The teenager had moved to the UK from Nigeria with older sister, Precious, and mum Oludayo after her dad gained a place as a British student.

Proud mum Oludayo said: "Marvellous has been amazing and worked hard. She has really enjoyed her time at BGS and got so much out of her experience."

Marvellous learned about BGS's Assisted Places scheme from a friend who attended BGS. She's now considering a career in the pharmaceutical industry after university.

"The school has given me a good balance between work and fun because of the way it's structured," she said. "They don't just prioritise your education, they want you to excel outside of academic life too.

"I would say to any young person considering coming here on an assisted place, go ahead and apply! It will benefit you a lot to come. I wouldn't have been able to attend BGS were it not for the Assisted Places scheme and I'm very grateful."







good education.

He talks about his entrepreneurial luxury knitwear journey and giving back via the BGS's

Old Bradfordian & Major Benefactor Chris Murphy

"I'm at a time in my life where I can give back"

Having grown up on a council estate, Old Bradfordian Chris Murphy, knows only too well the transformative power of a good education.

Assisted Places programme

One of Chris Murphy's mottos is being a 'big fish in a small pond'. Certainly, when he left BGS in 1986, the saying served him well when he became one of the few (if any) students heading off to study Chinese and Korean at university.

"I loved English, but everyone was studying it," he says. "I wanted to find an area of specialisation where I could stand out from the crowd. When it came to the graduate jobs fair at the end of fourth year there was only one other graduate who could speak Chinese and Korean, which meant we were in a very select pool."

The graduate fair led to a year in South Korea in management consultancy as a precursor to a fantastic career in textiles, which has seen Chris set up two companies and establish them as some of the leading providers of luxury knitted goods in the world. His clients range from Chanel and Hermes to Chloe and Givenchy with knitwear worn by models walking runways in Paris, New York and Milan – a long way from the Swain House Estate in Bradford where he grew up.

Chris joined Bradford Grammar's Junior School after his mother managed to scrape together the money to pay the fees. He faced leaving BGS at the end of Year 6 however, as she could no longer afford for him to continue. But fortunately, he was awarded a coveted Assisted Place.

"It really gave me a sense of aspiration, that I could do and be better."

"I loved Bradford Grammar School from the moment I got there," he recalls. "I loved the diversity of the school. There were a lot of wealthy kids, and kids from pretty normal families, but there were also kids like me, from humble backgrounds. No one gave me any stick about where I'd come from. It really gave me a sense of aspiration, that I could do and be better."

Although Chris admits he didn't do too well at BGS academically until his final year ("I was enjoying doing too many things – sport, music, friends!") he found early on that he wanted to study Chinese, inspired by a teacher at BGS.

"There was an economics teacher called Sid Greenwood and I really admired him," he says. "He was the first person who gave me a sense of social justice and a deep interest in politics. That led to an interest in communism and China and I became fascinated with Chinese history."

After a brief stint as a management consultant, he heard about a graduate trainee opportunity at Dawson International PLC, which at the time was the world's largest processor of cashmere and owned much of the UK's textile infrastructure across Yorkshire and Scotland.

"Not many people are aware the best cashmere in the world comes from China, and once China began moving from a planned economy towards privatisation, Dawson needed someone on the ground who could speak Chinese – that's when the Chinese speaking Yorkshire boy stepped forward," he laughs.

"They sent me to Hong Kong to map the supply chain of cashmere in China in 1994, to see how it was evolving and establish who were the emerging key players controlling the raw material. I went on to play a key role in establishing the troubled JV with King Deer in Inner Mongolia."

Chris later moved to Swiss-based company, Alpha Tops SA, one of the biggest traders in alpaca, mohair and cashmere. He was sent to China to open a Beijing office where he introduced alpaca to the Chinese market.

"From zero in less than two years, China was consuming more than half of the production of alpaca in South America," he says. "We were doing great, but I could see the future was for value added rather than just selling raw



materials. I'd seen how not to build a factory in China from the Dawson experience, and I knew many UK and Italian knitters were struggling trying to offshore manufacturing to Asia. I chatted with Alpha Tops and, with investment from them, I set up Alphatex which became the first WFOE (wholly foreign-owned enterprise) producing textiles in Beijing."

Chris then had to find new clients. He sourced the best samples he could find in China and flew to New York with them. "I begged and borrowed every contact I could, and I managed to get an appointment with Ralph Lauren Purple Label. They took one look at me and pretty much said 'who the hell do you think you are,'" he laughs.

"But I also managed to get an appointment with Ralph Lauren Childrenswear, and I came away with an order for them and another for Jonny Walker, the whiskey brand!"

Today Alphatex employs 350 staff in Beijing and turns over £30m per year. From that success, he then set up The Albion Knitting Company in 2014, the only industrial-scale knitwear factory established in London since the Second World War.

"Brands such as Chanel and Hermes want production that's exclusively in Europe," he says. "Even back in 2010 I could see luxury brands would move away from globalisation to localisation and





of course Covid also showed us there are a lot of issues with over extended supply chains, logistics and politics. So, even though most people said I was bonkers setting up a knitting factory in London in 2014, it has proved to be a good decision." Albion employs 50 people, turns over £6m per year, and this year won a King's Award for Enterprise.

"It's all been a journey, I love what we do," he says.
"I love working in a creative industrial space where we make beautiful things and I'm part of the connection with Bradford's industrial heritage and, in some small way, being able to tap back into that."

Having built his businesses, Chris now plans to give back. He's opening a knitting school in London, to teach practical skills to graduates, and has become one of BGS's Ambassadors for Assisted Places and is fully funding an Assisted Place.

"The teachers that taught me and friends I met there opened my eyes to another world and gave me an approach that transcended my local environment."

"I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunities BGS gave me," he says. "The teachers that taught me and friends I met there opened my eyes to another world and gave me an approach that transcended my local environment. I would never have dreamt or done half of what I've achieved were it not for the springboard BGS gave me.

"Now I'm in my 50s, I'm at a time in my life where you start to think about giving back. There are many things you can do with your money, but I think it's important to give back. When I look back at when I went to university, I had a full grant and my tuition fees were paid. You don't have that now; kids are coming out with £50k of debt. That is a disaster for social mobility. But giving back is something I can do; I can make a difference and if just one kid is able to follow their dreams and be successful through an Assisted Place the sense of social justice I learnt at BGS will have come full circle.



Where are they now?
Blaine Thomas (2020)

We caught up recently with Blaine Thomas (2020) - one of our youngest Old Bradfordians - who, following his time at BGS, is about to embark in the world of work upon completion of university life. Blaine secured a place at Bradford Grammar having been awarded an Assisted Place, funded by a donation established in memory of the late Sir Ken Morrison.

When Blaine Thomas joined BGS in the 6th Form back in 2018, he was expecting a culture shock moving to a independent school from growing up on the Canterbury estate in Bradford, but the reality was somewhat different to his expectations of a grandiose building and a stuffy, uptight environment.

have been a tough change. The university required a quick transition and a focus on independent study. BGS gave me that cushioning and preparation for what would be three years of intense learning in a high-pressure environment. It meant I could hit the ground running without feeling shell shocked."

During those university days, Blaine was able to fully embrace the opportunities that came his way. He met with various law firms, took an internship and was offered places in multiple international practices upon graduation. Safe in the knowledge that he would become a trainee corporate lawyer, Blaine decided to fulfil another dream and took a leap of faith, travelling for 6 months across Asia.

Today, Blaine is living in London and is about to start his professional life at international firm

# "The opportunities that were offered to me at school changed my life..."

"Teachers and students were friendly from the outset, which meant I was able to settle quickly. I was surrounded by teachers who wanted me to do well and other students who also wanted to do well and this combination was the motivator to be the best I could possibly be."

School provided some important groundwork for a career in law; opening opportunities and relationships with established lawyers, some of which are Old Bradfordians who have supported his journey.

Fast forward two years and Blaine, armed with three top A Levels, was accepted into Oxford University to study Law. He eased into Oxford life and credits BGS for enabling this smooth change. "Moving from a non-traditional background to a top university - from Bradford to Oxford – would

Slaughter and May. Whilst West Yorkshire may seem a world away, the Bradford boy who is close to his family still visits often. He also meets with other OBs, including BGS classmates, and is forever grateful for the opportunity he was given back in 2018.

"The family you were born into shouldn't be a barrier to success. I am grateful for the chance I had at BGS to engage fully in my studies and school life beyond A Levels. The opportunities that were offered to me at school changed my life and there are so many bright talented students across Bradford who also deserve the same opportunities. Supporting the 1662 campaign for Assisted Places will ensure more children in West Yorkshire get their chance to thrive."



BURSAR'S reflections

"With your unwavering support, we will ensure that this legacy continues for centuries to come"





The School continues to be in a strong financial position and, as can be seen throughout this report, the impact of the Assisted Places programme on the lives of children from our region continues to be transformational.

These are certainly turbulent times for independent schools. The imposition of VAT on school fees poses a real and significant threat to the sector with experts largely predicting a shrinkage in pupil numbers. Many schools will find themselves having to cut costs to maintain fees at levels which are affordable in the

context of local markets and sadly, means tested fee assistance will reduce or disappear from the school budgets of many.

Our commitment to Assisted Places at Bradford Grammar School is firm and a core part of our school strategy and mission. Additionally, at BGS we strive to keep our fees affordable, offer value for money and remain accessible to the widest possible cross section of families. Whilst VAT on fees might reduce our school population, we know we can manage our costs to reflect this. Our challenge will be to protect inclusivity which is of pivotal importance to the positive impact and success of our School. This is why our development and

fundraising work has never been so critically important. We will be relying, to a greater extent, on the generous donations from our wide BGS community to maintain and grow our Assisted Places programme whilst doing all we can to keep our school fees affordable and competitive without compromising quality of education.

BGS has been a pillar of the city of Bradford since 1548, providing a transformative education for pupils, serving the local community, and acting as a focus for civic pride. With your unwavering support, we will ensure that this legacy continues for centuries to come.



# Thanking our Supporters

Everyone at Bradford Grammar School would like to thank the 114 donors who contributed £753,000 to the 1662 Campaign for Assisted Places during this last year – 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024.

Last year was the campaign's most successful year to date, which would not have been possible without the generosity of our community.

BGS is grateful for the generosity of all individuals who have contributed to the 1662 Campaign, as well as those who have pledged a legacy gift, through our Keeling Society or anonymously.

Thank you to our donors overleaf; you are providing an outstanding education to children who truly deserve it.





TOTAL RAISED FOR 1662 Fund £2.9M

## Thank you to our donors...

### 1950s

Alan Marshall Graham Reid Christopher Storr Trevor Sunderland David Watson

#### 1960s

David Akerman Roy Aspinall Duncan Baker Richard Bellman Geoff Blackburn Keith Bottomley Stephen Brunton Peter Chamberlain John Claughton Peter Forbes Jim Gilpin Geoff Hirst Patrick Holdsworth **Andrew Pitts Duncan Preston** Michael Prior Derek Swift John Tempest Barry Thomas\* Trevor Wright

### 1970s

Nigel Cameron Andy Child Mark Evans **Nigel Evans** Tim Finney Richard Goodall Jerry Gregson Philip Hanson Mark Hardaker David Hinchliffe John Holmes Philip Howard Kevan Keegan Tony Kelley **David Kennedy** Rookie Kholwadia Robert Leechman Ian Lofthouse Paul Marsden Clive Minihan John Moorhouse Stephen Morris Nick Peet Richard Raine Simon Sammons Tim Soutar John Verity Chris Vigrass Rob Walker Ian Wilkinson

### 1980s

John Child
Richard Green
John Hamer
Jim Hart
Peter Higgins
Ian Kennedy\*
Richard Lewis
Catherine Moore
Dominic Pinnock
Bruce Robinson
John Robinson
Simon Shaw
Andrew Wood

### 1990s

Dave Archer Craig Bass John Bolton Adam Brosnan Gully Hassan Aamer Khan Ty Khan Asif Qasim Alasdair Turnbull Andrew Wowk

### 2000s

Sacha Cohen-Chowdhury James Degnan Katie Essex Stuart Smith Alistair Stead David Wevill Nick Yazdani

#### 2010s Matthew Cogan



...you are providing an outstanding education to children who truly deserve it.

# Thank you to our...

### Staff

(past & present)

Nadeem Asghar Ian Stoney (1964)

John Widdowson

#### **Parents**

(past & present)

Peter Guy (1966) Joe Midgley

## Friends

Justyn Jagger

# Corporate Partners

Sovereign Health Care

# Trust and Foundations

Cricket Beyond Boundaries Shears Foundation The Keith Howard Foundation

### Bradford Grammar School 1662 Major Benefactors

The Allanson Family (1974)

James Barker (1976)

John Bigham (1988)

Roger Bowers (1961)

John Brewer (1976)

John Burnell (1952)

Marian Creek

Chris Eskdale (1986) and Julie Eskdale

Robert Hirst (1965)

Ian Hudson (1976)

Mark Learmonth (1981)

Andy Meehan (1973) and Sue Meehan

**Colin Mellors** 

Lynne Morrison

William Morrison

Chris Murphy (1986)

Steve Nicholls (1969)

James Parker (1977)

Geoff Proctor (1962)

Mark Richer (1981)



William Keeling was BGS Headmaster from 1871-1916; he was determined to widen access to BGS, which remains central to our present-day ethos. Our legacy society is named after him to thank those who are leaving a gift in their Will.

Remembering BGS in your Will is one of the most personal and significant ways you can help to safeguard the future of talented young people in and around Bradford. All legacy gifts, regardless of size, help us to pass on the transformative gift of a BGS education.

We show our appreciation to legators during their lifetime by sending regular updates on how legacies are making a significant difference to life at BGS and invitations to special events, including a private Keeling Society Afternoon Tea with the Head. Members will also receive a Keeling Society lapel pin or brooch, and our annual Impact Report.



We would like to thank our Keeling Society members for their dedication to BGS and continued support:

Marian Creek

Eric Morrell (1960)

Michael Ludgate (1953)

Ted Edmondson (1956)

Revd Tom Broadbent (1963)

Mark Donougher (1984)

Mike Levene (1965)

Adam Fenton (1980)

Revd Barrie Scott (1980)

Alan Goodwin (1978)

Roger Bowers (1961)



Barrie Scott (1980)

Deputy Director of Education for the Diocese of Birmingham

"I owe everything that I am and everything that I have achieved in life to my parents and to Bradford Grammar School. My parents put my education first and I took a Hoc Age approach through life. I have pledged to give back and join The Keeling Society so that others can benefit from the same."

If you have included or wish to include BGS in your Will, please email:

development@bradfordgrammar.com
or call: 01274 553741









# Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to read our Impact Report. As you can see, your collective efforts and generous donations have ensured that our Assisted Places programme continues to thrive.

In the coming years it is our aim to not only maintain, but also increase, the current level of Assisted Place Awards. Our goal is to raise £5 million for our Future Fund (endowment) in the next 5 years, alongside receiving regular donations to the 1662 Campaign. A Future Fund of this magnitude would go a significant way towards safeguarding our current level of Assisted Place provision. The longer-term ambition is to raise £20 million towards the Future Fund which would guarantee our current AP programme and provide the foundation for growth – more Assisted Places and greater positive impact – at a time of growing need. We are in a strong position, but with uncertain times ahead, we must secure the future of our programme.

This is where you can get involved. On 27 and 28 March 2025 we will be holding our BGS Giving Day, where all donations received will count towards our Future Fund. Our Giving Day motto is 'Be the One', as we hope, one by one, everybody will support in some way and help us work our way towards that £5 million goal. Whether you sign up to a monthly direct debit, give a large one-off gift or a legacy pledge, every donation will transform a child's life. The Giving Day is a great

opportunity for the entire BGS community to get involved and ensure our events, activities and fundraising efforts are a success. We look forward to sharing ways you can get involved in the coming months.

Furthermore, on 21 June 2025 we will be hosting our Made in Bradford Gala Dinner, where we will celebrate the achievements of our alumni and benefactors whilst raising funds for our Future Fund. We hope you can join us for an evening filled with fine food, entertainment and company, all whilst raising vital funds to secure a child's place at our School. Tickets are £80 and open to OBs, friends and families of BGS.

To purchase please scan the QR code to book a table or buy individual tickets.



Finally, our Impact Report shows the dedication and generosity of our community, raising more funds this year than any previous one. We, the Development Office, thank you for your ongoing support and in advance for your help in the coming year. The BGS community is truly inspirational and we hope you can celebrate that with us during 2025.



### How to Support Us...



#### CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS

Visit: bradfordgrammar.com/donation or scan the QR below



DIRECT DEBIT

To set up a monthly, quarterly

or annual donation, visit

bradfordgrammar.com/

regular-gifts

#### **CHEOUE**

Made payable to: The 1662 Fund and posted to Bradford Grammar School, Keighley Road, Bradford BD9 4JP



#### BANK TRANSFER

Account name: The 1662 Fund Sort Code: 40-13-15 Account Number: 34812255 IBAN: GB13H BUK 4013 1534 812 255



#### **OVERSEAS GIFTS**

If you are a taxpayer of Hong Kong, Canada or European Country, please contact us



#### SHARES

Please contact us regarding gifting of shares to BGS



#### DONATING FROM THE US

If you are paying US taxes, you can make a donation through BSUF. Please cite Bradford Grammar School as the 'Approved Institution'. You can donate by cheque to: The British Schools and Universities Foundation, 641 Lexington Avenue, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10022-4503.





#### **CONTACT US**

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