A Word from the Headteacher

Last week’s extraordinary weather meant that the Yr 11 mock exams had to be postponed and rearranged and our long awaited world book day celebrations had to be put on hold until this Thursday. We hope you all managed to keep safe, enjoyed the snow days and used the time productively.

New information regarding the exam timetables has been emailed out to all affected students and we hope you have returned to school refreshed and ready to tackle the exams.

Mr Luke Weston
Headteacher
Maths Clubs, Challenges and Feasts!
Our Maths department runs weekly clubs for students to get involved and have fun with Maths and there are lots of events and challenges coming up.

Maths Clubs: The Junior Maths Club for Years 7-9 is run by Ms Mdlongwa on Wednesdays after school in P4 – the group is always lively and some exciting maths goes on every week!
The Exceptional Potential Club (for Years 9-11) starting this week replaces the Maths Challenge Club and will be run by Miss Sands. It will also take place on Wednesdays in P6. Miss Sands, Miss Blakeborough, Mr Craven and Mr Ninson have put together a challenging problem solving booklet designed to help students in the higher sets to develop and extend their maths skills above and beyond their in-class learning. The idea is that they come along after school on Wednesday for help completing the booklet and to do other problem solving activities. Certificates will be given to all students who complete these booklets.

Maths Challenge: The after-school groups have been enjoying maths together and working towards the national Maths Challenge competitions. The Intermediate Maths Challenge was an individual’s challenge which took place on 1st February. The students completed the challenge during class time and the papers were sent to UKMT to be marked. Overall the group that took part did extremely well with Ibrahim Nazir, Idrees Haider, Anisah Khanom, and Raeesa Asghar achieved Silver awards and Jessica Kelly and Saood Ramzan achieved Bronze awards.
The Junior Maths Challenge takes the form of both a team challenge and an Individual Challenge. The team challenge takes place later this month at Bradford Grammar School where our team of four students will compete against other school teams from West Yorkshire. The top three teams will then go onto the National competition in London. Ms Mdlongwa has the tricky decision of choosing the team and has not yet finalised her decision!
For those in the Junior Maths Club who don’t make it into the Maths Challenge team, Ms Mdlongwa will be setting the Individual’s Maths Challenge in the form of a 25 question exam which will take place in April.

Maths Inspiration Show: Miss Blakeborough is taking 50 Yr 11 and 12 students to the Maths Inspiration show this afternoon at Leeds city varieties theatre. The show promises a chance to experience the UK’s most inspiring maths speakers, presenting mathematics in the context of exciting, real-world applications.

Yr 10 Maths Feast: Miss Sands will also be taking a group of Year 10 students to the Year 10 Maths Feast at Dixons Mcmillan Academy on 21st March. The students have been picked to represent BGS based on their assessment scores and problem solving skills. The Maths Feast is a team challenge where they will compete against students from other schools across Bradford.

Crossflatts Thank You Letter
Mr Weston was delighted to receive a letter from Crossflatts Primary School thanking him for the wooden Giraffe we made for them.
Mr Jenkins in the Design & Technology department made the giraffe to keep the Crossflatts Elephant company in the playground. The letter, written in beautiful handwriting by Maggie in Year 5, explained how children from all the year groups had lots of fun painting different sections on the giraffe.
We think the children have done a fantastic job and Mr Weston is especially looking forward to seeing it in person when he next visits the school.

PFG Refreshments
The Parent Focus Group have started to provide hot drinks and refreshments for you to purchase at parents’ evenings (at the back of N6) as they appreciate this will be the end of a long day for many of you. It would be great if you could visit them to say hello and support them.
Funds raised will be used by the Parent Focus Group to enrich students’ learning in school.
Ski USA Trip 2018

During February half term, a group of Year 10 & 11 students and 5 members of staff embarked on their trip to New York in order to undertake the Bingley Grammar Alpine Ski School at Whiteface Mountain, home to the 1980 winter Olympics.

Mr Briggs reports:
The 3.30am start didn’t faze our team and they were eager to get the 3200 mile journey to Lake Placid underway. In good spirits the students travelled well, in particular clearing US customs in Dublin then having to emulate Usain Bolt running to reach the closing gate to get to JFK. We arrived in Lake Placid at The North Woods Hotel in good time and got some rest in preparation for 5 intense days of skiing and evening activities.

Kitted up and ready to go, the ski teams, guided by their instructors headed up Whiteface Mountain to cruise down the likes of ‘Excelsior’, ‘Drapers Drop’, ‘Wilmington Trail’ and the infamous ‘Mixing Bowl’ where students mastered the art of using those edges to make neat and commanding turns. The fantastic instructors, Jim, Kathleen, Joe & Barbara were hugely impressed with the ability, attitude and enthusiasm of all our students.

Throughout the week we saw a whole range of weather, from the start of the week being snowy and cold with a wind chill factor of -20 C, to the end of the week which saw much sunnier and warmer conditions allowing students to get some great views of the Adirondack mountain range. The evenings brought a range of entertainment. Movie nights at the hotel with buckets of popcorn, bowling and pizza at ‘Bowlwinkles’ and an evening of ice skating at the Olympic outdoor speed skating rink.

We all shared an absolutely fantastic week with some great memories to take away. A big well done to all our students - the group were fantastic ambassadors for the school and hopefully the trip has enthused them to continue skiing.
Half Term Teaching in Kenya

During the February half term, six of our teachers visited Kenya to teach in our partner schools.

This year Mr Parapia and Mr Foster were joined by history teacher Mrs Cartledge, Miss Howard and Miss Hall from Maths and art teacher Mr Davenport.

This year the team visited and worked with Kenyan colleagues in Jamhuri High School and Starehe Boys Centre and were able to observe lessons, exchange ideas and even demonstrate some teaching. Mr Davenport worked with groups of Kenyan students to produce some outstanding artwork. Over the years 20 teachers have participated in reciprocal visits.

Mr Parapia, whose father is from Nairobi, has been leading the partnership with Kenyan schools for eight years now and last year we were asked by Pixl International, the charitable arm of The Pixl Club of over 1500 schools nationwide, to help expand their worldwide leadership support by starting a hub in Kenya.

Mr Parapia adds, “Whilst it is always a worthwhile challenge taking our teachers to Kenya, I am always amazed to see how they are able to adapt to their new environment in Nairobi and work with children from some very difficult backgrounds. The resources available to the teachers are significantly more limited than in the UK and this presents a real test for the teachers. Hopefully Pixl International will be able to continue what we have started and work more closely with the Kenyan ministry of education to support other schools.”

Jamil Parapia - Kenya Lead and Director of MFL

To view more photos and read our team’s individual accounts of their trip click the link below:
Iceland 2018 Geography Trip
On Saturday 10th February 2018, 25 Year 13 students and 3 Geography teachers set off excitedly on the inaugural BGS trip to Iceland.

Mrs White reports:
Having arrived at Keflavik airport and met by our guide Vlad and driver, we headed to Grindavik, a small fishing town. We walked along the coast through a beautiful snow covered lava field and got our first taste of the powerful ocean and wildlife before an ‘all you can eat’ pizza meal. First impressions of Iceland were: windy, remote and a very different place. The evening was spent experiencing the world famous geothermally heated Blue Lagoon, face masks and all, which was a magical start to the trip despite having to brave the hail/snowstorm. Feeling exhilarated we headed to Reykjavik for our first night 64 degrees north.

Unfortunately due to a severe weather event known locally as “The Wall”, activities for the next day were suspended apart from leaving Reykjavik and heading east to the rather remote settlement of Hellisholar. Just travelling around the “ring road” on the coach was a fascinating adventure with surreal views of volcanoes (Iceland has 30 active volcanoes, many of which are several square miles in size), lava fields, pipelines above ground, geothermal activity, the tiny settlements of tin houses and regularly crossing from the North American to Eurasian continental plates. Being snowed in at our youth hostel in the shadow of Eyjafjallajokull was an experience itself and we entertained ourselves with numerous snowball fights, a lovely walk to a forest, interacting with Icelandic ponies, and an educational Icelandic quiz in the evening.

Luckily the weather the next day was better and we set off for a full day of geographical landforms in particular relic coastlines, coastal erosional features and waterfalls. The morning saw two waterfall stops, the gorgeous Seljalandfoss waterfall and the absolutely enchanting Skogafoss where you literally felt transported to another world of frozen beauty. After lunch we headed to the stunning black sand beach at Reynisdrangur to see the famous basaltic columns, similar to those found at the Giant’s Causeway, caves and stack. With the extraordinary waves crashing onto the beach, this place is one of the most dramatic landscapes you can experience especially on a snowy and very windy day! The final activity of the day was a glacier hike on the Solheimajokull glacier. We got kitted out in crampons, harnesses and ice axes and spent a few hours exploring the glacier on a guided walk in small groups. Although covered in unusually high amounts of snow, it was a fantastic experience and a trip highlight for many of the students. The final evening was spent briefly exploring the world’s most northerly capital city of Reykjavik. A truly fantastic and memorable trip.

The countdown is on to Iceland 2020....
Yr 12 Brilliant Club
On Friday 9th February a group of our Year 12 Brilliant Club students attended their Scholars Programme graduation at the University of Leeds.

School Direct
We are a School Direct Lead School allowing us to offer Teacher Training Placements for a September 2018 start.

School Direct offers a different way of training to become a teacher. Learning by listening to and observing, good and outstanding teachers. Training involves practising teaching skills with groups of students. Applicants will be supported effectively by a school mentor, and are treated just like a member of the school staff, someone who the school is often looking to employ at the end of the year. This route will ensure student teachers are working in their classrooms from day one of the course. Apply now for a September 2018 start. Courses offered:

- English
- Physics
- Mathematics
- Modern Languages
- Geography
- History
- Religious Education
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Computing
- Drama

After a year’s successful training applicants will gain Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and a PGCE. Click the link below to see if you are entitled to a bursary for your training:
https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/funding-and-salary/overview

How to apply:
Applications are through UCAS: www.ucas.com/ucas/teacher-training
Find us by searching: Bingley Grammar School Direct

British Values
Earlier this month Years 7-10 spent their daily BGS time over one week focussing on British Values and how they apply to them as British citizens. The students discussed democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

Form groups were asked to complete a British Values Diary over the course of the week, the best being awarded in biscuits!

Boxes of biscuits were given to 7S1, 7W1, 8W1, 9O3 and 10M3.

Mrs Williams was so proud to accompany the group saying,
“The Yr 12 graduation day at the University of Leeds was great! Congratulations to all students who took part - it was wonderful to celebrate with you and you were all a pleasure to spend time with.”

Overall the group gained an amazing set of results with 4 First-class honours amongst the grades. Well done to all involved and congratulations on your achievements!
Former Student’s Third Novel Published

Former student Lisa Firth, who writes as Mary Jayne Baker, is launching her third book entitled ‘A Bicycle Made For Two’.

The romantic comedy novel is based in a fictional Yorkshire village during the 2014 Grand Départ and its locations were inspired by the familiar local beauty spots Druid’s Altar on the St Ives’s Estate, Harden, and Hewenden Viaduct in Cullingworth.

Lisa left Bingley Grammar School in 2000 to study English Literature at Durham University and now lives locally working as a graphic designer for the Dalesman magazine by day and author by night!

“I loved my time at Bingley Grammar School, and will always be grateful to the teachers there for nurturing in me a love of language and storytelling that has stayed with me all my life,” says Lisa. “I have many fond memories of the school, where I not only received a first-class education but also made a number of lifelong friends.”

We always love hearing about our past student’s successes and wish Lisa the best of luck with ‘A Bicycle Made For Two’.

You can read more about this and other books on Lisa’s website: www.maryjaynebaker.co.uk

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Food Science Aprons Donation

We would like to thank Mr Sidat and the Parent Focus Group for their generous donations which have helped to pay for our new aprons in the Food Science & Nutrition department.

Mrs Wilkinson and Mrs Wentling are so pleased with the kind donation as the old aprons were extremely well-used and beginning to look tired and worn.

Mr Sidat, parent and owner of Otley Mobiles, offered during a Parent Focus Group meeting to help towards the costs of the aprons - the remaining amount was also paid for by the Parent Focus Group fund.

Mrs Wilkinson invited Mr Sidat into one of her Food Science and Nutrition lessons at the beginning of the month to see what our GCSE students were learning and where his donation had been spent.

The PFG raises money in several ways in order to help with extra items that we need in school. In the past the Parent Focus Group has provided the school with many different items including magazine subscriptions for the Humanities department, a melting pot for Science and Silver for the Design & Technology department, to name but a few.

Please look out for our Parent Focus Group offering refreshments at year group Parents Evenings and other events throughout the year. You can also support our Parent Focus Group by signing up to Easy Fundraising which is a free service that generates cash for the school. Click here to view more information on our Parent Focus Group and the school’s Easy Fundraising account >>

Some of our GCSE Food Science students have decided to thank Mr Sidat and our Parent Focus Group by baking some delicious treats for the group’s next meeting - we do hope they enjoy them and would like to thank the PFG for their support of the school once again.
Year 8 Italy Ski Trip 2018

Our annual trip to the fabulous Aosta valley took place over February half term this year. This year 31 Year 8 students had signed up for a week of learning to ski (or improving their skills) spending the week based in central Aosta and skiing in Pila.

Dr. Crowder reports:

Our Journey was amazing this year, the fastest we have ever made it to Aosta, 20hrs 38minutes to be exact. When we finally emerged into Italy it was fantastic – Courmayer was bathed in early morning sunshine, with fresh snow fall evident. Conditions looked amazing – we couldn’t believe our luck.

All the students showed excellent progress over the week. We experienced the full spectrum of alpine weather, a lovely sunshine day but bitterly cold at -18oC to full whiteout in heavy snowfall. Year 8 really looked after each other all week, constantly checking in on friends at the end of the day. Their excitement and joyfulness was constantly evident - “miss/sir, our instructor took us on Piste run 2 – it’s a red!! We saw you on it too. It’s brill” I must say Piste 2 is a great favourite with staff – Dr.Crowder and Mrs.White’s morning warm up run.

Apres ski activities included bowling, a disco, pizza night, amazing Gelato and due to our central location, an easy walk into central Aosta for shopping. They never had a quiet moment and we all appreciated dropping into our beds in Hotel Roma every evening.

The students were amazing, a real credit to their parents and to school and should be highly commended for their behaviour through the week. We got through ski fit in record time due to them being so helpful and polite to one another and the Interski technicians.

Miss. Seeley, Miss. Shaw and Mrs. White did a fantastic job keeping parents up to date with our antics with regular posts and photo’s on twitter.

So, thanks Year 8 you were awesome! We had fun and were tired out. Back to school now. Well done for looking after/out for each other – only minor bumps and bruises on the trip – phew!!

A big thankyou from the staff – Dr. Crowder, Mr. Martin, Mr. Morse, Miss. Shaw, Miss. Seeley and Mrs. White. We thoroughly enjoyed our time with you.

Click here to read more and view the photo gallery on the school website >>

Yr 9 Careers: Marketing Workshop

Just before half term on Tuesday 6th Feb, we were joined by a team of marketing professionals from Dentsu Aegis Network in Leeds.

Dentsu Aegis is a multi-national creative agency whose clients include Cadbury, Adidas, John Lewis, Kellogg’s, Santander, Sky, Microsoft and Lego.

Caroline, Anthony and Grant ran two workshop sessions looking at careers in Advertising and Marketing and all that it involves. The team worked with students in Year 9 looking at all aspects of marketing including Caroline’s role as an Account Manager in Client Services (responsible for liaising with the clients and creative teams) and Anthony and Grant’s specialism in digital marketing.

The groups were quizzed on their knowledge of brands and given an overview of ‘what makes a campaign’ and the many different channels the agency uses to target their client’s message to the correct audience.

After watching the government commissioned ‘This Girl Can’ campaign advert, the groups were then given a brief to put together their own campaign to promote a new adidas app aimed at women. The teams of 4-6 students worked on their ideas and put forward a pitch to the class. All the groups did a really good job and came up with some great ideas which made it extremely difficult for the workshop leaders to choose a winning team from each session.

**Session 1 winners:**
Dara, Emma, Natasha and Aklima

**Session 2 winners:**
Carys, Megan, Yasmin, Alina and Safah.

Well done to the winning teams who will receive a £10 amazon gift voucher each for their efforts.

We would like to thank Caroline, Anthony, Grant and Dentsu Aegis for giving us their valuable time to work with our students and introducing the world of marketing as a career path to us.

Click here to read more and view the photo gallery on the school website >>
Notes from the Teachers:

**Science Revision Guides**
Yrs 7 and 8 KS3 Revision Guide - £4.00
Yrs 9,10,& 11 GCSE Combined Revision Guide - £9.00
Yrs 9,10,& 11 GCSE Separate Science Revision Guide - £12.00
The revision guides can be paid for at the Finance office and then collected from the Science prep room (between L7 and L8)

**Yr 10 Geography Italy Trip**
A payment of £150 was due 5/3/18. The final payment of £105 is due 16/4/18. Please make payments to the Finance office.

**Arek Hersh to visit Yr 7**
The message below has been emailed to all Yr 7 parent/carers. If you have not received it please contact the school to update your contact email address:
On Tuesday 13th March, Holocaust survivor Arek Hersh will be visiting Bingley Grammar School and will be giving a talk to our Year 7 students. He will be speaking about his experience in Auschwitz and his life since being liberated. This is a unique opportunity for students to hear a first hand experience from a survivor of the Holocaust. The talk will take place during school hours and students will be able to purchase a signed copy of his autobiography (if they wish) for £5 which they can bring on the day.
If you do not want your child to attend the talk please email Miss Shah (sajeelashah@bingleygrammar.org) by Friday 9th March or leave a message for Miss Shah with our main reception. If you have any further questions please get in touch.

**Congratulations to Thomas Baker in Yr 12**
We are delighted that Thomas Barker, one of our Year 12 students, has won a coveted place at one of the Oxford University Uniq Summer Schools. Thomas will be spending a week at the university in July, studying Computer Science and sampling student life in Oxford.

**Year 7/8 French Trip 2018**
The French trip itinerary is coming together nicely for our Yr 7/8 summer visit. We are starting to get excited! Please bring consent forms and a copy of your passport photo page this week together with any outstanding payments.

**Mr Parkinson and the London Marathon**
Our Site Manager Mr Parkinson, will be running the London marathon on April 22nd in aid of VICTA (Visually Impaired Children Taking Action: http://www.victa.org.uk) Mr Parkinson has been running for over 30 years and this will be his 5th London Marathon which he has pledged to raise £1,200 for the charity. If you would like to support Mr Parkinson and VICTA, his Just Giving page is:
https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-displayshowROFundraiserPage?userUrl=RobParkinson

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**Dates to Remember:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 07 March</td>
<td>Yr 12 Higher Education/Options at 18 Evening</td>
<td>Letters were sent home on the 21st February giving details of the event. Year 12 students and their parents/carers are invited to the information evening which will cover various options that are open to students after sixth form study, and provide an insight into the guidance and support that students will receive here at Bingley Grammar School. We hope that you will be able to join us to find out more about this important stage in sixth form life.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 12 March</td>
<td>Yr 12 &amp; Yr 13 Assessment Week</td>
<td>Yr 12 and Yr 13 Assessment Week. Letters were sent home on 05 March giving information on how to book appointments. The online booking system opens at 6.00pm on Wednesday 7th March and will close at 11.55pm on Tuesday 13 March.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 19 March</td>
<td>Early Finish – ‘CPD Monday’</td>
<td>School closes at 2.00pm on CPD Mondays for continued staff training.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 28 March</td>
<td>Yr 11 Parents Evening (2nd)</td>
<td>Letters will be sent home soon giving information on how to book appointments.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 28 March</td>
<td>School Closes for Easter Break</td>
<td>School closes for the Easter Break.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 29 March</td>
<td>Teacher Training Day Day</td>
<td>School closed for Teacher Training Day.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 16 April</td>
<td>School Re-opens Early Finish – ‘CPD Monday’</td>
<td>School re-opens. School closes at 2.00pm on CPD Mondays for continued staff training.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 18 April</td>
<td>Year 8 Options Evening</td>
<td>Further information to follow.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 25 April</td>
<td>Parent Focus Group Meeting</td>
<td>New members are always welcome – please meet at school in the main reception at 6.45pm.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 26 April</td>
<td>Yr 8 Parents Evening</td>
<td>Letters will be sent home nearer the time giving information on how to book appointments.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 30 April</td>
<td>Early Finish – ‘CPD Monday’</td>
<td>School closes at 2.00pm on CPD Mondays for continued staff training.</td>
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Please Note: The Yr 9 (whole year) DTP & Men ACWY injections have been rescheduled for Tuesday 22nd May.