



Winter
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Friends of BRGS

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

Bacup & Rawtenstall
Grammar School

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100  Years

Bacup & Rawtenstall
Grammar School



Welcome!

Our Centenary Year is finally upon us and started with a bang on Friday 20th September with the Fireworks Spectacular to mark 100 years to the day that BRGS was opened on its present site. Proceedings were started with a birthday cake and a rendition of 'Happy Birthday' in assembly followed by an evening of entertainment and stunning fireworks set to music: a memorable and fitting way to mark such a momentous occasion.

Next in our events programme was one of the highlights of the year, our Centenary Reunion. Former students travelled from all corners of the globe and the sincere and generous comments we have received from so many alumni and teachers since the event have been overwhelming.

Future events for your diary include former student and renowned opera singer Alwyn Mellor performing at BRGS on Saturday 1st March; our London Alumni Reception at the House of Commons on Wednesday 12th March and our Centenary Ball on Saturday 10th May. Tickets, invitations and further information regarding these events will be circulated in the new year but if you would like to express an interest in attending then please contact Suzanne Tanner, Development Assistant at sjt@brgs.org.uk

In the meantime, we wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

With best wishes,

Emma

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Reminiscing on 100 years at the Reunion

Report by Georgina Chick, Year 11

Saturday 5th September 2013 saw the Centenary Reunion of BRGS. After a century's worth of eager, bright eyed students had passed through its doors, it seemed to be time to welcome students and staff both past and present into the proud old building to reflect on the progress that has been made since its opening in 1913.



BRGS teachers from over the years reunited

The atmosphere on the day was amazing and the hall, as promised, was overflowing with the individuals that have worked together over the years to create the school that we know and love today. It was heart-warming to see people from all generations, ranging in age from 11 to 91, come flooding back to their roots to reminisce with old friends on the years that formed the foundations of their adult lives. It was fascinating being able to speak to people that had experienced the school throughout the century and begin to build a more complete picture of the changes that have taken place and the way in which they have affected the population of the school.

Great care had been taken in decorating the school for the occasion, with the canteen having been transformed into an afternoon tea parlour complete with vintage tablecloths, delicate china and an array of cakes and scones. The hall had been adorned in a Hogwarts like manner, with banners hanging from the balcony displaying the four initials of the school in calligraphy lettering. And the balcony itself had been decorated with blue and gold balloons alongside 'Happy Birthday' streamers that reached down into the hall amongst the assembly of people.

It was wonderful to see BRGS making such an effort to welcome back the people that have played a part in the history of the school, and being so eager to show off the changes that are constantly being made to enhance the learning experience given to the current pupils.; all ultimately to increase every opportunity which the pupils gain from their educations there. Some of the opportunities that have been offered to transform the students into well-rounded individuals include: the Lionheart Challenge, the Youth Philanthropy Initiative and all three Duke of Edinburgh awards. The driven attitude of BRGS also continues to extend beyond the current pupils and out into the local community.

The community spirit that BRGS instils in its students has benefits both ways though. Ex-pupil Lucy Ashton reminisced on her time at BRGS with fond memories of the Upper Sixth leaving party, a long standing tradition where all the students and their form teachers dress up to celebrate their last day of school in style. Since her days as a school girl, Lucy Ashton has progressed through university to become a lawyer for the CPS and is now

returning to the school to help coach some of the Upper Sixth Law students through their upcoming mock trial. Lucy believed that her days at BRGS helped her achieve highly in life so she wanted to give something back and help current students to do the same.

The Law department was bursting with past students in all different capacities, including Emma Isaacs who attended the school from 1989 to 1996. Filled with fond memories of language lessons with Derek Ward and David Parkinson, alongside proud moments of winning music awards, Emma Isaac progressed through further education to arrive back at BRGS a few years later as Mrs Taylor. She is now one of the schools very dedicated teachers, putting her all into the Law department by coaching students through numerous mock trials and assisting them in achieving the very best grades possible.

As well as the countless BRGS past pupils that returned to see their old school, there were also several past teachers; amongst these was Janet Helm, whom worked as a Geography teacher at the school from 1985 to 2006. Mrs Helm reminisced about her time at BRGS and the "endless hardworking students" that she saw pass through the school. Some of her fondest memories of her time teaching at the school included: field trips to Iceland, multiple Year Nine camping trips and helping referee a netball match that was played continuously for fifty-five hours. She also spoke of the many changes that she saw the school go through such as the building of the Clark Building, Newchurch Wing and Sports Hall, as well seeing the whole school increase from a four form entry to allowing five new forms to enter each year.

It is clear that BRGS has a fascinating history filled with the success stories of the students that have passed through its door, and this is reflected upon with even more emphasis as it reaches the Centenary . It can be seen that through occasional alterations to the traditional running of the school, BRGS has developed into a centre of excellence, inspiring its pupils to achieve the very best that they can and go on to be the pioneers of the modern day. These accomplishments are ever at the forefront of the minds of all that are associated with the school, and it is with these in mind, that it proudly strides on, looking hopefully into the future towards another 100 years of triumph.

Headmasters' Reflections

BRGS has been fortunate in having stable leadership over the years with Alan Porteous, the current headmaster taking up the reins in January 2012 and becoming only the seventh headmaster in the school's history since 1913. A recent publication, *Headmasters' Reflections*, considers some of the main events in the school's history since Philip Clark assumed the role of headmaster in 1969.

Writing the foreword, Alan Porteous states that he is "very conscious of both the huge privilege and the weight of responsibility of serving BRGS as the Headmaster charged with taking this wonderful school into its second century." Soon after Alan assumed his role, the school received an OFSTED inspection with the "overall judgement of the inspectors, under a stricter inspection framework, was that BRGS is a good school with an outstanding sixth form." Fundamentally, they stated that "the ethos is palpable and the traditions proudly observed." Alan writes that "as we go forward into our second century, a commitment to the development of students as well rounded individuals and potential future leaders of our community through an exciting and challenging curriculum and an extensive enrichment programme will continue to be at the heart of our vision for BRGS."

Extracts from Philip Clark's writings include:

"1969 witnessed the so-called re-development of Rawtenstall. The new precinct intended to compensate for the building of a motorway style by-pass, accompanied by a huge traffic island bordered by the new further education college and test cricketer Winston Place's paper shop (ex BRGS too!) There were no supermarkets: local grocers, butchers and greengrocers were only too pleased to deliver to the door."

"BRGS was relaxed; no computers, no Twitter or iPhones: an establishment of piety, civility and advancement of learning...Manchester was a distant city infrequently visited."



Philip Clark, Alan Porteous and Martyn Morris

"Health and Safety hadn't been invented: first year pupils on their way to the 'Glen' for football, unaccompanied by staff, would make a mad dash across the main road at the bottom of Millar Barn Lane and then negotiate perilous rocky outcrops to reach a safe haven: a football pitch. Use of the first team pitch adjoining the school might on occasion necessitate chasing the sheep off."

"Although boys and girls were taught together in form rooms, sex discrimination was the rule of the day. Boy entered on the left by the boys' slope and girls by way of the main entrance on Glen Road and woe betide any pupil who, half asleep at 8.30 a.m. got it wrong. Around the balcony boys were required to walk in the opposite direction to girls and girls were admitted to classrooms ahead of boys."

"In the mid 1980s the school discovered dry rot which spread throughout all the rooms on the balcony. During this time, throughout the winter months, classes were transferred to the buildings of the former Lea Bank School as layers of dirt and dust occupied the school hall. To add to the woes, the 1980s were plagued by national teacher strikes and working to rule...but BRGS never closed. In fact between 1969 and 1979 (3600 working days) the school missed only one day (caretakers' strike)" and did not even close due to Rossendalian snow!

"Within school, drama and music continued to flourish as they had done since the school was

founded – and despite the small stage, hardly more than a platform. For many years the biannual music production consisted of a Gilbert and Sullivan opera as well as *The Wizard of Oz*, *My Fair Lady*, *All the King's Men*, *The Sound of Music* and *Robert and Elizabeth*, based on the Barretts of Wimpole Street and involving auditions for five King Charles' spaniels."

"With the school expanding to over 800 pupils with a sixth form well in excess of 200, pressures on accommodation with enormous. The last additional buildings for the school consisted of four prefabs (equipped with coke burning stoves) which were built for the raising of the school leaving age in 1948. The school had long held cherished plans for the building of a 'science block' which was opened in 1969 and consisted of a small pre-fabricated building which became a biology laboratory!"

"The buildings were occupied 200 days each year by hundreds of young people who possessed a natural dignity and joy in achievement borne of an upbringing that was always solid working class. Pupils were so reliable and their conduct so exemplary that, by the mid-eighties, all school rules had been abolished. The school ran perfectly well without them."

Martyn Morris arrived at BRGS in 1988 and recounts the 75th reunion of the school:

"The school hall gleamed. Flowers decorated the entrance and platform. Coloured badges were at the ready to denote which year group the students had been in. It seems as if everyone who had ever passed through BRGS in his or her youth had returned making more noise than they ever did when they were at school. The affection of past pupils for their school showed the BRGS was a special place."

"In the early 1990s the school curriculum was always changing or so it seemed to teachers. Cookery and needlework for girls, metalwork and woodwork for boys had been the order of the day, but this was a very long way from the national trend of CDT for everyone."

There was a "bright idea to have a year 7 sleepover in the hall to help new students to

"bond" together in their new school. Boys were down one side girls down the other with a teacher on a chair in between them. It turned out to be most effective, but included many memorable moments – one year the ghost of BRGS appearing at 1 a.m...now try getting them back to sleep!" This tradition still exists!

After various schools went grant-maintained it was queried as to how they would be monitored which then led to the introduction of Ofsted. Twelve HMIs were dispatched to BRGS to be trained so they could train the new breed of Ofsted inspectors: "It was intense. They found three faults at BRGS – a gutter leaked, the classrooms smelt of food after lunch and the teachers should have the opportunity to see each other teach. They did stop one student in year nine and ask if the assembly appeared too profound to which the student replied, "didn't you understand it?"

Trevor Elkington, Director of Sixth Form and Deputy Head who was Acting Head prior to Alan's arrival wrote of the departure of Martyn Morris in 2005 as the fifth headmaster of BRGS which "marked a time when experienced colleagues moved on and stability gave place to change." A second Morris headmaster in the person of Marc Morris arrived in Autumn 2005. "Cynics amongst the staff claimed that it saved the school changing its' headed stationary, but Marc Morris brought an incredible mind, powerful intellect and wonderful way with words to his tenure as Head."

"Marc Morris had announced his intention to remain at BRGS until his own retirement, but an unexpected approach from a Headteacher recruitment agency whisked him suddenly to take up the post of Principal of Sha Tin College in Hong Kong where he has to close his new school for typhoon days rather than the snow days of Rossendale!"

For anyone interested in purchasing a copy of "Headmasters' Reflections" please contact Suzanne Tanner, Development Assistant at slt@brgs.org.uk or on 01706 234500. Available at £5 per copy plus £1 postage.

BRGS's Firework Spectacular



By Lucy Pilling and Elizabeth Stephenson, Year 13

BRGS looked more impressive than usual on the night of the 20th of September. The main school building was lit up with spotlights which ensured that all attention that night was focused on the school and its celebrations. The cause for a party was that the school was celebrating 100 years of education, held at the nearby Waterfoot primary school and, by quarter to seven, already people young and old were queuing to celebrate the Centenary.

The fireworks show wasn't the only entertainment for the night as we enjoyed excellent music from the BRGS Jazz Band and Concert Band as well as energetic dance performances from students. Waterfoot Primary School's playground was cram-packed with cake sales as well as fairground rides and games. Because if a party doesn't have a hook-a-duck stall, well then it isn't really a party is it?

We asked some of the students, teachers and other guests at the Centenary celebration night what they thought of Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School and the Centenary. Mr Elkington, who is the Head of the Sixth Form at BRGS, was more than thrilled to be involved in the Centenary celebrations it seemed. When we asked him what he thought of the Centenary he told us, 'I think it's just fantastic, to be at the school at the point where it celebrates its 100 year anniversary. It is just such a special experience'. He continued on to speak of what he believes BRGS does for the community, 'I think it's one of the land marks of Rossendale. I think it's a real beacon and something that Rossendale should be proud of, because what it does is it takes ordinary young people and widens their aspirations and enables them to achieve great things.'

Head Girl Anna Ainsworth told us, she "had been attending BRGS since year 7," currently in year 13 studying her A levels she continued, "BRGS has done so much for me. Obviously it has got me through my school work and GCSEs but it has done a lot more than that. There's been a lot of extracurricular and clubs to join, from musical classes to all my favourite sports and to other bizarre activities such as wood carving. I also took part in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme and I've completed Bronze and Silver and on my way to completing Gold too. I think the Duke of Edinburgh is a big thing valued greatly at BRGS. Loads of the students get involved and there's so much we can all achieve from it. I think BRGS does a lot for our community. I joined in with the conservation work going on which involved laying stones and cutting plants but more important things like we cleaned out Tricketts memorial ground before the Remembrance Day services. There's also the enrichment activities that year 12 students take part in on Wednesday afternoon. There's a lot of volunteer work and work experience that students get the opportunity to do outside of school, including helping out in the local primary schools, charity shops and old people's homes."

Everyone has invested in BRGS, the teachers don't just come to work and then go home, everyone comes together and joins in and that's why at an event like this the teachers and the students are all getting along and working together, there's a unity which sounds really cheesy but it's true."

When talking about the Centenary event itself Anna told us, "It's really fun there is so much going on, it was pretty surreal in assembly this morning because everyone sang happy birthday to the school, and there was even birthday cake and chocolate for everyone! The amount of people that I've spoken to today that have been here and their grandparents came here

too is remarkable. People keep sending their children here as they want to return themselves. I'd definitely come to an event like this once I'd left, not just to see all my friends again but to see which teachers are still here and to visit my old classrooms and reminisce about times I had there."

The school's Head Boy Saumitra Mishra told us, "It has been an amazing opportunity to see all the past students and to be part of something so vibrant and important to the history of BRGS." Dayna Rafferty the Deputy Head girl told us she thought the event was "a great occasion to showcase the school and bring the community together." A parent of a past student told us how their child had succeeded in getting into the University of his choice and added that "BRGS is a fantastic school. All the league tables tell us it's one of the best schools in Lancashire, and it has a great positive work ethic."

The school ended the anniversary evening by hosting a fireworks show that no doubt was seen for miles around. The Centenary was a chance to show how far BRGS has come as a school and also proves just how much it can continue to prosper within the next one hundred years. There was a great atmosphere about the evening and plenty to do for all age groups; BRGS had proved itself as a truly magnificent school and sixth form once again.



Reunion Reflections

"It was wonderful to meet so many of the alumni from the 1960s and share a photograph with them. The concert later in the day was most enjoyable and the musicians are a credit to the school. The departmental activities and exhibits in the classroom surely demonstrated the excellence of the school curriculum. I also enjoyed the afternoon tea and the lighting display at the front of the school at dusk."

Chris Taylor

"A very big thank you. Ken and I had a brilliant time at the reunion. We both lost our voices as we had so much to say to the people we knew and there was such a good turnout. We missed the friends no longer with us of course but memory of them lives on. It is great to see the school so alive and continuing to feel loved and lived in. The school is in good shape and is obviously in good hands. The staff were working their socks off with a smile on their faces and the pupils were a delight – to talk to and to hear musically."

Ken and Dorothy Slater

"The reunion gave very many people so much to appreciate, remember and be grateful for. Today's BRGS is most impressive. The atmosphere is buzzing; the ethos is that of a thriving, productive, high achieving community, full of the excitement of making the journey together. You have respect for your inheritance but are also ultra-modern. How do you achieve that blend so successfully, I wonder? It was a pleasure to meet current students and staff; they are great ambassadors!"

Barbara Preston

1500 years gathering

The reunion weekend was a wonderful excuse for a number of smaller-scale gatherings of school friends. One of the most impressive was a mini-reunion arranged by Alan and Barbara Torevell for former students from their era. Guests had travelled from Australia, Israel, Spain and as far afield as Yorkshire and they calculated that their combined age was over 1,500 years.



Grandparents' Day 2013



Grandparents and close family members of our Year 7 students were treated to a morning or afternoon at school on Friday 11th October 2013. It presents the perfect opportunity for students fresh to BRGS to share their experiences to date with their grandparents. It also makes for some fascinating conversations comparing and contrasting education over time. The event has become an annual institution at BRGS and is always well received by guests and by our Year 7s!



Eid 2013

Students enjoyed partaking in Eid with our Muslim students bringing in food for all to taste and many students got a henna design. Around 50 students from throughout the school helped in making the celebration a huge success and raising awareness of this important Islamic festival. The event finished with a fashion show of the male and female Muslim students showing their traditional dress, and a Bhangra lesson on the stage.

One of our Bright Sparks!

Year 13 Media student Emma Taylor recently won the Bright Sparks Project for a music video she produced and directed. Emma was one of only three nationwide winning *Bright Sparks*, the other two were Kayleigh-Ann Walters from Birmingham for her singing ability and Alex Watkins from Essex for his re-mix production.

Producer Tony Lundon (Member of Liberty X and film director) commented: "As a filmmaker myself I was very impressed with Emma's talents. She really knows her stuff and has a very promising future ahead of her." Emma said: "Working both in the studios and on the streets of London with people in the industry was a fantastic opportunity and has taught me a lot about my craft. My Director of Photography even asked me back to work for his production company (Infinite Productions) in London, and the music video will be shown in many media outlets including the BBC and ITV at Media City UK this November."

Menagerie of Memories

Abridged review by Ben Ventress, English teacher

Once again, BRGS has proved it has an amazing array of dramatic talent whose lights have been hiding under a collective bushel, only to burst forth with redoubled brilliance in the space of the school hall on the night of Wednesday 20 November. The self-effacing billing of this show as a “run-through” by the current year eleven GCSE Drama group of their examination piece, rather than the “official” school production, singularly failed to do justice to a performance of Tennessee Williams’ tragic *The Glass Menagerie* which was not just more than fit for public performance, but which, in many respects, would not disgrace the professional stage.

The individual qualities of this company who we, the non-paying audience, were privileged to witness bringing the play to life were, of course, well-known to Head of Drama and director of this production, Martin Neve, whose realisation of Williams’ script was designed to showcase these to best advantage.

There were far too many outstanding individual performances to separately enumerate here. From my vantage point in the ‘critic’s seat’ on front row, it was remarkable to see how all members of the company inhabited their roles physically, having thought themselves mind and body into their characters. From Sophie Milne’s Amanda, sitting bolt upright at the dinner table in withering, hectoring, slightly desperate dignity to Oliver Holdsworth-Miller’s “angry young man” of a Tom using every ounce of physical space to convey his frustration and bitterness toward his mother, the evening was full of portrayals which lingered in the mind long after the last applause died away. Most memorable for me was Elyse Newsham’s Laura, whose subtlety, perception and intensely expressive facial acting in her scene with Jim was almost unbearably moving. This was not a vehicle for any one company member to be the ‘star’, however; this was ensemble theatre at its best.



All in all, this ‘one night only’ experience was a demonstration of how the unique qualities of spontaneity and danger that only belong to live theatre can generate a very special, life-affirming, even life-changing magic which happens when the space between cast and audience is bridged by such emotionally communicative performances as we witnessed from these students. All involved should be hugely proud of what they achieved on this very special evening.

Prestigious National Engineering Scholarships Awarded

Elliot Fosong, Taylor Ives and Alex Wardlow in Year 12 have been awarded a sought-after Arkwright Engineering Scholarship that identifies them as some of the country's future leaders in engineering and related areas of design.

The renowned Arkwright Engineering Scholarships provide students with a financial award to enhance their A level studies and a range of activities to enhance their understanding and experience of engineering. The Scholarships are respected by leading universities and industrial companies and are supported by top engineering employers and organisations such as Rolls-Royce, BAE Systems, National Grid, Balfour Beatty, Microsoft Research, Thales, The Royal Air Force, The Royal Navy and the Institution of Engineering and Technology.

Elliot, Taylor and Alex had to successfully complete a rigorous selection process consisting of a detailed application form, a two-hour aptitude exam and an interview hosted at a top engineering university.

The aptitude exam tested candidates' flair and originality in solving engineering design problems. At the in-depth interview, candidates were asked about their career aspirations and had to discuss an engineering project they had conducted. During the interview day the candidates took part in a team exercise to solve a hands-on engineering problem working with students they had never met before. Candidates and their parents also toured the engineering facilities at the host university and explored the diversity of engineering and design careers and their importance to the UK economy.

Dr Martin Thomas, National Director of the Arkwright Scholarships Trust said: "I am delighted to see students from Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School secure this prestigious accolade. Clearly, there is considerable technical talent in the Rossendale area. With the competition for rewarding jobs becoming ever-more fierce, the receipt of an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship can help dynamic young people at the start of their journey to be the country's future leaders in engineering and related areas of design."

Junior Speech Night

Former student Rachel Paterson who is a Production Manager at the BBC with a wealth of experience working on programmes as diverse as Blue Peter to the Olympics was our guest speaker at Junior Speech Night on the 7th November 2013. Students were presented with prizes and their GCSE certificates.



Welcome to BRGS

Joining BRGS during our special Centenary Year are the following members of staff:

- Sinead Jordan in our English Department;
- Ryan Stringer teaching physics;
- Michelle Baron as a Teaching Assistant;
- Jemima Paltreyman as a music peripatetic piano teacher
- Ben Whitaker as our ICT Network Manager.

We also welcomed back Jane Chapman to our maths department after the birth of her baby girl and Sherry Marks to the art department to cover for Helen Flint on maternity leave.

We wish them all well.



Roman Soldiers at BRGS

To supplement the Key Stage 3 and GCSE Curriculum history teacher Margaret Stanley invited some 'Roman Soldiers' from Roman Tours to BRGS.

Students from Year 7 saw the story of the Roman invasion of Britain and Year 10 students learned about Roman Medicine and the impact of the Roman Empire on the development of surgery and hospitals.

All of the classes involved thoroughly enjoyed the day, not least dressing up as a Roman Soldier, as well as seeing first hand Roman artefacts.



VocabExpress Championships

As part of the European Day of Languages (26th September) our Year 10 and Year 11 students were enrolled in the week-long VocabExpress Championships, giving them a chance to score points against each other and other schools, as well as helping to learn and revise GCSE vocabulary.

As well as competing in German, French and Spanish, some students tried their hands at learning Latin, Urdu, Arabic and Japanese, leading to BRGS placing in the top 10 school in Arabic and Urdu.

Over the course of the week, first place in the school's leader board changed hands frequently, with Tom

Gallagher taking and maintaining the lead, finishing with an amazing 38,010 points! This keen competition led to Tom, Christopher Bretherton and Jenneth Bower all coming in the top 40 students in the whole country. With over 30,000 students taking part nationally, this really was a fantastic achievement!

As well as the three students mentioned previously, everyone threw themselves in to the challenge with Year 10 and Year 11 efforts ensuring that from a field of 340 schools BRGS was placed 6th in the whole country and 1st in German, beating their nearest rivals by over 10,000 points.

Excellent exam results

BRGS has continued its tradition of sustained excellence with another excellent set of **A-level results**, improving on last year's figures in all categories.

BRGS has continued its tradition of sustained excellence with another excellent set of A-level results, improving on last year's figures in all categories.

- The overall pass rate at A*-E, excluding General Studies, was 99%. This was up from 98% last year.
- The overall achievement at A* to B was 64%, up from 60% last year.
- The overall achievement at A*/A was 35% up from 29% last year.
- 46 students achieved the excellent standard of three or more passes at grade A*/A. This constitutes 22% of the year group, up from 20% last year.
- 23 students, more than 10% of the year group, achieved 4 or more A*/As.
- 11 students achieved 5 or more A*/A.

Outstanding results came from the following students; the numbers show how many grade A*/A passes the students achieved at A level.

- 7 Nathan Mattock (5A* 2A), Joseph Holdsworth-Miller (6A* 1A)
- 6 George Platt
- 5 Paigan Aspinall, Saim Ahmed, Eve White, Benjamin Atueyi, Owain Dawson, Thomas Jackson, Emily Oldfield, Daniel Payne
- 4 Kirsty Baines, Samuel Cross, Rees Davidson, Thomas Hattan, David Hill, Benjamin Kaufman, Christopher Lee, Ayisha Mahmood, Daniel Mousley, Bobby Thompson, Jack Westerman, Andrew Wilson.

The results mean that six students will take up their offer of a place at either Oxford or Cambridge University; this equals the highest

number in the recent history of BRGS. The students gaining a place at Oxford are Paigan Aspinall (BioChemistry), Ben Atueyi (Law), Rees Davison (Engineering), Nathan Mattock (Chemistry) and Daniel Payne (Chemistry). Joseph Holdsworth-Miller will progress to Cambridge to read Maths. A further five students gained highly competitive places in the top medical schools.

Alan Porteous, Headteacher, said: "We are very pleased that the results this year continue our sustained record of high academic attainment, with improvements on last year's achievements at all levels. Clearly these excellent results have not been achieved without a huge amount of hard work and commitment from both our students and staff, and we congratulate them on their achievements. There are many outstanding individual successes and we wish all our students well as they move on to the next stage in their lives."

At GCSE level, BRGS continued a tradition of sustained high achievement, improving on or matching last year's figures in all categories.

- 100% of our Year 11 students achieved 5 or more A* to C grades, compared to 99% in 2012.
- 98% achieved 5 or more A* to C grades including English and Mathematics, compared to 98% in 2012.
- 66% of our students achieved 5 A*/A including English and Maths, 64% in 2012.
- 24% of all grades were at A* level, 22% in 2012.
- 59% of all grades were at A*/A, 57% in 2012.
- 98 students from a year group of 149, 66%, achieved 5 or more A*/A grades. 95 students in 2012.
- 21/149 achieved all A* or A grades; 14% of the year group.

Green Partnership Award Report

£500 was allocated last year to our sixth form enrichment programme, to facilitate work with local community groups.

This has proved successful, with groups of students working with Rawtenstall Civic Pride, mainly on improvements near the by-pass on the approach to Rawtenstall, with Edgeside Residents, working in Edgeside Park, and with Waterfoot Forward working on a large planter in the village centre.

Money has been spent on tools, high-visibility vests, gloves and Wellington boots, and £100 each has been transferred to Rawtenstall Civic Pride and to Edgeside Residents as contributions to the cost of materials (plants, bulbs, compost etc.) for the projects. £50 has been transferred to Waterfoot Forward towards the costs of an ongoing project to rejuvenate an abandoned play area.



Who? What? Where? When?



Jane Biran, known at BRGS as Della Dillon, helped us to fill in the gaps from the hockey photography. Jane mentions that the girl on the back row second from the left is Judith Horrocks. Garth Bradshaw (left 1966) added to the names on the hockey line-up. On the back row, left to right: Pat Torevell, Judith Horrocks, Judith Bradshaw and then some outstanding queries! On the front row from left to right: Phylis Warburton, possibly Jean Stansfield, Anne Crossley, Dorothy Hargreaves and Pat Chisnall. Judith Bradshaw thinks that this photo may have been taken in the 1954/55 season. As many of you will know, Judith then went on to become a PE teacher, teaching at Lancaster Girls' Grammar School before returning to BRGS in 1962 to assume the post of Girls' PE Mistress and marry Tony Brand (chemistry teacher) in 1963. As an aside, Judith and Tony celebrated their golden wedding anniversary this year.



Doris Proud née Taylor identified the cast of *You Never Can Tell* produced by Bill Walton in 1948/1949 which featured in the Spring edition. Left to right, standing: Colin Hinton, Howard Hilton, John Law, Wilfred Heap, Kathleen Slater, Alan Jones, Raymond Crowther. Left to right, seated: Anne Ashworth, Doris Taylor.

Who can you recognise from this Sporting Champions photograph?

FORMER TEACHER, DOREEN CHEDZOY

Former BRGS teacher Doreen Chedzoy (1952-1954) sadly died of liver cancer at the end of July. Her husband Olaf wrote that although she taught at BRGS for only two years *"she enjoyed that time immensely, and it ensured that her working life was devoted to teaching, albeit later in the primary sector, finally as head teacher at Castle Combe."*

Sports Reports



Rowing and Regatta in September 2013 reported on the World Junior Rowing Championships:

"A future GB star emerged at the World Rowing Junior Championships in Trakai, Lithuania, last month when 18-year-old Jess Leyden took gold in the women's single sculls. The win goes down in national rowing history as the first ever open-weight championship win by a British woman in this event."

Jess in Year 13 overcame tough competition, having to win three races to earn her place in the final. Jess trains at Hollingworth Lake and was in fifth place at the first 500m mark but then won by clear water ahead of Belarus in silver and France in bronze. GB Team Manager John Layng said that he was "pretty sure she was medal potential but it wasn't until she started racing that we realised how outstanding she

was", going on to describe her as a "very determined young lady." Jess has made her mark in the rowing history books - watch this space for more firsts in the future.

Rossendale Schools' Netball Competitions

Year 8 fought hard in their group and won their matches 5-0, 13-0 and 4-0 therefore not having a goal scored against them. This put them into the final against Alder Grange. It was a tough match but the final score was 3-2 to Alder Grange placing the Year 8 team second in Rossendale. Well done to Emily Morgan, Georgia Oultram, Emer Shell, Alice Hopkinson, Kate Roper, Kirsty Welshman, Cara King, Eva Wroe and Rebecca Prestage.

The Year 9 team played extremely hard in atrocious weather to win the competition. Congratulations to the team of Robyn Westerman, Ella Mills, Eleanor Fogarty, Chloe Greenwood, Olivia Holden, Lauren Lee Cheong, Corinna Howorth, Sarah Goldswain and Sarah Longshaw.

Our Year 10 and Year 11 teams both played well in their competition and even had to compete against each other but the final outcome was that Year 11 became Rossendale Champions and Year 10 came second.

Orienteering their way to the medals

The Peter Palmer Relays took place on Sunday 8th September 2013 at Derwent Water, Cumbria. BRGS's team was placed second in the Norwich Orienteering Club Trophy which is run over legs of differing lengths and technical abilities with the first two legs run at night! Jamie Hoyle was in the mass start at 4.30 a.m. to bring the team to second place after a time of 50 minutes. Hannah Goldswain then managed to edge the team into first place after the second leg but then

the team dropped back to second overall. The winning team from Wales managed to stay just ahead for the rest of the race to take first place and the trophy. The time for the BRGS team was 4 hours and 15 minutes.

Former British Champion and International Orienteer Helen Winskill presented the team of Corinna Howorth, Hannah Goldswain, Jamie Hoyle, Rachel Smith and George Tanner, with their medals.



- Congratulations to **Aisha Nasir** (2006-2008) who wrote that she had a dream of becoming a doctor and kindly said that "several members of staff at BRGS did everything in their power to help me achieve my goals." After 5 years of hard study, Aisha has graduated from Manchester University as a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB). We wish her continued success.
- We wish **Victoria Donahoe** well as she undertakes her final year studying maths at Manchester University with the knowledge that she has been accepted onto KPMG's graduate programme.
- Well done to **Anisha Loomba** who gained a first in her degree in Spanish and International Business at Swansea University.
-  Congratulations to **Joe Boaden** who has graduated with a 2:1 in Physical Geography from Aberystwyth University.
- **Chris Boon** has graduated with a first class masters degree in Maths and Physics from Warwick University and is now studying for a PhD at Southampton.
- Former student **Ellie Ansell** has been accepted onto an animation course at Bournemouth. Head of Art Diane Bamford said: "Only an elite group are accepted onto this course as there are very strong links with the animation film industry. Ellie is an exceptional talent and we should be watching out for a future Oscar nomination."

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To the next 100 years...



Bacup & Rawtenstall
Grammar School



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