A Word from the Headteacher

March has been an extremely busy month in school once again. It was great to welcome Arek Hersh and his wife Jean into school in his 90th year still sharing his story and inspiring our students.

If anyone is considering a career in teaching please see the article about our School Direct training option and the Open Evening we are holding in school on Monday 23rd April.

I hope all our students and staff have a lovely, restful Easter break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the exam season.

Mr Luke Weston
Headteacher

Help for Heroes Bake Sale

At break time last Friday, and break time today Libby, Hazel and their friends in Year 10 set up their stall and sold home made treats to raise money for the charity Help for Heroes.

On both occasions the girls baked a lot of the cakes, buns and biscuits themselves and their friends helped out with the rest. Libby even made gingerbread men in the form of injured soldiers to sell which went down very well.

This is part of a continued effort by Libby to raise money for this charity in honour of her uncle who lost his leg in Afghanistan.

Well done to Libby, Hazel and their friends for giving their time and raising money for this worthy cause.

Overall the girls raised £219.90 for Help for Heroes!
MFL Spelling & Translation Bee!

Our Modern Foreign Languages department has been running an interclass spelling competition which culminated in a Year 7 and 8 competition on Monday afternoon. The MFL team would like to congratulate all our Spelling and Translation Bee competitors who took part in our interclass competition. Having won their individual class competition before Christmas, 42 of our students have spent months honing their alphabet, pronunciation and translation skills, and they all did themselves (and their MFL teachers) proud. A special congratulations to our 7 winners, who will now proceed to the regional competition in the summer term!

The winners were: Daniel Bunting, Amna Tahsin, Madihah Rahman, Tamjid Choudhury, Abigail Sheard, Madison Jacques and Samir Sidat

GCSEpod

We provide access to GCSEpod for our students so they can make the most of their revision time and it can also help with homework.

GCSEpod is a digital service that provides focused learning in a unique ‘Pod’ format across 20 popular GCSE subjects, which we filter so it is specific to the exam boards we use for each subject. GCSEpod is a great way to revise on the go and pods can be downloaded to phones, tablets and other devices to watch/listen to at a later time. The pods are a great way of revising core concepts and consolidating work done in class. Each subject is broken down into topics and questions are answered in short concise ‘Pods’.

We have sent emails out to all students in years 9-11 explaining how to log onto the service. Use the site to learn and revise and maybe win £150 shopping vouchers as well as something for school!

You can easily find out your login if you have forgotten it by just going to the site and clicking on forgotten your login details.

>> Click here to log on to GCSEpod and get revising.
Yr 10 Speak Out Challenge

On 19th March, 25 Year 10 students completed a workshop with a professional trainer for public speaking as part of the Speak Out Challenge.

They were trained in how to stand confidently in front of an audience and how to public speak effectively. They all planned a 90 second speech about a topic of their choice that they felt passionate about, before getting in front of the rest of the group to present it and be judged by our judges Mrs Smithson and Mrs Robinson. No pressure there!

Many of the group did not want to even introduce themselves at the start of the day. By lunchtime, they were standing in front of a room full of people, passionately and confidently arguing for what they believe in. What a transformation in just a few hours and with so little time to prepare!

3 students (Helen Constantinou, Charles Kim and Aleena Hussain) were selected to go through to the next stage, with one BGS student eventually representing us in a regional public speaking final in June alongside other schools in Bradford.

Mrs Dean, Mrs Robinson, Mrs Smithson and Miss Powell were so proud of how hard the students worked throughout the day and were impressed with how much confidence they gained from the workshop. We were blown away with the standard of the speeches given; hopefully everyone who took part will take something from the day and are now feeling more confident giving their opinions and speaking in front of others. Thank you for being so enthusiastic and for your hard work!

Click here for more about the Speak Out Challenge >>

Yr 12 First Aid Training

Our Year 12 OCR Cambridge Technical Sport & Physical Activity students have started their First Aid course today.

The group are undertaking the emergency first aid course today as part of the Sports Injury Unit of their OCR Cambridge Technical Sport and physical activity course.

School Direct Open Evening

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

On Monday 23rd April, 4.00pm - 5.30pm, we are holding an Open Evening for anyone considering a career in teaching. Different ways of training and application advice will be given.

Please contact Lesley Miller by email to express an interest on: schooldirect@bingleygrammar.org

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
Cambridge Roadshow

On Thursday 22nd March we welcomed three students from Cambridge University into school to speak to a group of our Year 11s and 12s about life at Cambridge.

Rebecca, Tom and Adam all attended comprehensive schools in the Bradford district and wanted to talk about the process of applying to top universities and their personal experiences of the application and interview process.

This year we have 3 of our own Year 13 students who have received conditional offers from Cambridge University: Abigail to study Computer Science at Queens’ College; Sebastian to study Natural Sciences at Jesus College and Mark to study Mathematics at St Catharine’s College. This is a fantastic achievement and we are really proud of their success and hope that more of our students will see their success and aim high as they did.

During the talk Rebecca, Tom and Adam explained how each of the Cambridge colleges offered all subjects and talked through:

- The Academic Side - lectures, seminars and ‘Supervisions’
- College ‘Families’
- The Social Life
- Money
- The Application Process - The Oxbridge applications deadline is earlier than that of other universities so our students were told not to leave it too late. There is also a Supplementary Application Questionnaire, an admissions assessment (which can be carried out in school) and an extenuating circumstances form. The group explained how the interview wasn’t as scary as you’d think, likening it to a mini Supervision where the interviewers want to see how you learn and adapt.

We would like to thank Rebecca, Tom and Adam for visiting us today and helping to dispel any myths whilst building a high level of interest and belief in applying to Cambridge.

Awards Assemblies

This week our Heads of Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 held Assemblies rewarding large numbers of students with Easter Eggs!

Students have been rewarded for:

Receiving the most Achievement Points, receiving the most Postcards of Praise, receiving the most positive phonecalls home, the top 10 Girls and top 10 Boys with the highest Engagement with Learning (EWL) score, students with the biggest EWL improvement, Name and Fame (nominated by form tutors), Resilience and 100% Attendance.

Well done to everyone who received an Easter Egg - they were all well deserved!
Yr 9 Headteacher’s Awards
This morning, 33 Year 9 students met with Mr Weston to be awarded with Headteacher’s Awards.

This is based on teachers in all subjects recognising that these students are putting in outstanding or consistently good effort on a daily basis. The group was made up of our highest achievers and those who had made the most progress in improving their Engagement with Learning (EWL).

Mr Ward, Head of Year 9 said,
“Yet again the Headteacher’s Award has been presented to 30 deserving students in Year 9. I want students and their parents to know that the school recognises and values the efforts that the vast majority of the year group put in day in, day out.”

Mr Weston spoke with the group acknowledging the effort they were putting into their studies and encouraging them to keep it up to achieve their ambitions.

Our Year 9 Student Support Officer, Mr Brown said,
These students have continued to work very hard since Christmas. It is particularly pleasing to reward some students who have made the highest progression in their EWL score across all subjects. It was, as always, a pleasure to be involved in the award meeting and present the students with Headteacher’s Awards.”

Yr 7 Visited by Arek Hersh
On Tuesday 13th March, Holocaust survivor Arek Hersh and his wife Jean came to speak to our Yr 7 students.

Arek and Jean have visited Bingley Grammar on six different occasions to speak with groups of our students and we are so grateful to them for their time. We feel privileged to be counted as one of their favourite schools to visit and although Arek’s harrowing story of survival is upsetting to hear we feel it is essential that as many as possible of our students are able to hear his important piece of living history.

The Year 7s were split into 2 groups and Arek and Jean spoke to each group reliving Arek’s experiences as a child during WWII and answering our student’s questions. Both groups listened respectfully and were shocked at what he went through as an 11 year old.

Arek spoke in great detail about his time in Auschwitz and the death trains and how his entire family (81 members) was wiped out by the Nazis. Arek was liberated by the Russian army in 1945 and then brought to live in the Lake district by the British Consulate with 300 other Jewish children.

Arek’s wife Jean spoke to our students about tolerance of others no matter their religion and highlighted that prejudice and discrimination is wrong on every level. Jean also helped student’s put themselves in Arek’s shoes and to think about how they would feel being completely alone whilst witnessing such horrors. After both talks students were able to buy Arek’s book ‘A Detail of History’ which proved very popular - all the proceeds from the book go to the National Holocaust Centre.

Our Amnesty Youth Group met with Arek and Jean and had a more informal discussion with them about the work they have been doing. The group gave Arek and Jean gifts they had made illustrating what they had been learning and how Arek had inspired them; Madison made a sculpture filled with inspirational quotes; Sophie, Frances and Isobel had put together a decorative jar filled with quotes and messages describing how Arek had inspired them, Charlotte gave Arek a meaningful drawing of a barbed wire butterfly and Max a beautiful drawing depicting world peace.

Lastly, our Yr 7 and 8 Archbishop of York Young Leaders group joined Arek and Jean for a kosher lunch where we thanked them for sharing Arek’s story. Whilst they ate, Poppy in Year 7 played the guitar and sang a number of songs for them. Isobel and Martha both baked Arek and Jean cakes to thank them again for their time. We would like to thank Arek and Jean once again for visiting our school and carrying on their important work keeping the memories of the Holocaust alive.

To view more photos of Arek and Jean’s visit click here >>
Swimming Gala Champions

On Saturday 17th March, the local Primary and Upper schools took part in the annual Bingley Schools Swimming Gala at Shipley Swimming Pool.

Our team of 10 competed against swimmers from Beckfoot and Titus Salt School. After last year’s success, we knew it would be tough to retain the trophies for another year, but our amazing team managed to overcome the competition!

Year 7 Swimmers: Dan swam the first race and claimed his own and the school’s first win of the evening just before Bailey swam a perfect breast stroke bringing BGS another win.

Our Yr 7 and 8 Relay Team (Olivia, Dan, Katie & Sam) finished the 4x2 Freestyle Relay on strong terms in first place.

Year 8 Swimmers: Maisie swam above her age group in the Years 9-13 category putting in an enormous effort and coming out on top. Olivia displayed flawless technique and Katie’s enthusiasm in her swimming brought valuable points with two wins for the team. Sam (when he remembered to put his goggles on!) provided the team with two great wins and Will, who was a little out his comfort zone swimming Backstroke, gave it his all with awesome results.

Years 9, 10 and 11 Swimmers: Ben gave everything, every time and Archie lead from the front, organised the team and cheered everyone on along the way! Jess swam her first Swimming Gala for School, keeping her cool when it was needed and put on an incredible effort.

Our Yrs 9-13 Relay team (Maisie, Archie, Jess and Ben) swam an awesome 4x2 Freestyle Relay bringing home more points for the team.

The Mixed Relay Freestyle ChampionshipSwim Gala 2018: To end the competition on a high Katie, Sam, Maisie & Archie swam a perfect race, finishing in first place and retaining the trophy for another year!

Team Captains: As team captains, Maisie & Archie helped coordinate the swimmers all evening as well as encouraging the younger years, arranging strategies & team tactics. They brought the team together, had fun, enjoyed themselves and made everyone feel welcome.

Mr McGregor & Mr Battye would like to thank Mateus in Yr 12, studying BTEC Sport, for helping with the organisation during the event. Well done to all our swimmers, the team came together really well and enjoyed a brilliant evening together which was finished off perfectly by winning the tournament trophy and the mixed relay freestyle championship trophy. The Primary Schools competition was won by Crossflatts Primary, with Myrtle Park taking second place.

Well done to all the teams and individual swimmers who took part and thank you to the Bingley Amateur Swimming Club for hosting the event - the gala is a highlight of the schools’ sporting calendar and we are already looking forward to next year!

Maths Team Challenge

On Tuesday 13th March, four of our Junior Maths Club took part in the UKMT Junior Regional Maths Team Challenge at Bradford Grammar School.

It was a great day and the team was a real credit to the school with their positive spirits and determination to do well. The majority of the 30 teams were made up of Year 8 and 9 students but our Yr 7 and 8 team held their own and didn’t let it affect their efforts.

Ms Mdlongwa had chosen the top 4 performers of the Junior Maths club to make up the team: Kameron and Isha in Year 7 and Samir and Jamie in Year 8.

We were surprised to find the questions had been made significantly more complex compared with the questions from last year, which we had been using to practice on, but the team worked together well and had a really good go at solving them.

Ms Mdlongwa said, “Our team came 27th out of 30 and, given the lower age and experience of our team, they were so excited not to come last! They were buzzing after the event and came back to work on senior challenges the following day. They are just unstoppable.”

All of our Junior Maths Club are looking forward to undertaking the Individual Junior Maths Challenge after the Easter holidays in April.

Well done team!
A ‘Day in the Life’ of a Student Teacher

This year we have had 20 student teachers undertake their placements with us. Each student is given a mentor teacher from their chosen subject area to work with and develop their lessons and teaching style.

Mr Nunn’s mentor Mr Conboy encouraged him to write ‘a day in the life’ diary page which you can read below:

My name is Oliver Nunn. I am a trainee teacher at Bingley Grammar School undertaking a PGCE. I spend the working week at Bingley Grammar teaching students aged 11-16 the fascinating and enlightening subject that is Geography. The staff at the school have adopted me as one of their own and I am trusted (encouraged) to actively lead and plan lessons. This is a day in my life as a trainee at Bingley Grammar.

5:41am: The alarm clock erupts and the frantic rush to be ready in time for the train begins.

7:45am: The train pulls into Crossflatts station from a direct line from Leeds (trains also run directly from Bradford, however this doesn’t help me as I start off in York!)

8.30am: Students are called into school by the familiar sound of a bell and for a split second the corridors become as impassable as an American store on Black Friday.

8.40am: I am teaching two lessons back to back and as one finishes I swiftly get to the next in order to set up and greet the grateful students as I invite them inside, out of the cold wintery weather. Each lesson is often followed by feedback from another Geography teacher where we will unpick the lesson and separate the strengths and weaknesses of my teaching. This allows me time to reflect on the choices I made whilst planning and delivering lessons and gives me time to alter my thinking when I next come to plan out a lesson.

12.20am: Lunch. A time to sit back and take a breather (or catch up on some last minute planning or marking).

1.20pm: Only one more lesson to teach today as I don’t yet teach a full timetable. The students eagerly take their seats and engage in a map skills lesson I had planned two days earlier (planning is a big part of my role as trainee teacher). Not everything goes to plan as I didn’t photocopy enough copies of the planned worksheet and noise levels begin to rise. Thinking back to my training and feedback from host teachers I stop the class and bring them back together as a class, once this is done I redistribute the worksheets and the atmosphere calms.

2:50pm: Time to reflect and look back at the lessons I have had today, literally! I have been using the IRIS technology giving me a second chance and different perspective to watch my lessons back. I don’t do this every lesson but it is great to see exactly where I could improve. Not everything went to plan but now I have time to gather up all the feedback I have had throughout the day and look back at what I could do better next time. I use this information to plan lessons for the upcoming days, while also marking as many books as I can before I take them home.

3:10pm: Every Wednesday I, along with all the other trainee teachers at the school, go for training sessions that will further our teaching practice. These come from experienced teachers who work here at Bingley and give an invaluable insight into good practice within a teaching career. At around 16:30 each day I gather my things and head home. It has been another eventful, fun yet rewarding day!
Anti-Bullying Ambassadors Training

On Tuesday 6th March, 21 students from Years 7 - 10 became official Anti-Bullying Ambassadors through attending the Princess Diana Award Anti-Bullying Day at Samuel Lister Academy.

The day involved a number of different tasks with the main focus being on cyber bullying. Towards the end of the day the groups started putting plans together for our approach in school on how we tackle all types of bullying. The programme aims to empower students and staff through a holistic and peer-led approach by engaging them to change the attitudes, behaviours, and culture of bullying by building skills and confidence to address different situations, both online and offline.

The group will be meeting in the next couple of weeks to discuss their plans which will include assessing and re-writing our Anti-Bullying policy to make it more student-centred. We have lots more students eager to get involved and they will be part of the plans in the Summer Term. Also, within school this week, all our form groups sessions have a special focus on Mental Health and Bullying, following on from work done last term.

Although our Anti-bullying Ambassadors are leading the campaign, it will be everybody’s responsibility in our school community to ensure we all feel supported, valued, know who to turn to when help is needed and stamp out bullying for good.

Bradford Schools Awards 2018

On Thursday 15th March our much-loved Mrs Puddy attended the Bradford Schools Awards at the Aagrah Midpoint in Bradford.

Mrs Puddy had a fabulous evening and really enjoyed the event seeing inspirational teachers being recognised and rewarded for their efforts. She had been nominated and shortlisted, to one of only 3 teachers in the Bradford district, for the Secondary Teacher of the Year 2018 Award.

On the evening Mrs Puddy was runner-up and highly commended for her teaching. She was over the moon to be shortlisted and recognised for her dedication and love of teaching over the years.

Mrs Puddy said,

“We had a wonderful night last night, I came runner up which was a wonderful achievement from all those hundreds of entries.”

Mrs Puddy is also really touched by all the kind messages and fond memories people shared on the school Facebook page earlier in the week.
**Notes from the Teachers:**

**H-Eggarty Maths Competition!**
Over the Easter holidays all pupils in Years 7 to 11 are competing in the Eggarty Maths Challenge. Pupils just have to log on to www.hegartymaths.com and the pupils in each year group that complete the most tasks and put in the most hours of learning will win egg-cellent prizes!! Competition runs from Wednesday 28th March until Monday 16th April.

**French Trip**
French trip - students should be in receipt of an update with a hoodie order form. Returns after Easter by Thursday 19th April please.

**Parent Focus Group Meeting**
The next Parent Focus Group meeting will be on Wednesday 25th April. New members are always welcome - please meet at the main reception at 6.45pm.

**Parent Focus Group - Parents Evenings 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.

**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&pageUrl=7

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**Have you seen our restaurant’s healthy Grab & Go options?**
There’s more to come after Easter!

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