League Table Success

In January the Government published the Secondary Schools League table and we are extremely pleased to say we are now in the top 25% of schools nationally.

The league table highlights the progress our students make in their time with us as well as their exam performance. To view the table published in the T&A visit our school website and click on news. “It is great to see the school’s GCSE success last summer reflected in the league tables” said Headteacher Luke Weston, “The students’ outstanding results were a reflection of their hard work, the dedication of staff and the support of parents. Many have now gone on to build on their GCSE achievements in our Sixth Form and we look forward to celebrating their future successes as they move through A level and on to higher education and working life.”

A Word from the Head Teacher

Welcome to our new monthly School Magazine. This magazine will be published at the end of each month in addition to (or instead of, depending on dates) the existing fortnightly newsletter.

The monthly magazine style allows us to add more stories with photos giving an insight into the general life of the school. There will also be a ‘dates to remember’ and ‘messages from the teachers’ section similar to that of the newsletter.

We are immensely proud of our placing in the top 25% in the schools league table and it is great to see our students and staff’s hard work and effort being recognised.

It is nice to see all our students and staff back safe and sound from their half term trips to Italy and Germany and we hope the experiences and memories made on these trips will last a lifetime.

A group of our Year 7 students visited the new children’s wards at the BRI this week as a thank you for raising thousands through our sponsored walk. The group were given a warm welcome and really enjoyed seeing where their generous donations were being spent and also being shown the surgical teaching centre.

Mr Luke Weston
Headteacher
The Brilliant Club

Our Brilliant Club Students have passed with flying colours

This year has seen our second set of students take part in the Scholars Programme run by The Brilliant Club and led by Mrs Williams.

This is a scheme designed to give students an understanding of what universities are like, through attending an open day at Manchester University, followed by specialising in the field of STEM or Arts and Humanities. The students undertake six university style workshops/seminars where they develop an understanding of their area of study, resulting in them producing a thesis/dissertation which is formally marked, before attending their graduation at Leeds University with their families.

Due to such well thought out writing, which came through focused research, we are proud to announce the cohort of 31 students did exceptionally well in their final results with all students passing the programme. 16 of the 31 attained a 2.1 and 9 attained the top grade of a 1st.

In February, our Year 7 and 8 group attended their graduation ceremony at Leeds University with their families. Well done to all those who have taken part in the Scholars Program, we are immensely proud of your efforts and hope you enjoyed the day and overall experience.

The New Year 9 Cohort

We are now looking forward to seeing what our next cohort of 24 Year 9 students will achieve in their further studies in The Scholars Program. The Year 9s attended their launch day at Manchester University on Tuesday and will begin their seminars next week.

This year we have seen some exceptional submissions with Sophie Bhatt in Year 8 focussing on ‘Little Red Riding Hood – Female victim or feminist heroine?’ Sophie’s conclusion being: “As I mentioned earlier, I think applying the feminist theory to literature is useful to alter people’s perception of girls and what they can do. If girls are constantly told that they should be satisfied with a limited role because they are not clever or strong enough to do anything else, they will never aspire to reach their true potential. We all only have one life, and girls, just like boys, should be confident that they can be their own hero in the story of their life. Seen from the feminist point of view, Dahl’s version of this classic story challenges what we have been taught about stereotypical female gender roles by changing LRRH from yet another pathetic female victim to a new feminist heroine that girls can look up to.”
Lunchtime Gastronauts Club

Mrs Wilkinson’s lunchtime food science club has gone from strength to strength with new students joining in every week. Gastronauts is a food science and nutrition based lunchtime club for Year 7 and 8 where students can learn about the seasonal food we eat and the science behind it. Throughout the club students will be experimenting, making, eating, and discovering facts about the foods we eat at seasonal times of the year. This term students have learned about:

- Citric Acid, a familiar additive that we can add to lots of food ingredients which they then used to make sherbet.
- Emulsions and foams using milk, ice cubes and salt to make ice cream.
- Butter making

Mrs Wilkinson says,
“New members are joining all the time, why not get involved and ‘belong grow and succeed’ with the Gastronauts!”.

Year 8 Present to Bingley Town Council

On Thursday 9th Feb, seven Year 8 students from Miss Howard’s numeracy group, took part in a Dragon’s Den style pitch to Bingley Town Council focussing on how to improve the local area.

The event was organised by the 4LC, a group of local primary schools who work collaboratively on many projects. Saltaire, Priesthorpe, Eldwick and Crossflatts Primary Schools along with Beckfoot and Bingley students presented their ideas to the Councillors on the panel at Bingley Little Theatre.

The presentation, which was judged by 10 local Councillors, was focused on how to improve the local area. The aim of the project was to use cross curricular links with maths in a real life context that would benefit the local community.

Our students (Ellie Frazer, Sanaat Farooq, Sami Ahmad, Mahrukh Qudsia, Aklima Begum, Awais Ahmed and Luke Kramer) were a credit to Bingley Grammar. It must have been a nerve wracking experience standing up in front of 50+ people in a theatre to present their projects - well done to the team and fingers crossed some of your ideas become reality.
Sixth Form Economics Students Achieve 2nd Place at the ICAEW

On Wednesday 8th February a team of Year 12 Economics students took part in the regional heat of the ICAEW (Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales) Base competition at the Village Hotel in Tingley.

The students were given a case study to dissect and analyse, similar to one studied by accountancy trainees, and then were asked to come up with recommendations for the business on which direction they should take in the current economic climate. They then had to do a short presentation to a panel of judges and answer questions on their recommendations.

It was a very competitive heat with teams from a variety of different schools. Our students put on a brilliant performance and came a very close 2nd to the winning team from Grammar School At Leeds.

The feedback we received from the judges and the business mentors about our students was excellent: they said our group worked well as a team, had some well thought out ideas and were confident in their presentation.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the day and have been inspired to look into accountancy related careers as they start to consider their next steps after A Levels.

Miss Scatchard was extremely impressed by how they conducted themselves and the team’s excellent 2nd place - well done.

Charity Bake Sale

Before the half term break, two of our Sixth Form students Aniqah and Hannah, organised and held a bake sale in aid of Cancer Research UK.

The students were helped by their fellow sixth formers to bake a massive amount of delicious buns, biscuits and brownies and set up in the T-block at break time to sell their treats.

The pair were amazed how quickly everything sold! At lunchtime they sold every last crumb as well as Cancer Research UK bracelets and pin badges.

The girls have carried on selling the bracelets and pin badges all week in the sixth form and have raised £302.35 in total.

We are extremely proud of their efforts for such a worthy cause.

Free Office 365

In order to help our students to prepare for success this academic year, we’re providing Microsoft Office to every student free of charge.

With Office 365, your child will now have access to the latest version of Word, for writing; Excel, for spreadsheets; PowerPoint, for presentations; OneNote, for organization and note taking; and much more. For instructions of how to download this fantastic resource visit the news section of the school website: http://www.bingleygrammar.org/latest-news/free-microsoft-office-365-for-students/
Our Partnership with Leeds Beckett University

A new partnership has been launched between Leeds Beckett University and Bingley Grammar School, to develop our teacher’s research and evidence-based teaching skills.

For the last few years, our staff have taken a keen interest in utilising educational research to inform their teaching.

Through this partnership, our teachers will be able to enrol on Leeds Beckett’s new ‘Masters by Research Professional Practice’ (MRes) degree course, allowing them to critically analyse a project they have completed, or apply the principals of research to the planning and evaluation of a work project they are about to begin.

We are one of seven schools in Yorkshire to receive backing from Leeds Beckett’s Carey Philpott Partner Research Fund, which will further help the School to embed research within our teachers’ professional practice. As part of this, Bingley Grammar will work towards Leeds Beckett’s Carnegie Teacher-Researcher Status: a formal recognition of the development of research and evidence-based teaching.

Mr Riley said,

“We are extremely proud and excited to have established our partnership with Leeds Beckett’s Carnegie School of Education, which is a key development for our vision of embedding evidence and research-informed practice within the culture of our school. Increasing our capacity in these fields will form an important part of our strategic plan to invest in the training and development of our staff, helping to ensure better practices and improved outcomes for the children in our care.”

Bingley Grammar will also work with Leeds Beckett to develop new continuing professional development (CPD) programmes within the School and placement opportunities for student teachers at the University.

Mr Weston said:

“This is an exciting opportunity for our students and staff as it will allow us to further improve our teaching by using even more research to enhance our practice. We are proud to be linking with such a highly rated university as it allows all of our students to see going onto university as a real and tangible option.”

Professor Damien Page, Dean of the Carnegie School said,

“This partnership provides a model for how universities and schools can collaborate to really embed research and find out what really works for children. In Bingley Grammar we’ve found a partner dedicated to improving outcomes for children.”
Archbishop of York Young Leaders Award

Since the beginning of the school year, Miss Shah has been working with a group of students towards their Archbishop of York Young Leaders Award.

The award was set up by the Archbishop of York to change the perception of young people and offer experience and opportunities.

FAITH - students are asked to look at key people of faith, what they believe in and how they use it to make a change in their communities.

HOPE - students then look at their communities and think how they can get involved in social action groups or make a change for the better within the community.

ACTION - finally the students are asked to take action, get involved and make a difference.

Students are asked to undertake a personal challenge, a school community challenge and a whole community challenge.

The overall ethos of the award is to “Be the change you want to see”

So far, Miss Shah’s Year 7 and 8 group have studied several people of faith who have made an impact in the world including Martin Luther King, Gandhi, Bear Grylls, Bethany Hamilton and Malala Yousafzai. They are now working towards getting involved in community and school projects.

As part of the Award, over the last few weeks, 12 of our 15 students (those old enough) have been trained to become Ambassadors for the Anne Frank and You exhibition at the Kala Sangham centre in Bradford.

SUSOMAD 2017

During February, as part of the Archbishop of York Yong Leaders Award, a group of Year 8 students have attended a course entitled SUSOMAD - ‘Stand Up, Speak Out, Make a Difference’ and a 2-day training session to become Ambassadors for the Anne Frank & Me exhibition at Kala Sangam.

Earlier in the month the students took part in a one day training session at City Hall in Bradford along side 3 other schools from the local area. The Peer Education programme is based on the highly topical theme of Migration focussing on hate crime. The group took part in workshops on the topics of hate crime, migration and propaganda.

This week the students have spent two more days at the Kala Sangham Centre where they learned about the life of Anne Frank and were trained to show students from other schools around as well as from Bingley Grammar when a slightly different exhibition will be displayed in school in April. The group also met a survivor of the kindertransport, Rudi Leavor. Our students listened to his story intently and asked some extremely insightful questions at the end.

Our group have not only learned some valuable skills in presentation and public speaking but also now feel strongly that it is their duty to teach their generation about tolerance and respect, and that prejudice and discrimination is not only wrong but destructive.

The Archbishop of York Award is an ongoing project and future aspects of the course include our students making changes in their local communities including our school community.

Well done to all those taking part - we look forward to visiting the Anne Frank exhibition in school in April.
**The Year 8 Ski Trip**

During February half term, 35 Year 8 students enjoyed a fantastic week of skiing in the Italian resort of Pila in the Aosta valley.

Under six stunning blue sky days students made lots of progress during the week and all improved their skiing. Apres ski activities included bowling, a disco, a meal out in a pizzeria, table tennis/table football, shopping in Aosta and quite a few visits to the gelateria for ice creams!

To keep parents up to date with the goings on in Pila, teaching staff on the trip made sure to post regular photos and updates on our geography twitter feed @bingleygeog.

As ever our students were a credit to Bingley Grammar School and Dr Crowder, Mrs White, Miss Seeley, Mr Conboy and Mr Langan salute you!

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**Yr 7 BRI Visit**

On Thursday 02 March thirteen Year 7 students spent the day at the BRI.

The students were a group of the highest fund raisers from the sponsored walk staged by Year 7 which raised over £4500 for the new children’s wards in January.

The students were taken on a tour and saw first hand the stark contrast between the old wards built in 1965 to the brand new state of the art wards that will be occupied later this month.

After a hearty lunch the students were taken into the teaching centre where they were able to use ultrasound and keyhole surgery equipment. The highlight was then to observe a training scenario on monitors of a doctor and two nurses dealing with a medical emergency.

Dr Simon Frazier presented the students with a plaque in recognition of the fundraising and design work undertaken during the last two years by school.

The plaque will be displayed outside the Adolescent room on the new children’s ward.
World Book Day
This week we have been celebrating World Book Day with lots of activities and visiting speakers in school. Yesterday many of our teaching staff, support staff and sixth formers dressed up as fictional characters and students were given the task of finding them and linking them with the correct book in a human treasure hunt. We have also had the pleasure of welcoming three highly successful authors into school to speak with students about their books and their inspirations. A full report of the activities will be published on the school website shortly.

Kenya
During half term, a group of our teaching staff headed off to Kenya to spend the week teaching at schools in Nairobi. Mr Parapia, Mr Foster, Miss Cane, Mr McGregor and Mr Farnaby were joined by Miss Hurst from Crossflatts Primary on their journey. The team spent time at Jamhuri High, Ngara Girls High School and Hospital Hill Primary School as well as visiting the Kibera Slums where they spent time with children at the Kibera Kids Club. A full report of the trip will be published on the school website shortly.

Berlin 2017
During half term, the teachers from the History department took 40 students from year 10 and 11 to Berlin.

The trip aimed to help them gain a deeper understanding of the rise of National Socialism, life under the Nazi regime, the Holocaust and the origins of the Cold War. Across the 4 days, the students calculated that we walked nearly 30 miles. Miss Cartledge reports.

On the first day we visited Checkpoint Charlie and a former nuclear bunker so the students could learn more about the origins of the Cold War and what it was like to live with the constant threat of a nuclear war. On day 2, we went to the Topographie of Terror; a museum on the site of the former headquarters of the SS and Gestapo - this exhibition tried to shed some light on the darkest chapter of German history and helped prepare students for their guided tour to one of the earliest Nazi concentration camps, Sachsenhausen, where over 120,000 Jews and political prisoners were murdered.

We also spent time at the House of Wannsee, where in 1942 Reinhard Heydrich, Head of the Reich Security chaired the Wannsee Conference to finalise the organisation and implementation of the ‘The Final Solution,’ the decision to deport the Jews of Europe to the East and to murder them. Students were lucky to receive a detailed talk by the museum staff on what happened at the conference.

On the final day we managed to squeeze in a visit to the Reichstag, the Brandenburg Gate, (and Starbucks!) before heading back to the airport and home! All our students on the trip were respectful and understandably moved by their experiences in Berlin.
Notes from the Teachers:

CyberFirst Girls Competition
We currently have four Year 9 girls taking part in the GCHQ (Government Communications Headquarters) cyberfirst girls cyber security competition. This week the team are completing a round of online competitions, where the top 10 teams will then be selected to go to London for the final. Good luck girls!
For more information on the competition visit: https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberfirst/competition/home

Geography Year 11 Revision Day
Any more Year 11 students wanting to attend the Coastal Revision day to the Holderness Coast on Friday 7th April 2017 please see Mrs White ASAP in D5. Cost £12.50.

Book Pledge Launch
Yesterday we launched our ‘Book Pledge’ website page which we hope will encourage all of our students to read more for pleasure. Our aim is for every student and member of staff to read as many books as possible during the course of the year with a minimum target of three books each! Please log all books you read on the page to help us reach our target!
Visit: http://www.bingleygrammar.org/parents--carers/curriculum/reading-pledge/

Yr 10 Trampolining
During the summer Mr Swann secured a Sport England bid to buy some new trampolines for school! They have now arrived and a Year 10 extra curricular club is now on Wednesdays after school. Come along to get involved - Belong Grow Succeed.

School Book Fair

Our Annual School Book Fair is now open for business in the Library.
Year 7 and 8 students will be visiting the book fair during their English lessons when they will be able to spend their book vouchers.
The Fair will be open to others at break and lunch times.

Dates to Remember:

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<td>Thur 23 Mar</td>
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Wed 08 Mar Parent Focus Group: The next Parent Focus Group meeting will be on the 8th March. All welcome!

Mon 13 Mar Rock Challenge Comp: Our Rock Challenge dancers will be competing at the Magna Centre in Sheffield against schools from South and West Yorkshire. Good luck to all those taking part.

Thur 23 Mar Yr 11 & 12 Cambridge Roadshow: We will be hosting a visit from the Cambridge Roadshow Ambassadors. This is an opportunity for Year 11 and Year 12 students who are considering applying to Oxford or Cambridge to find out more about studying at these universities. More information will be provided after the half term holiday.

Fri 24 Mar Non-uniform Day: Non-uniform in aid of Red Nose Day. All students in non-uniform are asked to donate £1.00 to the charity.

Wed 29 Mar Yr 11 Parents Evening: Letters will be sent home two weeks prior to the parents evening with more information.

Wed 29 Mar National Citizen Service Visit: Representatives from the National Citizen Service will be visiting the school on Wednesday 29 March to speak to Year 12 students. For more information about NCS programmes, or to book a place, please visit www.ncschallenge.org

Thurs 30 Mar Easter Concert: The Easter concert will be held 7.00pm – 9.00pm in G8. Tickets can be purchased from the music department for £5.00 and £4.00 for concessions. Refreshments will be served at the interval. Tickets will not be available on the door so please purchase your tickets before the day. There will be a wide range of ensembles and soloists from all year groups.

Join the Year 7 and 8 Choir!
The new Choir will meet at 2.00pm on CPD Mondays and 3.00pm on a normal week Monday in M2.
The choir is open to ALL abilities in Y7 and Y8.
The group will be working towards a performance in June at Bingley Arts Centre. This is part of the Arts Mark Award and we will be singing in collaboration with: Eldwick, Crossflatts, Saltaire and Beckfoot.
The theme for this year’s concert is: ‘A child like me’ and Bingley Grammar will be focussing on Africa and the similarities between a child here and there. Why not come along and find out more!
Our many different ensembles and soloists from all year groups will be performing an Easter Concert on Thursday 30th March 7.00pm – 9.00pm in G8/G9 (Drama Studio).

Refreshments will be available at the interval.

Ticket Price: £5.00, Concessions £4.00

Unfortunately tickets will not be available on the door. Tickets can be purchased from the Music office.