



# Friends of BRGS

Summer  
2010

A newsletter produced by BRGS  
for former students, parents and  
the community

**Bacup & Rawtenstall**  
Grammar School

ISSUE  
21

## A Magical Leavers' Day

Continuing the now well-established tradition, Year 13 students celebrated leaving in style with a fantastic range of fancy dress outfits. Over two hundred and fifty students donned the attire of super-heroes, Jedi knights, fairies, pirates, gorillas, parrots, penguins and cave girls. A group of eight creative girls turned up as Barbie Dolls, complete with pink boxes!

After the usual singing of New York, New York in the school hall the students participated in a full morning of celebration and nostalgia. They laughed and cheered as they watched a DVD produced by Deputy Director of Sixth Form David Morriss which captured memories of their years at the school. Some coveted annual awards were made including presentations to Katie Ross as Miss BRGS 2010 and Michael Casey as her male counterpart. The students gave rapturous applause to Sara Davison and Vicky Sladen as their beautiful singing evoked memories of happy times at BRGS and reduced many to emotional tears.

After many photos taken in the sunshine on the top field the students returned to their Sixth Form Centre for a buffet



before hearing Headmaster Marc Morris and Director of Sixth Form Trevor Elkington wish the year group every success for the future as they left school for the last time. Trevor Elkington said: "They have been a superb group of young people who portray all the most positive qualities which our twenty-first century world so desperately needs. We are genuinely saddened to see them all leave today."



## Welcome

With the spotlight on politics, this term BRGS hosted its own mock election and official candidates for the constituency of Rossendale and Darwen came to share their policies with sixth form first time voters. I hope you enjoy reading about the mock election and the whole host of activities which have taken place over the summer months.

For former students who were at BRGS in the 1960s and 1970s we are hoping to organise a special event in the autumn term. If you are interested in receiving any further details then please do get in touch and do keep an eye on the alumni section of the school website [www.brgs.org.uk/alumni/alumni\\_index.asp](http://www.brgs.org.uk/alumni/alumni_index.asp)

I hope that you enjoy the summer.

*Emma*

Emma Gauntlett  
Development Director  
01706 234500 (general office)  
01706 234502 (direct)  
[ecg@brgs.org.uk](mailto:ecg@brgs.org.uk)  
[www.brgs.org.uk](http://www.brgs.org.uk)

## A Magical Leavers' Day Cont...







The shirt-signing annual tradition for Year 11 students



## Drama, song and dance

In March 2010, the BRGS Performing Arts Team put on a dramatic production, *The Late Night Betrayal Café*, featuring music, song and dance, all delicately woven together with the thought-provoking theme of 'betrayal'. Head of Drama, Martin Neve, set about working with drama students to create a piece of political theatre that could be used as the seed of a production that would sprout into a concept musical, creating space for all the creative arts to make a statement.

The show focused on two storylines: the first half was set in the Betrayal Café where a group of life's lonely misfits sought solace in a disjointed community and the second was set in an internet café and concentrated on a disgruntled youth embarking on a roller-coaster ride of internet dating.

Our talented performing arts students continued to excel when in May they produced a spectacular show called *Dance Fusion* under the direction of Head of Dance, Kristy Todd. The show included ballet, jazz, Latin, ballroom, contemporary and street dance and involved students from across the 11-18 age range. Students practised extremely hard and their work paid off in the resultant professional and thoroughly enjoyable show. Of particular note was the 'hand dance' whereby a row of at least fifteen students performed a series of highly choreographed intricate hand movements to the beat of the music. Some students had practised this dance so much that they could probably perform it in their sleep. Thankfully it was performed to perfection because one wrong movement would have led to everyone being out of sync!



ABOVE: Characters from *The Late Night Betrayal Café* production

BELOW: Images from the *Dance Show*



The infamous 'hand dance'!

# New Waterfoot Primary School underway

A special ceremony was held in June to mark the start of the £8.5 million building project to locate Waterfoot Primary School at the top of the BRGS site. The youngest Waterfoot Primary School student Phoebe Mollett, four, and former student Ian Law, 80, together cut the first sod at the site.

Headteacher

Simon Jones said:

"We have been waiting for this new school for 35 years so it's great that we can now see the finish line. November (2011) is the month we have been told it will open and it will be a vast improvement for the children. Schools are not about buildings but relationships; however, the new facilities will improve the scope for learning."

The ceremony was attended by County Councillor Holtom, Chair of Lancashire County Council, Deputy Mayor Councillor Gladys Sandiford, Councillor Brian Essex and Rossendale MP Jake Berry.



Former student Ian Law and Waterfoot Primary School's youngest student, Phoebe Moffett. Photo courtesy of Lancashire Evening Telegraph



## You're Hired!

Year 7 students had an end of year exam with a difference in June. Instead of a traditional exam they were expected to enter into an *Apprentice*-style challenge in an inter-form competition to raise funds for charity. The challenge was managed by history teacher Margaret Stanley as a means of examining the skills which they had learnt over the year in their 'Thinking and Learning' lessons.



7B: The Winning Form with David King, Chairman of Governors and Heather Skilling, Vice-Chair of Governors

The three elements of the challenge were to arrange and participate in an inter-form sports competition, to produce a food product and a non-food product which would generate the most profit to give to a charity of their choice. After being provided with a budget of £50 each the total raised for the five chosen charities was over £500!

After selecting project managers, accountants and marketing managers for each form, Year 7s worked at a frenzied pace over the week to ensure that they were ready to sell their products by the Friday. Throughout the week they were observed by David King, Chairman of Governors, and Heather Skilling, Vice-Chair of Governors, mimicking the roles of Nick and Margaret, Sir Alan's aides in *The Apprentice* television show.

**The challenge culminated with an early Monday morning boardroom meeting and the form which emerged triumphant was 7B.**

### Other winners included:

Winner of the inter-form Netball	<b>7B</b>
Winner of the inter-form Football	<b>7N</b>
Winner of the Best German Tourist Management	<b>7B</b>
Winner of the Most Innovative Food Product	<b>7R</b>
Winner for the Best Sales Stand	<b>7S</b>
Winner for the Best Food Preparation	<b>7G</b>
Winner of the Best 'Pitch'	<b>7S</b>
Winner of the Best Marketing Strategy	<b>7G</b>
Judged Overall Best Leader	<b>Jessica Nixon 7B</b>
Judged Best Overall Accountant	<b>William Taylor 7S</b>
The Form Raising the Most Money for their Charity	<b>7N</b>



Selling cakes for charity

# Family at United for Fundraising Abseil



Former students, Daniel (19 years) and Jonathan (23 years) were joined by their father, David Cain (BRGS governor) in a charity abseil down the 140 feet of the North Stand at the home of Manchester United, Old Trafford. The abseil was to raise funds for the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital Charity which treats over 135,000 patients every year from all over the north west of England. The support of the Charity means that the hospital can provide additional resources to make life a little easier for patients and their families who use the hospital.

David is Director of the Charity and was so inspired by the courage and the commitment of his sons that he decided on the day to sign up to see if he too had a head for heights. David commented:

"Seeing my sons taking on the challenge of the abseil and trying to raise as much as possible for the children's hospital was a very proud moment for me as a father. It seems such an exciting thing to do that on the spur of the moment I thought I'd give it a go. I admit when I was at the top and was about to go over the edge, I wondered what I'd got myself in to but once I was on my way back to solid ground I thoroughly enjoyed it."

## Working in Waterfoot

A weekend in May was action-packed for a number of students who were involved in various volunteering activities in Waterfoot under the guidance of David Archer, Head of Science. Two students, Libby Ainsworth and Emily Walker, as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme have worked with the organisation Incredible Edible Rossendale to help install planters in the centre of the town. These were planted with herbs and vegetables as part of a community scheme to encourage local food growing. At the same time, chemistry teacher Andy Bretherton was supervising students Sam Turner and Joe Wallwork on the school's long-term project to improve the verge of the footpath by our new boundary fence at the top of Mount Avenue.

To round off a busy weekend, Thomas Helm, Maddy Teshola, Jack Westerman, Elliot Veevers and Sophie Milton provided the music for the service of dedication for the new war memorial stone in Trickett's Memorial Ground with Gemma Wardle contributing one of the readings at the service.

# The Big Bang

Hassan Shakeel in Year 13 entered a National Science and Engineering Competition and was selected to showcase his work on stem cell research at *The Big Bang*, the UK Young Scientists' and Engineers' Fair in Manchester. Hassan was provided with his own stand at the exhibition allowing him to demonstrate his hard work to over 13,000 scientists, engineers, students, parents, employers, teachers and celebrities. After a number of rounds of judging the field was narrowed down from 200 and eventually Hassan was placed 8th overall in the senior category which is a wonderful achievement. Hassan was complemented on his work by a Nobel prize winner and the drug company Astra Zeneca expressed an interest in his project.

The Young Engineer of the Year was awarded to Shawn Brown in recognition of his Solar Bike, a bamboo-framed electric trike. The Young Scientist of the Year was Thomas Hearing for his project using precision GPS. The prizes were presented by Lord Mandelson who commented: "The winners of the National Science & Engineering Competition are living, breathing proof that science and engineering in the UK is at the heart of a strong and thriving Britain over the coming decades."

At *The Big Bang*, there were various zones to explore with amazing interactive stands where students could discover tomorrow's technology, cutting-edge medical care and suggested answers to some of the world's biggest challenges such as climate change. Students could also participate in workshops to solve a murder with CSI Manchester or to design a jet engine with Rolls Royce.

In addition to Hassan's success at *The Big Bang*, he was also awarded a certificate from the Royal Society of Chemistry for an excellent performance in the International Chemistry Olympiad. Heather Bowden, Head of Chemistry was thrilled by the results of the following students in the Olympiad: Hassan Shakeel – awarded gold; Yevgeniy Riley and Zayd Abdullatif – awarded silver; Lauren Cook – awarded bronze and Jonny English – awarded a commendation.

It has been a busy time for the chemistry department with key stage 3 students participating in *The Salters' Festivals of Chemistry*. A year 8 student Cerys Gregory wrote about her involvement in the festivals:

*"On Wednesday 23rd June, a group of four BRGS students went to The Salter's Festival of Chemistry at the University of Manchester. These students were Erica Minozzi and Jamie Hoyle from Year 7 and Tyler Crane and Cerys Gregory from Year 8.*

*The Salter's Festivals of Chemistry have been running since 2005 in partnership with the Royal Society of Chemistry and begin in late March and end in mid June. The one-day fun events take place in many universities around the UK and Ireland and they allow young people the opportunity to spend a day in a university and to take part in practicals. The Festivals have been sponsored by over fifty companies to provide practical chemistry for more than 20,000 students over the past eight years.*

*In the morning we were set the task of discovering the culprit of a murder where we were told to test chemicals and match them to the unknown samples and the body. We then had to test the ink from the suspects' pens to check which one matched the body. In the afternoon we were asked to make a solution opaque in as close to a minute as possible. We were successful in this task and received third prize. Then we were shown the 'Flash Bang Show' where a chemist was performing a chemical magic show including pouring liquid nitrogen down the stairs of the theatre!*

*Finally, there was a prize-giving in which we received our third prize of a digital clock each, a fun prize for taking part and a certificate. It was a great day!"*





# Liberal Democrat Donnelly wins BRGS Mock Election

Campaign teams and candidates had a busy week in the lead up to the BRGS mock election. Three sixth formers were selected by their contemporaries to represent the main political parties: Robyn Shepherd (Conservative), Catriona Watson (Labour) and Joe Donnelly (Liberal Democrats).

The candidates showed considerable knowledge of each Party's policies and over two lunch times they were subjected to intense question and answer debates in the school hall. The debates were modelled on the live TV election debates and students were even given electronic voting pads which provided opinion polls at the end of each session. The campaign managers for each political party (Madeleine Royle, Ellen Gleeson and Ashley Dutton) delivered some clever marketing and posters were pinned to every inch of wall space.

Students were provided with personalised BRGS polling cards which were modelled on the official polling cards. In fact, one sixth former turned up at an official polling

station and to his embarrassment, he attempted to vote using his BRGS polling card!

On Election Day the stage in the hall was transformed into a polling station complete with voting booths and we had an 81% turnout with 1,111 people voting (staff and students).

After the votes were counted the results were:

**Joe Donnelly, Liberal Democrats – 537 votes (47%)**  
**Robyn Shepherd, Conservatives – 230 votes (20%)**  
**Catriona Watson, Labour – 289 votes (27%)**

Responding to a last minute request from the sixth formers, the official candidates for the constituency of Rossendale and Darwen were offered an opportunity to speak to first time voters. Janet Anderson sent her apologies due to a prior engagement but Bob Shepherd and Jake Berry both answered questions posed by the Director of Sixth Form, Trevor Elkington in front of an audience of discerning voters.



## Lancashire Mathematics Champions

The Lancashire-wide Year 7 Mathematics Challenge ended in disaster as the BRGS team realised that they had forgotten to answer the last question!

Our team consisting of Jamie Hoyle, Laura Dunleavy, Oliver Holdsworth-Miller and Amy Rodgers had already been victorious in the Rossendale/Burnley regional final run by the Lancashire Mathematics Advisory Team and consequently, they were now matched against regional winners from across Lancashire. The stakes were high as they competed in Chorley against schools such as Clitheroe Royal Grammar School, Lancaster Girls' Grammar School and Hutton CE Grammar School.

The top three schools were announced. In third place was Archbishop Temple; in second place was Ormskirk School. Our team were hoping that they might have just made second or third place, even with the missing last answer.



And then came the announcement – *The winners of the 2010 Lancashire Mathematics Challenge County Final are... Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School.* Cue whoops of joy from parents and Paul Reeves, Head of Maths; shock, amazement and triumph on the faces of the team.

This is an amazing achievement for the team and they will always remember to check out the last question in the future!

## Sharing Learning with Specialist Schools

Amelia Payton, Robyn Kay (Year 12), Evie McDermott, Sarah Kipps, Elizabeth Coleman (Year 10), Georgia Davison, Jack Kearney, Katy Wright and Marcus Kay (Year 8) constitute our Student Specialist Schools Committee which recently made a trip up the M6 to Penrith to compare notes with another Maths and Computing Specialist College, Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School (QEGS).

On arrival, the students were given a quick tour of the school. As lessons were taking place they were unable to go into any classrooms but were able to look through some of the windows to observe everyday school life at QEGS. Their immediate impression was of a mix of old and new buildings, just like BRGS. They were paired with pupils from QEGS and accompanied them to various classes including geography, maths, chemistry, biology, PSHE and IT. During this time, BRGS maths teachers chatted with QEGS' Director of Specialism about similarities and differences between our two schools and how we apply our specialisms.



Once lessons were complete, BRGS students had a meeting with the QEGS school council and then had a short debriefing session with the headteacher. Students will share any learning and their thoughts on the experience with the Maths and Computing specialist staff at BRGS and are looking forward to welcoming QEGS to BRGS at some point in the future.

## Creating Cyber-Pets

Year 8 and Year 9 students have been busy creating cyber pets under the guidance of Jonathan Fitton, Head of Technology. The Cyber-Pet Project was introduced as a result of a two-day training course at Bolton's Science and Technology Centre which focused on the incorporation of Computer Aided Design (CAD) and its manufacture (CAM) with micro-controller technology.

Micro-controllers are responsible for the control of many electronic products in the modern world ranging from mobile phones to microwaves. BRGS pupils designed cyber pets along with the programme to operate the micro-controller and built through the school's CAM machine which was then line bent into a structural housing to package the electronic circuitry.



Students have risen to the challenge and created some unique and exciting pets which will be displayed and discussed at the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Centre's National Conference in York later this year.

## Recollection of a Rossendale winter

The Siberian wintry conditions we experienced in January/February 2010 may be a dim and distant memory but former student Ken Whittaker can recall the winter of 1940 and here he recounts his memories of life as a BRGS student during a particularly eventful snowstorm:

*"I believe it was February 1940 and the snow started on a weekend. Throughout Sunday we had blizzard conditions and on Monday morning I faced deep drifted snow as I set out for school. My route took me through Edgeside Park and here there was no sign of park benches – they were completely covered. On my right were the tennis courts and only some 20cm of the chain fence surrounding the court protruded through the top of the snow! Further on there was a small drinking fountain, about a metre high: this was completely covered and the top didn't reappear for over a week.*

*At assembly – headmaster Edward Holt (known as Ted to us pupils) told us it was the lowest attendance since the school was founded. I believe it was just over 100 from some 500 pupils.*

*Bus routes were made passable over the next few days and attendances went up. It was reported that a Ribblesdale bus travelling from Burnley towards Waterfoot at the time of the snowstorm had to stop at the small shop at the crossroad above the reservoir and remained there for a week!*

***But the school didn't close!"***



## Saatchi Schools' Competition



Ellen Griffiths' award-winning art work

Our art department has put together a portfolio of BRGS students' work to be entered into the Saatchi Schools' Competition. The Saatchi Gallery / Sunday Telegraph Art Prize for Schools for 2010 is a competition open to primary, secondary and sixth form schools from around the world who are invited to submit art work from students up to the age of 18. Last year there were over 22,000 individual entries from over 3,000 schools.

A prize of £10,000 awaits the winning school's art department and an exhibition of the twenty top entries will take place at the Saatchi Gallery in the autumn. To view the BRGS entry go to <http://www.saatchi-gallery.co.uk/portfolio/> and then search in the schools list for Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School. We will keep you posted as to whether we are successful!

**Art students who have already received acclaim in Rossendale through submitting work to the Rossendale Schools' Art Exhibition at Whitaker Park Museum include:**

**Connor Richardson and Caitlin Shackleton** Year 7

**Georgina Mawdsley and John King** Year 8

**Olivia Morley and Sophie Marsden** Year 10

**Adam Hinson, Ellen Griffiths and Lauren Newsham** Year 11

**Martin Hagan and Alice O'Rourke** Year 13

The exhibition is open until the 1st August and we encourage you to see the work of talented art students from across all schools in Rossendale.



Students on a geography fieldtrip to Ingleborough.



Guests at our Arts Alumni Reception

## Team Mad Dog complete Mammoth Exhibition in the Lakes

An intrepid group of girls, who came together three years ago on their Silver Award to form Team Mad Dog, have finally conquered their Gold Award expedition section. Having fallen at the proverbial hurdle in the 2009 to the Outer Hebrides through injuries to team members, Vicci Rishton and Emily Sawicz, they were determined not to give up. Undeterred, they have recently gone on to complete a four-day 85km trek around Cumbria with a total climb of 3,900 m (that's almost three times the height of Ben Nevis!). Sadly, a recurring ligament injury to Emily's knee meant she had to pull out again on the second day. Hopefully, it will be third time lucky for Emily when her physio is complete.

Recently the girls presented their project work to friends and family of the group and to special guest, Tony Flanagan, County Outdoor Activities' Advisory for Lancashire LEA. The project work focused on a detailed study of the major lakes and tarns encountered on their route. The talk was most informative and the audience all learned a little more about this beautiful part of England including an account of the sunken gnomes of Wastwater!

## Fond Farewell

We extend a big thank you and our best wishes as we say farewell to a number of members of staff at the end of the summer term: Christine Hudson (history teacher and Head of General Studies) and Catherine Mansfield (art teacher) will retire at the end of term after 20 and 30 years respectively at BRGS. Another long-serving member of staff who will be moving to pastures new is Steven Haycocks (Assistant Head) who after 13 years will be starting at another grammar school, Skipton Girls' High School as Deputy Head from September. Gill Spokes (Assistant Head) is moving to be Deputy Head at Collegiate High School in Blackpool, Caroline Newton (Assistant Head of Year and sociology teacher) will become Head of Sociology at St. Christopher's High School in Accrington, Joan Waddell (physics teacher) is retiring, Pamela Walsh (maths teacher) will continue teaching maths back in her home country of Ireland and Suzy McGroaty (cover supervisor) will be moving further afield to the States.

# Sports Reports

The BRGS U19 basketball team played a close and exciting game between two evenly matched teams in which the lead changed hands fourteen times!

At the end of the first quarter Preston College led 22-20 and at half time the score was 39-38 in BRGS's favour. Preston College held a slender advantage at the end of the third quarter 61-59 and with the title looking to go either way, BRGS finally won the trophy as North-West Sixth Forms Division 2 Champions with a score of 78-69. This is the fifth time that BRGS has won this trophy, the previous times being in 1999, 2001, 2002 and 2003.

Martin Piggott, PE teacher who coached the team, congratulated the players involved:

Jake Campbell was awarded the MVP-Most Valuable Player-for his overall contribution with excellent defence and rebounding. Jake was also the team's second highest scorer with 22 points and Cameron Bradshaw was the top scorer with 34 points. Colm Kennedy and Tom Sipocz both performed superbly in their last game for the school, winning a trophy for the first time in seven years of trying. Jamie McMullen's defensive rebounds and shot blocks were crucial in keeping Preston's score down. Josh Rhodes and David Adams worked tirelessly for the team and on this occasion, Gaige Kinsella had the important job of keeping the bench warm!

## Pendle-Rossendale Year 8 Football Champions



Congratulations go to our Year 8 footballers who won the Pendle-Rossendale Cup in May for the second consecutive year. The game took place at Nelson FC where the boys overcame an early goal by Fisher More School to win 2-1 with goals from **Jack Haigh** and **Marcus Kay**. Man of the match award was given to **Oliver Burnham**.

Contributing to an excellent team performance were: **Ross Pickering** (GK), **Elliot Irving**, **Anthony Cox**, **Josh Manton**, **Morgan Phillips**, **Oliver Burnham**, **Connor Rooke**, **Jack Buckley** (C), **Matthew Aspinall**, **Jack Haigh**, **Marcus Kay**, **Danny Taylor**, **Tom Bennett** and **Alex Jeffrey**.



# Who? What? Where? When?

**Nathan McLean (1989 – 1996) wrote in response to the photograph in edition 20 in which he identified his cousin, Geoffrey Wright who was at BRGS between 1985 – 1990 and who now lives in Australia.**

Other replies came from Lee Welton, Amanda Farrar, Wesley Mort, Craig Willacy and former Deputy Head Fred Wild who between them suggested the following:

**Back row from left to right:** Lee Welton, Lee Morley, Mark Solomon, Geoff Wright  
**Front row from left to right:** Andrew Chadwick, David Greenwood, Simon Barker, Chris Pollock, Andrew Dickinson and John Finnegan.



Popular opinion was that the photo was taken in 1989 – 1990 of the U16 Basketball Team.

Malcolm Spencer has asked that we include a form photograph from 1952/1953 of U2B. In addition to himself, Malcolm can identify four other people: Warren Entwistle, Tom Rawstron, Susan Ashworth and Martin Hoare and he thinks that the form master was Mr. McLean. If anyone can shed any further light on the pupils in this photograph then please do get in touch.



## Obituaries

*We were saddened to learn of the following:*

Leslie Smith (left 1934) a BRGS stalwart, sadly died in March 2010 aged 91. Leslie was a local government worker serving in senior positions in the rates offices in both Bury and Manchester. He served in the Royal Army Pay Corps in London during the Blitz before joining the Signals Regiment and landing in Normandy on D-Day. He was a regular contributor to the Rossendale *Free Press* under the pseudonym of Owd Nick and he had a series of short stories read on Radio Blackburn as well as a contribution published in *The Bedside Guardian*. Leslie was a well-known speaker for a number of Rossendale societies and he contributed to BRGS events recounting, in his inimitable way, tales of his time at BRGS and his so-

called misspent youth! Leslie was married to Ethel in 1942 who died twenty years ago and he leaves his daughters Vivien and Shirley and extended family and friends.

Former student Walter Scaife (1924 – 1929) passed away on the 7th February 2010.

Kenneth Hopkinson (1934 – 1940) died at the end of April aged 87. After matriculation Ken joined Barclays Bank where he had a distinguished career, his last appointment prior to retiring being South-West Regional Director of Barclays Trust Division. Ken was a keen sportsman: a life-long golfer and played football for the Old Rossendalians in the years following the Second World War. Ken, a widower, leaves two sons, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

## Message Board

- Congratulations to Emily Walshe (1999 – 2006) and Kris McAndrews who were married on the 30th May in Tonawanda, New York State (ten miles from Niagara Falls). The couple met when Emily worked at a summer camp in the USA and they will live in the States.
- Our congratulations go to seventeen year old Flight Sergeant Jordan Wild who has been appointed as Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for Greater Manchester for 2010/2011. Jordan received his certificate of appointment and a special badge of office from HM Lord Lieutenant for Greater Manchester, Colonel Warren Smith at a presentation at Kearsley House in Wigan. Chief Executive of the north west of England Reserve Forces and Cadets Association Colonel Gerry Wells-Cole said: "Jordan is a dedicated and hard-working cadet who gives of his best and inspires those around him to do likewise."
- Sixth former and Manchester School of Acting student Miles Higson joined the cast of *Hollyoaks* in April as Seth, the youngest member of the new Costello family.
- Congratulations to Lauren Jackson and Adam Sutcliffe (1998 – 2005) on their recent engagement.
- Welcome to two new additions to the BRGS family: Head of Year Karin Kolbuck gave birth to Aden Jozef and R.S. teacher Mel Heywood had a baby girl, Alexia Grace.
- Congratulations to Joanne Nelson née Haslam, Head of PSHE, on her marriage to Kevin.

### Congratulations to the following former students on their successes at university:

- David Bewicke has been awarded a first at Cambridge in Astrophysics. He came top in his class and gained the Royal Astronomical Society Prize.
- Josh Cadney has gained a distinction on his Part 3 in Maths at Cambridge and will be studying for a PhD at Bristol University.
- Madeleine Sargent has received a first class degree in psychology from Huddersfield University.
- Andrea Whitehead, Matthew Ramshead, Rachel Duffy and Laura Royle have also graduated this year. Both Rachel and Laura are pursuing careers as teachers.
- Sam Stevens has been awarded a first class degree at Warwick University and will be studying for his masters at Cambridge.



### Bacup & Rawtenstall

*Grammar School*

Glen Road, Waterfoot, Rossendale, Lancashire BB4 7BJ

Telephone: 01706 234500

E-mail: [ecg@brgs.org.uk](mailto:ecg@brgs.org.uk)

Web site: <http://www.brgs.org.uk>



Kris McAndrews and Emily Walshe

Calling all former students who were at BRGS in the 60s and the 70s: we are hoping to arrange a reunion for all alumni and guests who were at school during these decades at some point during the autumn term. If you would like to register an interest in attending, then please contact Emma at [ecg@brgs.org.uk](mailto:ecg@brgs.org.uk) or on 01706 234502. It would help to inform our future planning if we could gauge initial interest.

## Dates for your diary

**Saturday 25th September**  
Entrance Exam

**Thursday 30th September**  
Sixth Form Music Concert

**Wednesday 13th October**  
Autumn Music Concert

**Friday 15th October**  
Grandparents' Day (Year 7)

**25th – 29th October**  
Half-term

**1st & 2nd December**  
Fashion Show

**Wednesday 15th December**  
Christmas Concert

**Thursday 16th December**  
Senior Speech Night

**Friday 17th December**  
Last day of term

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