

BILTON GRANGE

Record

2023 – 2024

SPECIAL 150TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION



Thank you to our BG150 Patrons for your generosity and support throughout our 150th anniversary celebrations. The funds you have raised have had a profound impact on the Earle Fund, Bilton Grange's boarding bursary programme, ensuring more young people have access to our unique boarding school education. We hope you have enjoyed the many events marking this special year.

Our Patrons are recognised below, and your names have also been preserved in the 150th anniversary time capsule and etched onto the BG150 armillary sphere, which now stands proudly on the grounds of Bilton Grange as a testament to your lasting legacy. We look forward to your continued support for many years to come.

BG150 Patrons

Stephen Band
Charles Barwell OBE
Tina Broad
Dr & Mrs EGW Day
Yi Xuan Han
The late Robert Hepworth

Faith Matthews
Charles Powell
Caroline & Peter Thompson
Richard Noy Trounson
Brian Tustain
David Veit

Robin Veit
Enzo Wang
Jackson (JiaJun) Wang
Ian Wilkes
Mingyu Zhu



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BILTON GRANGE
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Foreword

Good school magazines are like fine wines: they get better with age. On first receipt of their copy, pupils tend to race through in search of their name and a photograph or two. Later on, with the magazine supplementing the usual bedtime reading material they return to their copy and spend a little longer flicking through, reading the season reports or marvelling at the artwork of their friends. Later still, with their Bilton days long behind them, they spend longer pouring over the poetry and prose or the lists of prize-winners and scholarship recipients, as their memories desperately try to put faces to names. All of the above is a rite of passage and why good school magazines are so important. I'm rather proud to say that the Bilton Grange Record is an *extremely good* school magazine; welcome to the 2023-24 edition.

We have been celebrating the 150th anniversary of the school this year and this has led me, quite naturally, to delve deeper into the Bilton Grange history pages. Two things have struck me as a result: firstly, that there is a constant theme of warmth and camaraderie which pervades all OB correspondence; secondly, that school magazines are incredibly important social commentaries and long may they continue to be published.

The Bilton Grange Record has not been in circulation for a few years and this, therefore, is a special edition in a special year. A lot has been happening and I hope this edition conveys the same sense of community which has been so prevalent in the everyday atmosphere at the

School this year. From small moments of triumph that are celebrated with a quiet word here and there, to more public pronouncements and prizegiving or from the relatively informal assemblies to the grander concerts and tournaments, this magazine aims to showcase it all and highlight what a broad education we offer. It will also demonstrate, I hope, that the children are the heartbeat of the school.

A magazine like this is not easily produced; it takes a great deal of diligent effort from my colleagues who contribute articles throughout the year. Plus, it requires someone to tackle the really hard task of pulling the material together. That someone is Paul Nicholson, the editor, and he deserves special praise for his efforts in managing this with such coherence and structure. I am very grateful to him and also to you, the reader, for whom we make this effort. Please enjoy the memories!



GARETH JONES,
HEADMASTER



From the editor

I was honoured to be asked to edit the Bilton Record, particularly during the School's 150th anniversary year. It is some 122 years since its first publication in which the editor professed to have produced a 'barren record of facts ... dull enough to those who have no special interest in Bilton.' I sincerely hope that the magazine has moved on! My sincere thanks go to all those who have given their time to contribute to its compilation, particularly the Head and my Assistant Editor, Tash Grove, whose help has been invaluable.

Paul Nicholson



BOARDING HOUSE

Development

Our 150th anniversary celebrations have enabled us to celebrate the past whilst also looking to the future and nowhere is this represented more clearly than by the development of our new boarding house, which unites tradition with mid-21st Century accommodation, comfort, and pastoral care.

To see the building grow in front of our eyes has been both a privilege and a unique learning opportunity for our pupils to gain real-world insights into the construction industry. Led by Nicola Sodhi, teachers have worked closely with the project manager from Stepnell, the construction company, to plan activities that enable the pupils to interact with builders, architects, and other project workers. These activities have been hands-on and active and have engaged the children in discussion and critical thinking. In short, they have exemplified our holistic approach to learning, and it has been a joy to see.

The building (due to open in April 2025) has been designed for the children who will live there. Built over four levels, the lower two floors feature communal

spaces for socialising and study, a cinema screen and a large dining room, which will be used by day children and parents as well as boarders. A bespoke helter-skelter slide provides a sense of fun when travelling to the ground floor.

With state-of-the-art technology dividing corridors and floors for the boys and girls, the dormitories on the upper two floors will feature two-, three- and four-bed rooms, all ensuite. Pastoral routines will adapt to ensure hygiene and welfare are appropriately monitored, and the staff accommodation has been designed to support the children, day and night, as effectively as possible.

With solar panels on the roof and other energy-efficient features, we believe this sustainable building will not only be a benchmark for boarding design but also provide Biltonians with the time and space to develop academically, socially and emotionally. Most importantly, it will be a space for adventure, fun, down-time and togetherness which are the true values of any strong boarding community.

GEBJ





Celebrating 150 Years

It has been a privilege to be Headmaster of Bilton Grange during its 150th anniversary year. To celebrate our heritage while also looking to the future has been a wonderful opportunity to bring the community together and the year has been full of events, connections and memories. It has also been a year where we have showcased our dynamism, ambition and sense of fun.



We were not the only school to be celebrating this milestone birthday. In Staffordshire, Yarlet also had the metaphorical balloons up and it was to here in early September 2023 that a small group of Bilton Grange staff and Governors ventured to jointly kick-off the celebrations. In 1873, Rev'd Walter Earle started a school at Yarlet Hall. Fourteen years later, he moved almost the entire school of pupils and staff (there were just a few exceptions) to Bilton Grange in Warwickshire, changing the name of the school at that point but not changing the attachment of the pupils to their teachers or Headmaster. Therefore, Bilton Grange can rightly claim to be celebrating its 150th birthday as can Yarlet because, as soon as Rev'd Earle vacated the building, someone else stepped in to continue a school on the premises.

A week after the Bilton Grange and Yarlet VIP get-together, Bilton Grange held its own 'launch party' with the Gallery playing host to a large number of guests as well as a super show featuring children of all ages singing, dancing and acting. It really was a wonderful reflection of the performing arts talent in the School, a strength that was seen time and again through the year in our various productions which all took on a Victorian theme. The stand-out production of the year was *Oliver!* from which every audience member departed knowing they had seen something special.

Our celebrations culminated in the BiG Weekend on 23 and 24 June 2024. The Bilton Grange Society AGM and lunch was followed by the pupil-led Summer Fair, and this then led into the BG150 Summer Ball on the Saturday evening. What a super event this was, with wonderful food and entertainment complementing the magnificent venue on the South Lawns.

The following day, we hosted a special cricket match between a Bilton XI and the MCC. Celebratory cricket matches seem to be a feature of important milestones in Bilton Grange's history, and this was no different, with our wonderful pitch providing the venue for an excellent match, which the Bilton XI won.

At the close of play, it was also time to close the celebrations. The game had been played in great spirits and the celebrations throughout the year had demonstrated a fun and vibrant spirit that pervades the school too. We had set out to raise money for the Earle Fund, our boarding bursary programme, to bring people together and to create an even stronger sense of belonging, and we had delivered on all fronts.





“To celebrate our heritage while also looking to the future has been a wonderful opportunity to bring the community together...”



I am grateful to the many people who supported BG 150, in particular the Club Members and Patrons whose unwavering support was the cornerstone of our celebrations. I am also grateful to the Bilston Grange Society for their support, specifically in donating the Armillary Sphere which now sits beautifully on the South Lawns as if Pugin had placed it there himself.

Paul Nicholson, who led the organising committee in the preceding year, deserves enormous credit for his logistical planning, and the Rugbeian Community team, led by Katy Steventon, provided amazing support too. My grateful thanks go to them, all colleagues who supported events and Chartwells for providing such tasty refreshments.

The final act at the cricket tea party was to put the lid on a time capsule which will be laid into the courtyard of the new boarding house. This enormous capsule will feature all sorts of things from the past, present and even the future – a number of children have written letters to their future selves – to be unearthed in the year 2073. No one can really know what the school will be like then, but I would not mind betting that it will still be a school that places the community at its heart, just as this year of celebrations has shown.

Three cheers for Bilston Grange!

GEBJ



The 150Club

Thank you to all the members of the 150Club. Your support and participation have had a tremendous impact on our BG150 year and the funds raised have significantly contributed to the Earle Fund. We are grateful for your generous support and for being an essential part of our community.

BG150 Members

William Assheton
Guy Ayling
Richard Bourne
Maxwell Broad
Kate Berry
Jayne Brumpton
Richard Brumwell
Josephine Butler
Pippa Chessell
Piers Cumberlege
Tim Day
Theo Day
Anthony Day
Zara Enright
Paul Jackson

Gareth Jones
Jason Judd
Alasdair Judd
Charlotte Judd
Katie Judd
Louis Judd
Rupert Lawler-Broad
Noah Montgomery Markham
Caroline Morgan
Stuart Morgan
Dr Suran Nethisinghe
Christian Nicholson
Helen Nicholson
Paul Nicholson
Aremu Obadun-Craigs

Soji Omisore
Francine C. Reinecke
David Searle
Mike Watson Smith
Reuben Sodhi
Anya Sodhi
Alex Steele
Christopher Sugden
Boris Alexandru Tandrau
Rachel Tautu
Jamie Walton
Lucy Auriel Winther
Moon Yeun



The Bilton Challenge

September 2023 saw the launch of a new initiative for children in the Upper School: The Bilton Grange Challenge. Although it is new, it emphasises something that BG has always known throughout its 150 years - that true character comes from those who recognise the need to help and serve others.

An 'education' at Bilton Grange is about far more than just the academic offering. The school believes in developing the whole person through exposing its pupils to as wide a range of experiences and opportunities as possible. For many years, possibly since Bilton Grange first became a school in 1873, it has presented the Bilton Cup to the individual child who has made the greatest all-round commitment to school life. This is calculated through an elaborate points-scoring system which also enables a pupil average to be calculated so that the Section Bilton Cup can be awarded too.

The way in which the children conduct themselves is very important at Bilton Grange. This means adopting the correct attitudes and values for learning, alongside skills and knowledge. The dispositions of the Bilton

Grange Learner Profile (BGLP) are at the heart of a strong learning attitude, and these are instilled from the earliest ages in Pre-Prep.

The BG Challenge combines personal development with a strong sense of community and aims to extend the philosophies of the BGLP and Bilton Cup, pull together various learning experiences and provide a mechanism through which pupils' development can be measured and their efforts recognised and rewarded. Crucially, there is no limit to the number of children who can achieve.

Pupils work towards a Bronze, Silver or Gold medal over their final two years, and we were delighted to make the first presentations at this year's Prize Giving. Twenty children received bronze medals, four silver and seven gold. I sincerely hope these will be cherished for years to come and serve as a reminder of the efforts that were made for those around them.

As Albert Einstein once said, "Only a life lived in the service of others is worth living."

GEBJ





At Bilton Grange, in the academic year 2023-2024, our primary teaching and learning focus was implementing Quality First Teaching and promoting active learning strategies in lessons.

Quality First Teaching refers to delivering high quality, engaging, and adaptive lessons, centering on activities that promote critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, and communication. These all dovetail perfectly with the Bilton Grange Learner Profile. In both the Pre-Prep and Prep, teachers have integrated active learning strategies such as group discussions, project-based learning, hands-on experiments, and interactive new technology tools into their lessons to enhance our pupils' educational experience. For example, pupils have devised rap songs to remember photosynthesis, reported on historical events by filming themselves as newsreaders and made vlogs about how their homes and the school building can be more sustainable, to name a few. It has been great to see the pupils use all aspects of our grounds as their classroom.

All these activities have made learning more enjoyable and enhanced children's problem-solving and critical-thinking skills. Most importantly, they have become more confident and motivated as they are given the opportunity to express their ideas and collaborate with their peers.

As we continue to prioritise Quality First Teaching and active learning, we are confident that our learners at Bilton Grange will be well-prepared for future challenges. Our educational approach equips them with the necessary skills to succeed in all aspects of their lives.



SOCIAL VALUES AND ENGAGEMENT WORK - BOARDING HOUSE BUILDING PROJECT

A real highlight of the year has been all the social values and engagement work we have been doing with Stepnell as part of the boarding house building project. Approximately 200 pupils, from The Nest to the 6th Form, have taken part in site visits, allowing them to see their new boarding house under construction and learn about the build process. Stepnell staff have presented assemblies and classes to the pupils, supported learning, given talks on architecture, sustainability and careers in construction, and have worked closely with the school staff to ensure Stepnell's time on site is of benefit and interest to the pupils.

For example, the 6th Form were fascinated by the arrival of the crane on site, and this became the focus of some fantastic descriptive writing about what the view of the school estate must look like from the crane cabin. Moreover, for World Book Day, the pupils used the mysterious discovery of an underground brick chamber to write a creative piece imagining what it could be, and Stepnell judged the entries. Overall, the engagement significantly contributed to the school being awarded the Muddy Stiletto award for the Most Creative Learning Through Play category in June; this national award was a testament to the School's achievement and the Stepnell teamwork and support.



NS

Scholarships to Senior Schools

Academic Scholarships

Zoey Xu	Cheltenham Ladies College
William Boda	Rugby
Muhan He	Rugby
Poppy Wilkes	Rugby
Daniel Fan	Rugby
Theo Graves	Rugby
Jemima Morrison	Rugby
Elijah O' Connor	Rugby

Music Scholarships

Arthur Bryant	Rugby
Alexander Penrose	Shrewsbury, Rugby & Uppingham
Barney Valentino	Uppingham & Rugby
Poppy Wilkes	Rugby
Alfie Turner	Rugby
James Zhao	Rugby

Computing Scholarships

Elijah O' Connor	Rugby
Daniel Fan	Rugby
Theo Graves	Rugby

Design Technology Awards

Billy Taylor	Scholarship to Rugby
Ayano Hannigan	Exhibition to Malvern

Drama Awards

Ayano Hannigan	Scholarship to Malvern
Alfie Turner	Performing Arts Scholarship to Rugby
Jeevan Sehmi	Exhibition to Stowe

Sports Scholarships

Leo Coulthard Griffiths	Bloxham
Hamish McGregor	Bloxham & Sibford
Ethan Sutton	Claremont
Dexter Barrett	Princethorpe & Exhibition to Stowe
Verity Bush	Rugby
Lucy Green	Rugby
Jacob Jones	Rugby
Hugo Nicholson	Rugby
Sebastian Skene	Rugby
Harry Gedy	Rugby

11+ Scholarships

Nikhil Naidu	Academic to Princethorpe
Vihaan Murari	Academic to Princethorpe
Kian Mali	Sports to Princethorpe & Solihull

Charities Committee

This year, the pupil-led Charities Committee has made a significant impact through various fundraising activities, supporting numerous worthy causes. In September, we donated £746 to Jeans for Genes, a charity supporting individuals with genetic disorders. November saw a flurry of activity, with our Home Clothes Day and 6th Form cake sale raising an impressive £700 for Children in Need.

During the festive season, our Christmas jumper day was a hit, raising £165 for Save the Children. Students enthusiastically donned their Christmas jumpers for the Christmas lunch, contributing generously.

On Red Nose Day in March, we embraced the theme "Do something funny for money" by wearing odd socks and managed to raise £412 for charity.

The Big Catch was another highlight of our fundraising efforts. Pupils were sponsored to see how many consecutive catches they could make, and this exciting event raised £555 for the Motor Neurone Disease Association. Continuing our support for this cause, the Summer Fair's proceeds of £958 were also donated to the MND.

Beyond the work of the Charities Committee, the entire school community came together for several other important causes. The McMillan Coffee Morning was a great success, raising £249 for the McMillan Charity, which supports people living with cancer. During the Pre-Prep and Prep Harvest Festival Services, we collected enough funds to donate £249 each to the Rugby Food Bank and the Hoskyn Centre, helping those in need in our local community.

The Remembrance Service in November raised £294 for the Royal British Legion, honouring those who have served in the armed forces. Additionally, the Christingle Service brought in £47 for the Children's Society, and the Christmas Service raised £638 for Myton Hospice, which provides compassionate end-of-life care.

This year has been a testament to our School's commitment to making a difference, showcasing the generosity and spirit of our pupils and parents. Together, we have raised substantial funds and made a meaningful impact on numerous lives.

SdB

"This year has been a testament to our School's commitment to making a difference, showcasing the generosity and spirit of our pupils and parents."

Little Grange

Nursery Highlights



Little Grange has now been open since August 2022. During this time, we have seen the nursery go from strength to strength, with children always at the centre of what we do.

Our nursery is an amazing space where children can be themselves with a wide variety of resources and activities and with the full support of dedicated staff in each room. It is amazing to watch the children explore, investigate, problem solve and, most importantly, have fun.



The outdoor environment allows children to engage in large scale activities and use different types of resources which enable children to play in a different way. We are fortunate to have large outdoor gardens for each age group, along with outdoor classrooms, which means, come rain or shine, we can be out doing the things we love; for example, climbing, making dinner in the mud kitchens, or constructing, using large scale loose materials. And, when you have 90 acres on your doorstep, there is always plenty to do.

Little Grange is lucky to have its own Outdoor Learning space within the grounds. Our Outdoor Learning leader, Abby, will take most of our children to the 'Wild Gardens' at least once a week. This is a magical space that has evolved to allow our children time away from the hustle and bustle of the nursery and really enjoy the natural world around them.

With a diverse range of ages, from 6 months through to 5 years, we offer a wide range of activities, resources, and experiences. Some of our highlights this year include:



From our familiar routines that might include a walk around the grounds, visiting the chickens and the numerous muddy puddles, these exciting activities enhance the children's learning and development while creating memorable experiences that we hope will last long beyond their time at Little Grange.

AB

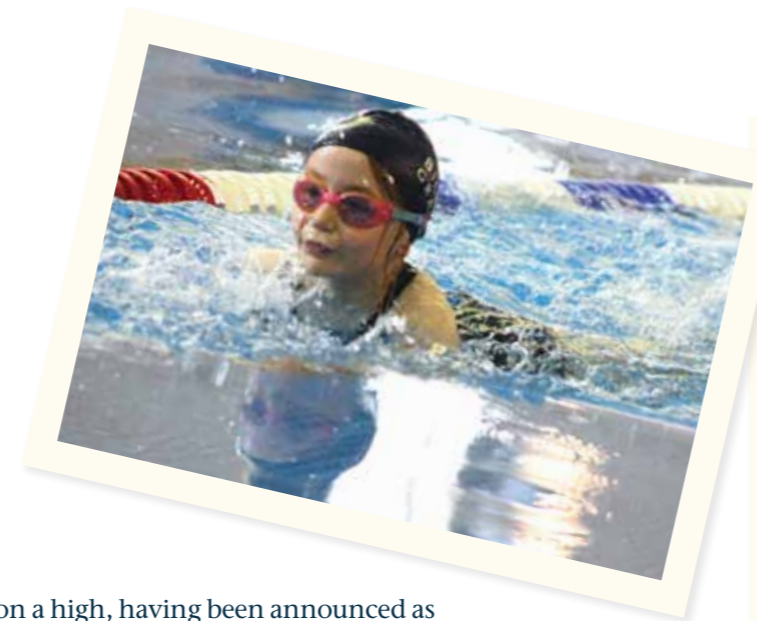


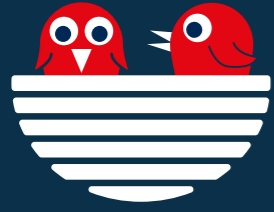
Welcome to the Pre-Prep

The Pre-Prep started the year on a high, having been announced as finalists in the Independent Schools of the Year Awards 2023, as Pre-Prep of the Year. We were just pipped at the post at the awards finals held in London, but the recognition of the strength and quality of the provision within Pre-Prep was wonderful to receive.

The Pre-Prep continues to go from strength to strength and having recently celebrated the history of the building in our Homefield Reunion, it struck me how many similarities remain from when the school was first conceived, all those years ago. The Pre-Prep is a happy, thriving and busy community, with an excellent local and regional reputation, full across most year groups, and with a vibrant and active curriculum that embodies the ethos that learning is an adventure. Our classrooms are places where learning is fun, pupils are actively engaged and teaching and learning opportunities are designed to meet the many and varied needs of our pupils, seeing them as individuals in their own right. We continue to make the most of our outdoor spaces with regular and full utilisation of the grounds, both for topic-based learning and for our Outdoor Learning sessions which include woodwork, den building and a great deal of campfire roasted marshmallows!

KG





The Nest

Highlights

From watching chicks hatch to growing their own flowers, these little learners have had a year to remember.

One standout moment was witnessing chicks hatch from their eggs. The children were fascinated as they saw the chicks emerge and grow day by day. They also collected frog eggs and watched them transform into frogs, honing their scientific skills. Outdoor learning was a highlight, with nature exploration, farm visits, and growing vegetables and flowers in their own allotment.

Academically, The Nest class excelled in early maths and phonics through a play-based curriculum. The children learned numbers, counting, and basic maths and reading concepts through fun, inquiry-based activities. Their creativity flourished during Art Week and weekly art sessions, where they explored painting, drawing, and sculpting in a range of activities. Music was another area of excellence, with two successful singing performances that boosted their confidence and joyful weekly rhythm time with Mrs. Gray, exploring instruments, rhythm, beats, and songs.

Sports day showcased their physical abilities and teamwork skills, with events like running races and tug-o-war, cheered on by parents and teachers. Socially and emotionally, the children thrived, settling well into the school culture, making new friends, and learning effective communication skills.

Cooking was a memorable part of the year. From baking cookies to making pizza, the children loved getting hands-on in the kitchen, exploring flavours and textures, and learning about nutrition and healthy eating. Visits from Chartwells, our catering team, and dentists deepened their understanding of self-care.

We are thrilled to announce that our Early Years Team won the Muddy Stiletto's Best Learning Through Play Award for 2024, a testament to our commitment to engaging, playful education.

The Nest class has accomplished so much this year, growing in Science, Art, Music, and sports, and, most importantly, making new friends and developing lifelong skills. These achievements set them up for future success and show just how much can be accomplished through a supportive and enriching learning environment. Here's to their bright futures!

HP





Reception

Highlights

The Reception year has been full of exciting learning experiences, in and out of the classroom, sometimes in one of their favourite learning environments, the 'Wild Gardens'. From cooking porridge in the woods, to riding on a pony around the oak tree in 'Beach week', the children's learning this year has gone far beyond the lovely Dove and Lark classrooms.



In the first half of the Advent term, the topic focus was 'Marvellous Me'. The children develop their personal, social and emotional skills as they talk with their new friends and teachers all about themselves and their families. We all enjoyed sharing the children's treasure boxes, which were filled with items and photographs that are important to them. A key focus for our topic is recognising ourselves as unique and celebrating our similarities and differences. We enjoyed sharing our families' traditions and celebrations which lead onto our next topic, 'Celebrations'. A highlight was our celebration of Diwali, the Hindu festival of light. We invited families in to celebrate with us, shared the legend of Rama and Sita, wore traditional clothing, and enjoyed Indian stick dancing. The children soon began the Christmas festivities, and their Nativity performance of 'The Twinkly Nativity' was a fantastic way to finish the first term.



The Lent term got off to a cool start as we entered our polar regions topic, combined with exploring bears and extending the Big Garden Birdwatch to a week of exploring birds from around the world, including looking after Mrs Hickman's pet budgie, Nutty! The children created their own bird feeders using sunflower seeds and apples, with Mrs Carlile, continuing their creative skills indoors as they prepared chocolate nests too. Chinese New Year celebrations were also held which led into a discovery of dragons, before finishing the term with a brilliant trip to Lego Discovery during our Lego week; critical thinking, creativity and collaboration were just a few skills developed by all.



Our Trinity term was exciting to say the least. 'Seeds and tales' started with observing a real-life cycle of a butterfly; the children loved keeping our own caterpillars and although they were disappointed when we said farewell to the butterflies, the children loved going to the Butterfly Farm to see many more. Superheroes and 'people who help us' led to interesting conversations about real life and fantasy superheroes. The children welcomed in a paramedic, police officers and CCF cadets who helped us to become camouflaged as we played a huge game of hide and seek in the Wild gardens! The finale of the year was the forever loved 'Seaside week'; excitement filled the Reception grounds as the children dove into the paddling pool, rode on their donkeys, prepared ice creams in the café and played in the sand. The week finished on a real high as we heard the ice cream van arrive! What an incredible, fun-filled year we have had!



AH MLN

Year 1

Highlights



This year has certainly flown by, and all the children are preparing to leave Year 1 for a new adventure. From minibeasts to Mercedes, it feels as though we have covered it all in just three terms. The introduction of a STEAM week in the Advent term was a highlight for many of the children and having a chance to fire a car rocket across the playground is surely something they won't forget any time soon.

When the Lent Term rolled around, Year 1 were in full swing and ready to delve into the history of toys. A visit from The History Man is always such a treat and we managed to cover toys from the Stone Ages right through to the present-day tech toys. With the warmer weather beginning to arrive, we were out and about, making the most of our brilliant surroundings. Visiting the boarding house building site to check on progress, fishing for newts in the Science Department pond and sitting quietly to observe and draw the natural world around us have been some of the highlights of Outdoor Learning.

Having packed so much into the year already, the Trinity term didn't disappoint. Preparing for Year 2 was at the top of the agenda but that didn't stop us having the chance to visit Brandon Marsh to hone our bug hunting skills and our potion making capabilities. We finished the year with a performance from Music Carousel and a phenomenal end of year festival.

The chance for the children to indulge in many exciting activities across the year came from the amazing effort and exciting curriculum developed by the specialist provision team. Mrs Carlile gave everyone the chance to enter the Young Art Awards as well as teaching them how to make smoothies and salad. Mrs Gray got those budding musicians strumming ukuleles, playing recorders and blowing the P-Buzz as well as nurturing and developing confidence in some of our youngest children. Madame Barnes helped to expand everyone's French vocabulary, Mr Allen and Mrs Murray did a brilliant job of preparing everyone for Sports Day, and Miss Smith and Mrs Burdett got some of the littlest fish reaching their 10m badge!

LHL KLW





Year 2

Highlights



After a busy start to the Advent Term, Year 2 enjoyed a wonderful Chocolate themed week in October. Not only were their creative skills put to excellent use with their invention of chocolate bars, but they were also tasked with researching the topic of Fairtrade, finishing their week with a fantastic visit to the Birmingham Hippodrome to watch Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Having finished Chocolate Week, the children became historians as they learnt about The Great Fire of London, creating their own Tudor houses, and then inspired by Samuel Pepys, wrote their own account of the moment the fire broke out in 1666. To finish off a very productive term, Years 1 and 2 put on an excellent performance, Last Christmas, with every child learning their lines and speaking with great confidence in front of a large audience!

In February, Year 2 enjoyed a fascinating trip to Holdenby House, developing their understanding of the past through exciting workshops and meeting significant characters in history: Florence Nightingale, Samuel Pepys and Queen Victoria. The Pre-Prep swimming gala in March enabled the children to show off their excellent progress in swimming, with both individual and team achievements.

In May, Year 2 were invited to 'The Big Sleepover', an exciting opportunity to experience boarding at BG. The children enjoyed toasting marshmallows around the campfire, before a delicious tea, followed by games and bedtime stories in the boarding house! In their Trinity term Science lessons, they investigated Plants and Animals, visiting West Lodge Farm Park for a glorious day of discovering the farm, including a tractor ride, feeding the lambs and baby goats, pig racing and fun in the adventure playgrounds! In their English lessons, Year 2 embraced learning about water pollution, working hard to produce factual posters, before writing a persuasive letter to the Prime Minister about the problem – they were so excited to receive a reply! To round off a very busy year, they participated in Sports Day with great enthusiasm and support from their Section teammates and, finally, the children ended the term with their amazing performance in the Pre-Prep Festival. A wonderful year - well done, Year 2!

KCA DC



Year 3

Highlights

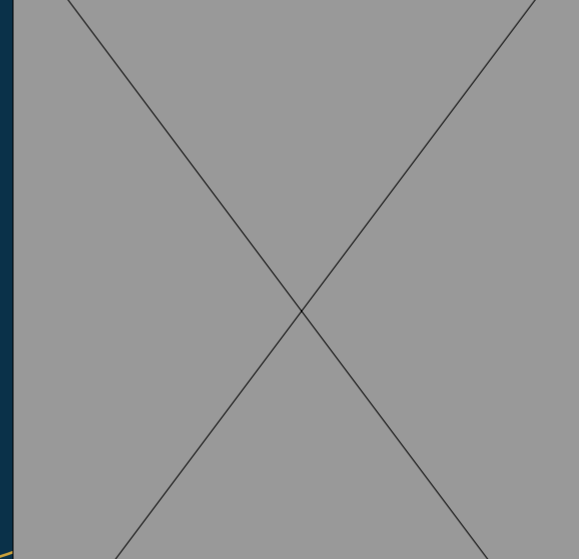
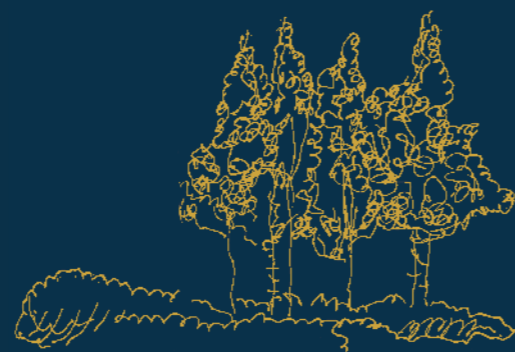
Year 3 have embraced a year brimming with adventure, challenge, and excitement. At the outset of the academic journey, all pupils were enrolled in our 'Hands on Brass' program. This initiative enabled them to bring a brass instrument home for practice, accompanied by weekly group lessons by a music teacher from Rugby School (Mr Hickman, Mr Foster, and Mr Davey). Witnessing the children enthusiastically take on the challenge of learning a new instrument has been truly fantastic.

Staff and parents were captivated by the remarkable performance of Year 3 during their Lent term Pantomime that was led by their dedicated teachers and Mrs Gray, the children showcased exceptional talents in acting, singing, and dancing. A highlight for Year 3 pupils has been the commencement of sports matches and the ensuing thrill of competition. Engaging in fixtures spanning rugby, hockey, netball, and cricket against neighbouring schools has been a source of joy and camaraderie. Notably, the delightful tradition of enjoying the delicious match tea afterwards has been a winner.

Throughout the year, Year 3 have been privileged to embark on a series of captivating trips and special visits. Beginning with a visit to the Lunt Roman Fort, where they were immersed in the daily life of Roman Britain, followed by an inspiring journey to the National Space Centre during the Lent term. Here, the pupils were in awe of the wonders of the universe in the Sir Patrick Moore Planetarium and crafted their own satellite protection in a bespoke workshop led by the museum staff. We ended the year with the exciting residential trip to Mount Cook Outdoor Activity Centre in Derbyshire. Amidst the challenges of high ropes, archery, and constructing land karts in small groups, the children demonstrated resilience, maturity, and esprit de corps!

As Year 3 draws to a close, the team extends their wishes to the pupils as they transition to Juniors. Their presence will be greatly missed, and we remain confident in their future endeavours.

JEM HJW CV





Juniors

Highlights

It is always an exciting Advent term for the Juniors as they start their Prep journey and this one was no different. They hit the ground running with inspiring lessons, plenty of sport and some still getting a bit lost in their new environment as they explored parts of our beautiful 90-acre classroom. We also enjoyed a memorable trip to Stratford-upon-Avon where we visited Tudor World for a cross-curricular afternoon out of school. The term culminated with our Christmas Cracker; it was fun-filled, well-rehearsed and a beautiful way to finish their first term in Juniors.

During the Lent term, the Juniors had a surprise trip to India! The day included a flight to New Delhi, confiscation of contraband sweets and all manner of learning opportunities. The Juniors continued to learn new skills and improve on both the netball court and hockey astro. It was lovely to see matches played in the right spirit with great determination on display.

The Juniors returned for the Trinity term and could not wait for Cricket, Athletics, Golf and plenty of sun! It took a while for the sun to shine through but when it did, BG smiled, and they could be heard skipping to and from lessons. We headed off to Matlock for our residential at Mount Cook. All achieved so much in so little time; it was a brilliant trip and will live long in our memories, if not forever in their young minds!

NAP JASP ALG ESD



Middle School

Highlights

As we draw near to the end of another academic year, it is time to reflect on the myriad of achievements and memorable events. The past year has been a whirlwind of activity, showcasing the talents, resilience, and teamwork of our pupils and staff alike. Indeed, I am always completely astonished by how much we have managed to squeeze in!

There have been moving musical soirées, outstanding theatrical productions, exciting sporting events, delectable food presentations, inspiring collaborations, wonderful FAB events and numerous trips both near and far, which have enriched the educational experience for all.

With the progression into the Middle School, the 3rd Form pupils experienced a heightened sense of autonomy. Under the guidance of their tutors - Mr Gedye, Mrs Gillan, and Miss Howes - they admirably rose to the occasion. Exceptional teamwork was displayed during the splendid 3rd Form production, and it was truly gratifying to see their performance flourish. Their trip to West Runton in Norfolk also provided another highlight of the year and they made lasting memories whilst exploring rock pools and savouring ice creams on the beach.

The 4th Form cohort also enjoyed a bustling and successful year. Guided by their tutors - Mr de Bruin, Mr Taylor, Mr Green, and Miss Mack - they embraced all challenges with enthusiasm. For many, the beginning of the year marked significant moments, particularly as they navigated through 11+ interviews and applications, which they did with praiseworthy resolve. Their own production also showcased a wealth of talent within the group, and it was great to see their obvious growth in confidence and maturity on the stage. They concluded the year with their residential trip to Snowdonia in Wales, where they conquered fears and tested their limits through activities such as bouldering, rock climbing, and gorge-walking. As staff, we were particularly impressed to witness their support of one another through the challenges. It marked the end of a brilliant year, and they can all look forward to moving into the Upper School with confidence, as they are more than ready.

HLB





Upper School

Highlights

The Upper School have had another fantastic year filled with successes and achievements. Both the 5th and 6th Forms have worked incredibly hard over the three terms and have done themselves proud.

There have been several moments that stick out for the right reasons with the first being Project Week where the 5th form stepped up to take the lead for a week of planning, designing and presenting. This is a fantastic opportunity for the 5th form to act as role models for the younger children and establish themselves in the School; it was brilliant to see the collaboration between year groups throughout the week.

The next was the Upper School performance of Oliver! which was outstanding. Again, the Upper School came together to put on a theatre-worthy performance which was enjoyed by all. It is a real feat to put on such a brilliant show so they should all be exceptionally proud of themselves; this extends to Miss Thompson for her relentless hard work in making these performances happen.

Finally, the Upper School have had several 'reward events' put on to highlight some of the fantastic work and effort that has been put in each term. The purpose of these events is to showcase the positives of the year groups and make everyone feel seen and proud of what they have achieved (and to enjoy the delicious cakes and hot chocolate!).

SRBB





6th Form

Leavers' Programme

The 6th Form engaged in a range of different activities for their final month at Bilton Grange, from a film-making course to experiencing a prison... The aim of the Programme is to give them different interesting and exciting opportunities in which they might not otherwise engage.

The next highlight was a Humanities trip to Shrewsbury Prison where the children experienced what life in prison is like and how it has changed through time; the day also included an escape from a prison cell and an immersive workshop. Mrs Raymont-Osman planned a fantastic day and hopefully none of them will be visiting again anytime soon!

The Programme kicked off with a celebratory trip to the Wave in Coventry which was thoroughly enjoyed by all and allowed the leavers to fully relax and enjoy themselves. The following week saw the 6th Form travel to the Isle of Wight for a week of water sports, shopping and exploring! We stayed at Tapnell Farm and were treated to incredible sunshine, which made the aqua park and football golf even more appealing. It was brilliant to see the children spending time with each other and making memories together. The Farm was an incredible place to stay, and they treated us fantastically throughout our time there; many of the children commented that it was the highlight of their time at BG, which was lovely to hear.

A key part of the Programme revolves around engaging with things that might be new to the 6th Form, and the Community Day allowed them to spend a day in the community helping others. The year group was split into small groups and sent into different spheres of the local community, from helping in primary schools to land maintenance. The feedback was absolutely amazing from the schools and leaders who supervised the children and it proved to be a really valuable experience for them, focusing their attentions on helping others.

After a restful exeat, the 6th Form took part in several trips and school-based activities, starting with an escape room devised by Mr. Taylor. The leavers had all day to solve challenging riddles and clues, leading them to their final hurdle... Mr. Jones. Well done to the Seven Wonders team for being the first to complete the escape room; even if you were still working on it late into the evening!

The final week involved an epic sports day led by Mrs. Murray, alongside lifeguard training, headed up by Miss Smith. The penultimate day of term saw the entirety of the 6th Form and some brave staff head to Drayton Manor theme park for an exhilarating day of rides.

The Upper School team has thoroughly enjoyed the final weeks of term and hope the children have made lasting memories which will be looked back upon fondly.

SRBB

“The Upper School team has thoroughly enjoyed the final weeks of term and hope the children have made lasting memories which will be looked back upon fondly.”



PRE-PREP

Performing Arts



This year, our Performing Arts programme soared to new heights, beginning with the enchanting Reception Nativity and the Years 1 and 2 Christmas show. Our youngest stars lit up the stage with their heartfelt performances, radiating confidence and spreading festive joy. Their infectious enthusiasm set the tone for a memorable year.

Mid-year, the school was abuzz with our Section Singing Competition. Each Section showcased their vocal talents, filling the halls with rapacious raps and old school bangers. The sheer dedication and musical growth of our children were evident, leaving audiences in awe and even singing along with the 90s hit Reach for the Stars!

Year 3 delighted their parents with their performance of Cinderella Rockerfella; costumes, staging, singing and dancing coupled with some confident performances made this a standout show.

The grand finale was our spectacular End of Year Festival. From the synchronized dancing of the BG swim squad to our own bespoke version of Blur's Park Life, and a tearjerking rendition of Bob Marley's Three Little Birds by Reception, every performance was a testament to the hard work and passion of the Pre-Prep pupils. The festival concluded with a vibrant, school-wide celebration that brought the community together in a joyous display of creativity and talent.

Here's to another year of inspiring performances and unforgettable moments!

KLG



Drama & LAMDA overview

This year has been a triumph for Drama, in both the Prep and Pre-Prep. At the Prep, children have expanded their repertoire, mastering skills such as physical theatre, puppetry, devising, and mime. Every year group enjoyed enriching theatre trips, with performances ranging from "Shrek" to "Blood Brothers." The LAMDA programme saw remarkable success, with 135 exams taken: an impressive 105 distinctions and 30 merits. We hosted three Speech and Drama showcases over the year and a special showcase for the Drama Highflyers, highlighting their exceptional acting and improvisational skills, which left their audience in awe. These achievements reflect the dedication and creativity of both children and teachers, fostering a vibrant and dynamic Drama community at Bilton Grange.

KCT



DRA

MA



This year, our Upper School's production of Lionel Bart's 'Oliver!' was a resounding success, showcasing the remarkable talents and dedication of all involved. Given the talent amongst our 5th and 6th Form cast members, it was an easy decision to pick 'Oliver!'.

The set, meticulously designed and created by Mr Green, was a visual masterpiece. It effectively transported the audience to the grimy streets of Victorian London, from detailed cobblestone alleys to Fagin's lair.



The cast of 42 delivered stellar performances across the board. The dedication of the cast was evident, as they began rehearsals back in September, meeting twice a week with lead cast members rehearsing most lunchtimes, ensuring a polished and cohesive performance. Each performance concluded with a well-deserved standing ovation, a testament to the hard work and talent of everyone involved.



Jeevan shone in the titular role of Oliver, capturing the character's innocence and resilience. Barney's portrayal of the Artful Dodger was equally compelling, his charm and agility bringing vibrant energy to the stage. Alfie's Fagin blended menace and humour perfectly. Hattie's Nancy was powerful and emotive, especially in 'As Long as He Needs Me'. Rupert's Bill Sikes brought a formidable presence to the production.



The live band, under the expert direction of musical director Mr Penrose, provided professional and flawless musical accompaniment. The choreography was dynamic and well-executed, particularly in large ensemble numbers like 'Consider Yourself' and 'Oom-Pah-Pah'. Our production of 'Oliver!' was an unforgettable experience, leaving a lasting impression on all who attended.

The Middle School productions of 'Bah Humbug' and 'Victorian Villainy' were exceptional showcases of young talent, creativity, and dedication. 'Bah Humbug', performed by the



4th Form in December, brought the timeless tale of 'A Christmas Carol' to life with remarkable energy and spirit. The 58-member cast sang their hearts out, filling the theatre with festive cheer and memorable melodies. Each song was executed with passion, and the dance routines were a delight, reflecting the hard work and enthusiasm of the children. The intricate set design by DAG added depth to the performance, creating a captivating backdrop that transported the audience to Victorian London. The live music from MSP, Mrs Gray and Mr Tooley elevated the production, adding a rich, immersive quality to the performance.



In June, the 3rd Form's rendition of 'A Victorian Villainy' was equally impressive. With 37 cast members, the production was a whirlwind of excitement and historical intrigue. The numerous dance numbers were choreographed with precision, and each performance was filled with enthusiasm and flair. DAG's set design once again stood out, providing an authentic and visually stunning representation of the Victorian stately home.



The live music, performed by the talented duo of MSP and KLG, enhanced the atmosphere, making the show an auditory and visual treat.

These productions demonstrated the incredible talent and hard work of the children and staff. The performances were not only entertaining but also a testament to the vibrant school community and its commitment to fostering creativity and performing arts.

KCT

Music

Music has gone from strength to strength over the past five years. The extension to the facilities, relatively new when the last Bilton Record was published, has proven exceptionally useful, not least for a now two-year-old Chorister Programme (see separate report). Most notably, in July 2023, Bilton Grange won the Muddy Stiletto's Best Schools Award for Originality in Teaching Music and the Arts.

Our usual schedule of services and performances has continued apace, with the addition of a 'Baby Blue Note'. This has become a runaway success, attracting a wide range of pupils to perform in the Ravenscroft with a staff band. The quality of music-making remains high, notably in the Musician of the Year competition, and the variety of repertoire attracts pupils of all abilities and interests (e.g. Section Music).

The Pre-Prep has benefitted from the 'Hands On...' instrumental programme, putting a string instrument in the hands of every Year 2 pupil, then brass and woodwind in Year 3. This has led to increased interest and success in these instruments. Almost 6,500 individual lessons were delivered this year, with close to 200 pupils learning one or more instruments. 'See it, SING IT!' in the classroom provides a focus on music literacy and opportunities to all to develop their musicianship. This has contributed to examination successes, with over 100 Music examinations taken, 75% at Merit or Distinction.



The partnership between Music and Drama is stronger than ever; March's production of 'Oliver!' was exceptional not just for the high level of acting and production values, but for its singing and the impressive, full band.

We are very proud of six pupils, who won nine Music Scholarships from three leading senior schools. Congratulations to Arthur Bryant, Alfie Turner, Poppy Wilkes, James Zhao (Rugby), Barney Valentino (Rugby & Uppingham) and Alexander Penrose (Rugby, Uppingham & Shrewsbury).

Our team of visiting teachers numbers 23. Dominique Rose and Sumi Abraham-Varghese, Performing Arts Administrators since 2021, add much to the convivial atmosphere in the Department and provide indispensable support. I thank them, as well as Richard Tanner and Rebecca Taylor at Rugby, for their ongoing support.

MSP



The Rugby Choristers at Bilton Grange



The Rugby Choristers at Bilton Grange have completed their second year which has seen their singing and repertoire move from strength to strength. Since singing their inaugural service of choral Evensong in Rugby School

Chapel in September 2022, the choristers regularly sing six choral services each week during term time. Four services take place each week in Rugby School Chapel with the addition of professional lay clerk and student choral scholar altos, tenors and basses. Two evensongs are in Bilton Grange Chapel with just treble voices.

There are currently 33 choristers: 18 boys and 15 girls. The Rugby Choristers at Bilton Grange regularly divides into four choirs: one of boys and one of girls, a combined boys' and girls' choir for senior choristers (Years 6, 7 and 8) and, very occasionally, all the choristers perform together. This enables the choristers to sing a very full schedule without being overly demanding on any of them in terms of time commitment.

A chorister parent writes:

"The chorister programme has been fantastic for our son. He has always enjoyed singing and had thought that he just enjoyed singing by himself. Since joining the Rugby Choristers at Bilton Grange all that has changed. He has found other like-minded people who enjoy singing to the high standards that he aspires to reach, and he has never been happier. It has been transformational for him."

Although the main opportunity for the choristers to perform is singing choral Evensong, Advent and Epiphany carol services have already become popular annual occasions. Their first concert appearance was at a celebration for King Charles's Coronation in 2023, subsequently followed in May 2024 when the choristers teamed up with Rugby School Choral Society, dancers from Rugby School and Kings International Ballet Academy for a spectacular performance of Carmina Burana to a sold-out audience.

In November 2023, the choristers travelled to Oxford for a collaboration with the girls' choir of Merton College in which they sang choral Evensong under the direction of Dr Barry Rose OBE. Dr Rose was also the first composer to write a piece for the choristers, *Palms of Glory, raiment bright*. This composition featured in the first audio and video recordings by the choristers in April 2024.

In July 2024, the choristers performed with Canzona, one of England's leading ensembles specialising in the performance of baroque music on period instruments under the direction of Theresa Caudle, for a concert of music by Henry Purcell at The Festival on The Close. Conducted by Richard Tanner, the programme included a performance of Purcell's famous Te Deum. The concert also featured other well-known anthems by Purcell including Rejoice in the Lord Alway, My Beloved Spake, O Sing Unto The Lord and Thy Word is a Lantern.

At the end of a busy year, we said farewell to five founding choristers who joined the choir two years ago. Barney and Poppy continued to sing treble until the end of the year, whilst Arthur, Alexander and Alfie have been singing tenor in the 'back row' since their voices changed. We thank them all for their commitment to the choir and for their singing and musicianship. As we are going to press, we have heard that Barney is through to the semi-finals of the BBC Young Chorister of the Year; this is a fantastic achievement for Barney and the chorister programme.

IMW



ART Review



Remembrance, Young Art, BG 150, school productions, Giving Day, 6th Form leavers – you name it, the Art Department has been involved!

The Upper School started the academic year with some large collaborative pieces to commemorate Remembrance. They spray-painted stripes in the background to represent medal ribbons and painted poppies with acrylics over these to complete some wonderfully striking pieces.

The School's celebration of 150 years was the basis of many of our projects this year. The Juniors used the Pugin

design work from the interior of the buildings as a starting point for their silk paintings, the 3rd Form generated watercolour paintings, viewing the School from the lawns, and the 5th and 6th Forms used pen to draw the north elevation.

Young Art was another very successful event. It was great to see so many of our children's works exhibited in the Royal College of Art in London. Furthermore, BG raised over one thousand pounds from entry fees and purchases which added to the amazing £80,000 total for Cancer Research UK.

Three different Victorian themed school productions meant children from all years were able to help prepare and paint the stage sets. Assistance from some of the older children in particular helped create very effective London style brickwork as part of the scenery.

We finished the year with a willow sculptor providing workshops for all years. The dazzle of dragonflies created by the children should be visible around the grounds for years to come.

DAG

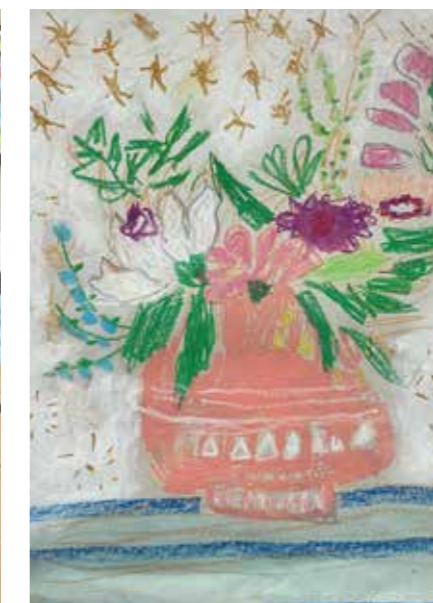




Pre-prep Art & DT

Creativity has been flowing this year in the Pre-Prep. The Nest have explored mark making and colour mixing. Reception have recorded images of themselves, bears, butterflies and sunflowers, using a range of different media. A highlight for the Year 1 pupils has been preparing their own smoothies and salad boxes. Year 2 have designed and sewn together colourful alien characters. Finally, Year 3 have explored work by the sculpture artist Barbara Hepworth. We have so many Creative Chameleons!

AC



Creative Writing

Rugby School Poetry Prize

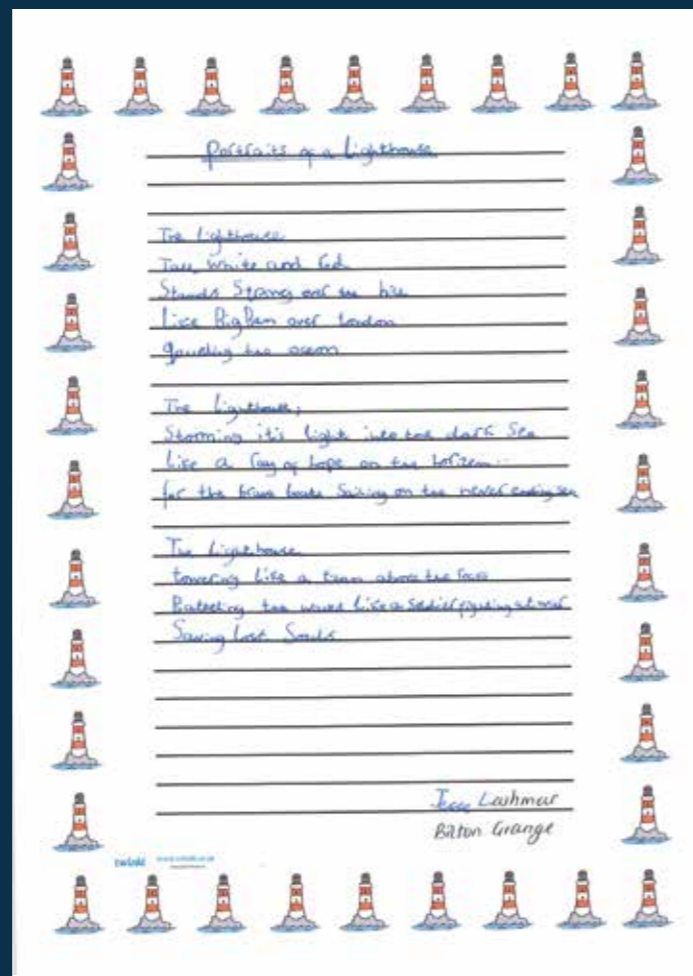
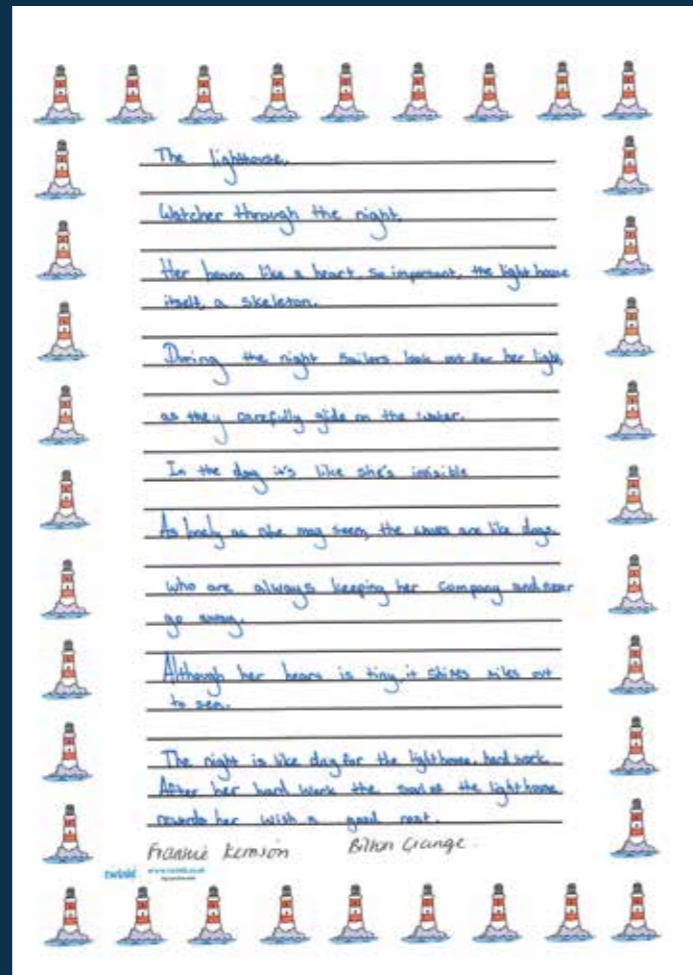
One of the highlights of the English curriculum this year were the poems produced by the 3rd Form for the Rugby School Poetry Prize, a competition for local and feeder schools. The theme for the poems was the word 'portrait', and pupils used their class novel 'Letters from the Lighthouse' by Emma Carroll for inspiration to produce descriptive pieces about a lighthouse.

All pupils entered the competition, and we were delighted to receive the following awards:

3rd Prize -
Aadhirai Prabhu

Highly Commended -
Jesse Lashmar, Matilda Davies
and Francesca Kerrison

CCL



PRIZE GIVING 2024

Our 150th anniversary seemed an appropriate year to return Prize Giving to a marquee on the South Lawns and it was standing room only for some, such as the clamour to attend. The sense of celebration pervaded the air and proceedings throughout were warm and light-hearted while also recognising of the significance of the moment for those departing.

In his speech, the Headmaster reflected upon the growing importance of statistics and data in the modern world and then proceeded to throw some quick-fire stats at the audience to represent the School through the year. Some were more serious than others and he then made the crucial point that while statistics can tell us a great deal, they do not always reveal the full truth. Specifically, they do not always tell us about character which is the hallmark of a Bilton Grange education. Character comes from experience and children need to go through all sorts of situations and emotions to develop that experience. Ultimately, in addressing the 6th Form and other leavers, he urged the children to continue being the characters they are, to develop their own personalities and to make their own decisions so that they definitely do not become just another statistic.

After the new Chair of Governors, Mr Nick Bacon, warmly thanked the pupils and staff for their efforts as well as the parents for their support, the Heads of School, as is tradition, gave their address on behalf of the pupils.

Head Boy, Jacobo Nunez Jado, went first and focused on his life as a boarder, sportsmanship, school trips and the bonds he has made. Left with a hatful of memories, his greatest takeaway will be the confidence he has developed from life as a boarder and for that, he said, he shall be forever grateful. Poppy Wilkes, Head Girl, followed and spoke about her academic development and involvement in the performing arts, areas in which she excelled because of the support she was given by her teachers. Her closing reflection was that, as well as being sad to leave, she is grateful for the platform BG has provided and she urged those remaining at the school to seize every opportunity that comes their way.

Finally, having presented the prizes, our guest for the day, Mr Rob Galbraith, OB (1997), said a few words. In a perfectly pitched address, Rob spoke with sincerity and humour about his experiences of joining the School as an Anglo-Japanese ten-year-old with an American accent, and how he had had to work out how to fit in and adjust to boarding life. His existence at BG became a very happy one and his fondness and passion for his BG days was clear for all to see and hear. He has many great friends with whom he remains in touch and the very fact that he travelled from Tokyo specifically to be here for Prize Giving said so much about how much the School means to him. It was an honour to have him back and, with his agreement to become an 'ambassador' for the Rugbeian Community in Japan, his links with the School will no doubt continue and strengthen.

Who knows, maybe we will be welcoming back someone from the class of 2024 in a few years' time to present the awards in a future Prize Giving! I wonder who it will be?

GEBJ

PRIZE GIVING 2024



Form Effort Prizes

JJP	Charan Kurapati
JDG	Marlow Cuschieri
JNP	Cara Sadler
3KG	Alistair Chatterton
3SG	Lily McLaughlin
3PH	William Onibonaje
4DG	Kian Mali
4RT	Hugo Perks
4RM	Daniel Darling
4SdB	Theo Luscombe
5SB	Rupert Fawdry-Jeffries
5PT	Carter Strydom
5CB	Amelia Wakeford
5HB	Sophie Siggers & Serenity Ingram
6JDF	Max Farrar
6TWHL	Rozzy Coates
6JEA	Billy Taylor
6CMAL	Loreto Imaz Lopez-Elola
6POSD	Kenneth Fu & Olivia Hawkins
6FJG	Fred O'Hara
6MM	Gian Sahota and Jemima Smith
6AJT	Anya Sodhi & Emma Berlin

Form Attainment Prizes

JJP	Millie Reynolds
JDG	Oliver Hewson
JNP	Amelie Patel
3KG	Harry Evans
3SG	Manaar Farid
3PH	Kai Sun
4DG	Jing Han
4RT	Dongchen Yang
4RM	Michael Yin
4SdB	Nikhil Naidu
5SB	Rika Jotoku
5PT	Harriet Jones
5CB	Natalie Jiang
5HB	Miles Taylor
6JDF	Tilda Passemard
6TWHL	Tommy Zhu
6JEA	Muhan He
6CMAL	Toby Pitcher
6POSD	Avery Chan
6FJG	Doheon Lee
6MM	Laila Aratoon
6AJT	Kelvin Li

Prizes based on marks awarded for the Bilton Cup

Brian Headley Awards:

Outstanding Junior Girl
Outstanding Junior Boy
Outstanding 3rd Form Girl
Outstanding 3rd Form Boy

Jada Darling & Emily English
George Siggers
Risa Kurata
William Newton

de Morpurgo Prizes:

Outstanding 4th Form Girl
Outstanding 4th Form Boy
Outstanding 5th Form Girl
Outstanding 5th Form Boy

Charlotte Judd
Isaac Foulds
Weronika Brzoza
Henry Xu

Academic Prizes

Veit English
Day Mathematics
Harrison Science
JG Fawcus Classics
Fawcus/Hewitt Modern Languages
Eaton History
The Geography Prize
Millinger Religious Education
Best Overall Performance in Common Entrance

Poppy Wilkes
Gordon Wang
Gordon Wang
Jay Krishnamoorthy
Jacobo Nunez Jado
Daniel Fan
Theo Graves
Zoey Xu
Alfie Turner

Common Entrance Prizes to Senior Schools

CE Biology Prize to Harrow School
CE Chemistry Prize to Rugby School
CE Top Boy Candidate to Rugby School

Avery Chan
Toby Pitcher
Alfie Turner

The United Kingdom Maths Trust Junior Challenge Gold Awards

Receiving a Gold award in the main competition:

Rika Jotoku	Hugo Perks	Daniel Fan	Muhan He
Fred O'Hara	Zoey Xu	James Zhao	Tommy Zhu

Receiving a Gold award in the main competition and a Qualification for the second stage Kangaroo competition:

Andy Wang	Clara Sparke	Natalie Jiang	Michael Yin
Daniel Darling	Elijah O'Connor	William Boda	Olivia Hawkins
Poppy Wilkes	Clemen Gao	Avery Chan	Billy Taylor

Receiving a Gold award in the main competition and a Merit in the second stage Kangaroo competition:

Henry Xu	Moon Yuen	Gordon Wang	Alfie Turner
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Receiving a Gold award in the main competition and a Qualification for the second stage Olympiad competition:

Nikhil Naidu

English

Owl Trophy Winners

Poppy Wilkes, Jemima Morrison & Olivia Hawkins

Subject Prizes

Improvement Awards
Seed of Discovery Prize - Most Improved Scientist
The Nicola Waller Prize for Improvement
The Radley Cup for Sustained Effort in Learning Development
The Linda Clarke Development Trophy
The EAL Prize for Improvement

Gabriela Dominguez Ventura
Ethan Sutton
Jeremy George
Florence Hensby
Tommy Zhu

Sports Prizes

The John Lees Cup - Top Sportsman
The Harris Cup - Top Sportswoman
The Murphy Cup for Sportsmanship (Boy)
The Vartan Cup for Sportsmanship (Girl)
Significant Sporting contributions to School life

Harry Gedye
Hattie Toms
Sebastian Skene
Suzie Coates
Verity Bush, Lucy Green, Jacob Jones & Hugo Nicholson

Art, Design and Technology Awards

The Farnham Art Prize
The Drawing Prize
The Burgham Trophy for Design Technology
Design Technology Department Prize
The Computing Prize
Significant contribution to creative arts

Zoey Xu
Clemen Gao
Billy Taylor
Ayano Hannigan
Elijah O'Connor
Elden Wong and Tara Burton-Rafferty

Music Awards

Howells Music Prize
Ritchie Singing Prize
Wilkinson Choir Prize (Senior)
Massey Instrumental Prize
Adams Cup for Most Improved Middle Chorister

Poppy Wilkes
Barney Valentino
Alexander Penrose
James Zhao
Esme Bryant

Acting Awards

Wilkinson Senior Acting Prize
Significant drama contributions to school life
Middle School Acting Prize

Alfie Turner
Jeevan Sehmi
Annabelle Joyce

General Awards

The Lancaster Citizenship Award
The Garland Iron Sharpeneth Iron Cup
The Gerstenberg Award for the Top Overseas Pupil

Heiton Zeng
Hamish McGregor
Chloe Lee

Bilton Grange Challenge

Bronze Medal:

Veronika Levitskaya	Archie Bursey Faulkner	Rupert Lawler-Broad	Matthew Brett
Zac Durrell	Dexter Barrett	Arthur Bryant	William Boda
Jemima Morrison	Harry Gedye	Suzie Coates	Jeevan Sehmi
Alexavier Chan	Rozzy Coates	Billy Taylor	Gian Sahota
Tilda Passemard	Laila Aratoon	Fred O'Hara	Gordon Wang
Chloe Lee			

Silver Medal:

Zoey Xu	Barney Valentino	Alexander Penrose	Emma Berlin
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Gold Medal:

Anya Sodhi	Daniel Fan	Poppy Wilkes	Jacobo Nunez Jado
Alfie Turner	Ayano Hannigan	Jacob Jones	

Headmaster's Awards

The Headmaster's Prize - Head Girl
The Headmaster's Prize - Head Boy

Poppy Wilkes
Jacobo Nunez Jado

Bilton Cup Awards

Advent
Lent
Trinity

Bilton Cup Individual Winners:

Jacobo Nunez Jado
Ayano Hannigan
Poppy Wilkes

Bilton Cup Section Winners:

Alton
Oxburgh
Oxburgh



The Year 8 Leavers' Ball was an unforgettable evening with a glitzy disco theme. Students arrived in style, with vehicles ranging from a personalised micro car to a full-sized tank, and even a massive lorry decked out with streamers and music, setting the tone for a night of celebration. Entertainment included a photobooth capturing memories, a thrilling surfing machine, a candy shop stand, and a lively DJ keeping everyone on the dance floor. A BBQ meal was enjoyed by all, fuelling the fun. The evening was highlighted by heartfelt speeches from the Deputy Head girl and boy, who expressed gratitude to the staff, fellow students, and especially the hardworking parents who organised the fantastic event.

SRBB

LEAVERS 2024



BOARDING

Life

It has been another action-packed year in the BG Boarding community. It is always a pleasure to welcome new families at the start of the academic year and support the newest members of our world-wide family as they find their feet.

Boarding at BG continues to thrive, and it has been another bumper year of Sunday Trips, Candlelit Dinners, Halloween Spooktacular, Christmas Family Ball, Christmas Weekend, Lunar New Year Celebrations, Tovey Toast and the Boarders' Banquet to name just some of the events that go on across the three terms.

BSA Photography Competition

This year, we took part in this competition and are thrilled to announce that Gabriella was the Prep School winner and Enzo was a Commended runner-up!

Boarding Council and Boarding Ambassadors

Across the year, we met twice a term to discuss all things boarding, with a real cross-section of the boarding community. Thank you to all those boarders who shared

their ideas to make a difference. A BIG thank you to Veronika and Alex who were both excellent Boarding Ambassadors for the year.

6th Form Boarders Final night on the lawns

This is always a special time as our departing 6th Form share their final few hours on the lawns, eating fish and chips and reminiscing about their time at BG. We wish them all well on their ongoing boarding pathways next year and beyond.

Fond farewells

Kelly John joined Bilton Grange seven years ago when she was appointed as a night matron, and soon proved to be an excellent addition to the matron team, embracing the role with pride. After a year in the role, an opportunity to move onto site and become joint Head Matron and House Mother presented itself which



Kelly and her family jumped at. Kelly always gave her all to each role and went above and beyond to support many boarders over the years. We wish the John family all the best for the future, as they relocate to Cornwall, and thank Kelly for all her contributions to the BG boarding community over the years.

Finally, to all those departing boarders who are leaving us this term: good luck on your onward boarding pathway and do come back down the drive and say 'hello' soon!

MGT

We also wish Mr Pugsley, Mr Tamplin, Miss Teasdale, Miss Scullion, Mr Plumber, Miss MacGregor and Miss Middleton all the very best of luck on their onward working and learning adventures. Thank you all for your support in the boarding houses over this last year.

A BIG BG thank you goes to all those who help and support the boarding community, morning, noon and night. There are too many names to mention but it continues to be a real team effort.





School Council

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the pupils who sat on the School Council and represented their peers this academic year. It was a pleasure to chair our meetings, and I was hugely impressed by the suggestions that were put forward and how confidently all pupils contributed. Pupil voice is such an important aspect of building a strong school community; ensuring ideas come from the pupils' perspectives will help to ensure BG continues to thrive.

Suggestions varied from a 'therapy' pet to greenhouses set up on the boating pond. A particular highlight for me was the idea from one pupil that if you break a school rule, you should contribute 50p to the School's chosen charity – interesting! We look forward to listening to the pupils' suggestions next year, particularly regarding the use of our new boarding house.

CJL



ECO MATTERS

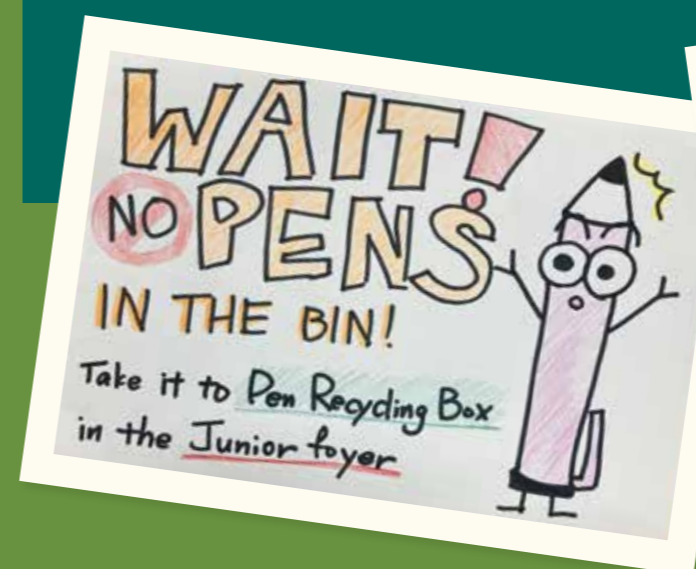
This year has been a busy and productive one for the Bilton Grange Eco Council. Meeting regularly throughout the year, including a special session with one of our School governors, we discussed ongoing efforts and future plans to make our School more environmentally friendly. Our recycling initiatives expanded significantly, with the collection of additional items such as batteries and pens; over 900 batteries were collected throughout the academic year!

This year, we also introduced an Eco Club during Options time, which played a crucial role in these initiatives. From assisting with the recycling and TerraCycle schemes to crafting seed bombs, the club members were hands-on in supporting our School's green efforts. Meanwhile, the School grounds team continued their incredible work in enhancing the biodiversity of our site. With guidance from the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, we planted new wildflower areas near the Bath Spinney. We can't wait to see these areas in full bloom next year!

The environment and sustainability have also formed an important part of cross-curricular learning this year. In Pre-Prep, one of the highlights of the Trinity term was celebrating World Bee Day. Pupils learned about the vital role bees play in our ecosystem and visited the School's apiary to see these pollinators in action. In the Juniors, pupils researched British wildlife and wrote wonderful poems about them. Year 8 pupils had the opportunity to engage with the Sustainability Manager from Stepnell, who led an insightful workshop and informed them how the boarding house construction project is prioritising environmental sustainability.

These collective efforts have not gone unnoticed: we are proud to announce that our School has once again achieved Eco Schools' Green Flag Status, highlighting our ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship!

ESD



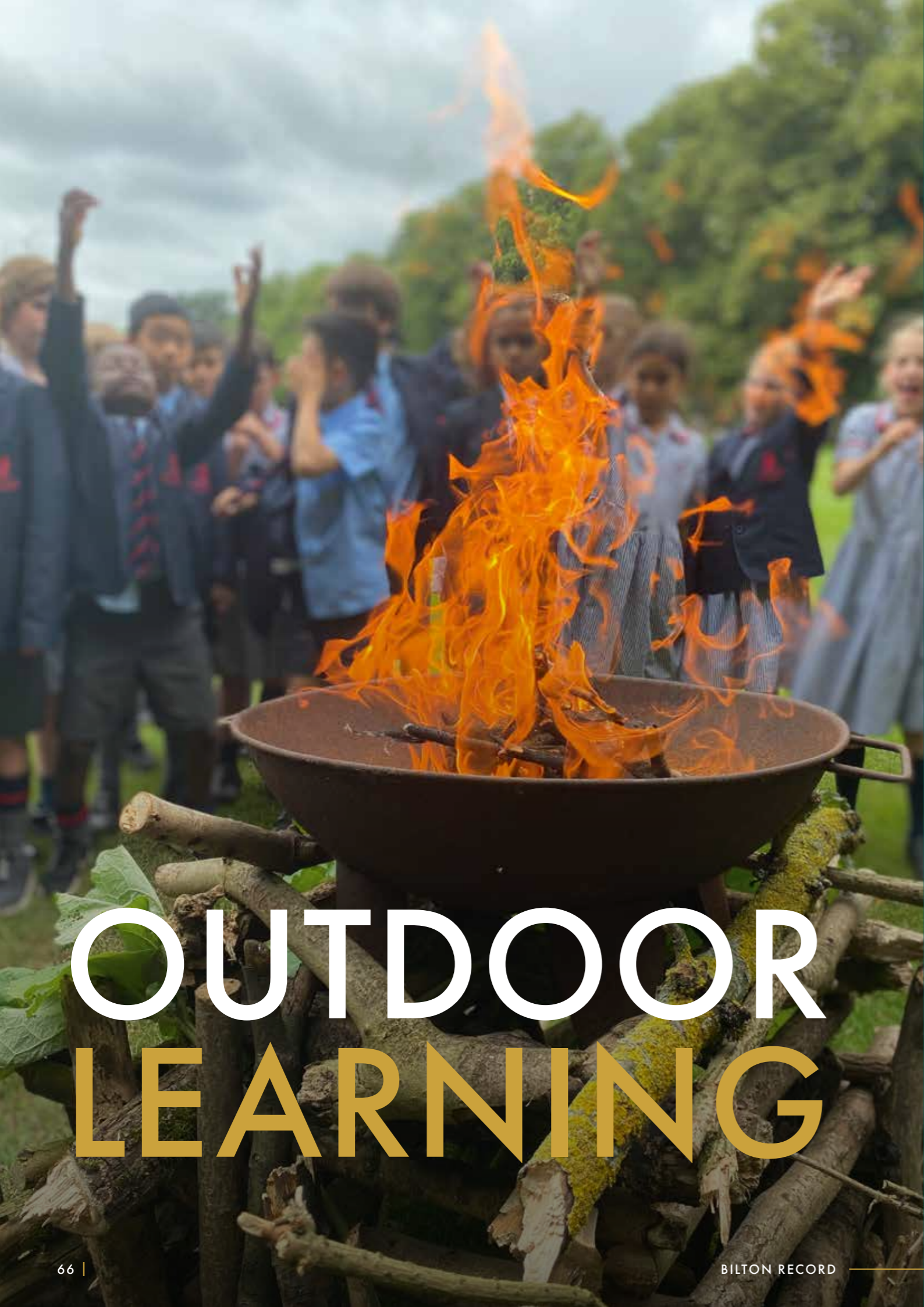
WORLD BOOK DAY ALBUM

7 MARCH 2024



CHARACTERS
YOU WISH YOU
COULD BE





OUTDOOR LEARNING



As the school year draws to a close, we reflect on the enriching experiences BG children have had in the great outdoors. Our outdoor classroom “Wigloo”, built on the edge of the Bath Spinney, provides a space to learn that is outside the constraints of traditional classrooms, a place where children have an unbounded opportunity to thrive and where fresh air, open spaces, and green spaces positively impact both their physical health and mental wellbeing.

The BG Adventures Option sees 30 boys and girls, from all year groups, learning skills which include fire lighting techniques, wild cooking, den building, animal and plant identification, dam building in the stream and conservation projects. Middle School pupils have enjoyed whittling, forest art, gardening, clearing brambles to help the spring flowers bloom and, of course, toasting marshmallows.

Campouts are becoming a regular feature in the calendar. The 5th Form enjoyed a Science-based night under canvass and the 3rd Form thoroughly enjoyed getting to know new classmates in September.

As we bid farewell to this school year, we eagerly anticipate more outdoor adventures. Let’s continue nurturing curious minds, fostering resilience, and celebrating the wonders of nature.

SDG



“Let’s continue nurturing curious minds, fostering resilience, and celebrating the wonders of nature.”



Chapel Life

We are blessed at Bilton Grange to have our Chapel at the heart of our school and once again we enjoyed many community events and celebrations.

One of the highlights this year was back in September when we held a Community Chapel Service to celebrate 150 years of Bilton Grange.

It was a wonderful occasion and great to see so many members of the local community attend. They thoroughly enjoyed listening to our Choristers and we look forward to welcoming them again at future services.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all those who contributed to Chapel Life, and a special thank you

to Helen Bryant for all that she has done to ensure the success of many of our services.

I hope that pupils, parents, relatives and friends enjoyed their visits, and we look forward to welcoming you all again next year.

CJL

Team Project Week

Team Project Week gives us an exciting opportunity to mix the pupils across the age range, from Juniors to 5th Form, giving them free rein to develop a project based on a given theme. This year, each group was given a different homophone for them to interpret as they wished. For example, one group had the word which could be interpreted as ewe or even yew! They chose to focus on 'being you' but created a kindness tree in the shape of a Yew tree. Other submissions included bore/boar, seize/seas and pear/pair, amongst others.

The point of Team Project Week is to encourage and nurture the skills of collaboration and creativity, enquiry and research, performance and delivery. Staff are there to mentor but deliberately aim for a light touch because we want the children to go through the journey of working together. In some cases, it was more successful than others, but a key aspect was for the groups to reflect upon what did and didn't work and how it could have been made even better.

JDF



Pastoral & Wellbeing

The wellbeing of the children is at the heart of everything we do; this year, we have continued to encourage wellbeing at BG through a variety of initiatives.

We have been delighted to welcome Erika Corcoran, our school counsellor to Bilton Grange. She has been able to provide support to individual pupils throughout the year. We also ran a drop in Listening Lounge manned by staff volunteers so that any child was able to share any concerns. We have also trained five 5th Form pupils in peer mentoring to provide support to children in the School.

Each Friday, all children have taken part in our Insight sessions. The

children have led these sessions themselves and have shared and debated their ideas on a variety of topics from bravery to perseverance.

In the Upper School, children have continued to have access to MindSafe in order to empower them to take control of their mental wellbeing. We have launched our 'MindSafe Mondays' which have been a big hit.

All our girls have taken part in Girls on Board sessions this year, reflecting on and explaining the complexities of their friendship dynamics. The roleplays, as always, proved a popular section with good acting skills being put to good effect.

This year, we also celebrated National Children's Mental Health Week. Everyone got involved and the array of green ribbons worn by everyone really was an uplifting sight.

Finally, we have maintained a focus on maintaining good mental health and wellbeing through interacting appropriately with the digital world. Our 6th Form attended a seminar given by internet safety expert Alan Mackenzie. This is an area of continual development as we aim to keep pace with a fast-changing world and its effects on our children and their wellbeing.

MJE CBB

FAB

SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY



Over the past year, FAB (Friends at Bilton) has played a central role in the school community, organizing a wide range of events that have brought everyone together. From quizzes, fairs, and celebrations to balls, discos, movie afternoons, and color runs, the school has enjoyed countless moments, all accompanied by plenty of Pimms, tea, and homemade cakes.

Thanks to the FAB committee, significant funds have been raised, directly benefiting the children and the wider community. FAB has supported local and national charities, funded essential school equipment, and even established the BG beehives. One of the year's highlights was the creation of a stunning outdoor learning shelter on the outskirts of the Bath Spinney. This project, led by Simon Gedye (Head of Outdoor Learning) and the expert arboriculturists at Cutting Edge, is a beautiful addition that all pupils can enjoy. It serves as a versatile space for Pre-Prep outdoor learning and provides a wonderful base for Mr. Gedye's BG Wild activities and Big Saturday sessions.

Looking ahead to the new school year, the FAB calendar is already brimming with events such as Diwali celebrations, the Christmas Fair, and the Christmas Ball. The committee looks forward to celebrating together and continuing to raise funds for more equipment, activities, and charitable donations.

Special thanks go to Richard, Sangeet, and Charlie for their incredible work over the past three years, and a warm welcome to Fliss and Marleen as they take the lead.

NKG



Friends at Bilton



BG150 Summer Ball

What an unforgettable evening we had at the BG150 Summer Ball - a celebration truly worthy of Bilton Grange's 150th anniversary. The black tie event perfectly captured the spirit of the occasion, held on a beautifully sunny evening on the South Lawns. Biltonians, current parents, staff, and friends gathered for an evening of chilled drinks, lively conversation, and exquisite food. The excitement of the 'Ring in a Box' competition added a thrilling twist, whilst raising money for the Earle Fund. As the night progressed, the renowned MadHen band took to the stage, and the energy soared as guests danced late into the night, celebrating in true Bilton Grange style.





SPORTS

Overview 2023 – 2024

- The new swim squad on Wednesday and Friday morning before the school day, led by KS, started at the beginning of the academic year, and has seen successes in local galas.
- NAP began as Head of Rugby at the start of the year. He has organised successful U13 & U10 Rugby tournaments at Bilton Grange, hosting 10 teams.
- Bilton Grange hosted the U11 IAPS netball tournament, led by MM.
- Year 3 continued to enjoy hockey coaching all year round, led by Richard Major of RHM Coaching on a Saturday morning.
- The renovated sports hall has made a big difference to the delivery of PE lessons and the general brighter environment for each lesson.
- The renovated Carr pavilion has brightened up Trinity term match teas.

- The Prep Sports Day continued in the form used last Trinity term, being more inclusive for all children of all abilities.
- The girls' cricket teams are now playing competitive hard ball cricket matches and have been fully kitted out accordingly.
- Dean Hayden and the grounds staff have done a superb job in preparing the sports fields and golf course, all year round, including 11 grass wickets.
- The new four-bank cricket nets have been fully utilised since the start of the Trinity term.
- Golf fixtures have been played on the excellent condition course, led by JASP.
- The sports highfliers programme run by JEA has continued to receive Strength & Conditioning masterclasses from Nathan Atlay, Head of Athletic Development at Rugby School.



National Competitions

- 4 swimmers - Lyra and Sennen Tovey, Doheon Lee and Zara Musukuma - qualified for the National Swimming Finals at the London Aquatics Centre in June.
- The U13 boys qualified for the IAPS National Hockey Finals, finishing 9th overall.
- 5 athletes qualified for the National Prep Schools Finals in July at The Alexander Stadium.



Representational level

- U13 County Hockey: Harry Gedye, Jacob Jones and Joss Sadler.
- U13 County Netball: Tara Burton-Rafferty, Verity Bush and Lucy Green.
- U13 County Cricket: Hattie Toms.



Sports Scholarships

- Sports Scholarship to Princethorpe & Sports Exhibition to Stowe - Dexter Barrett
- Sports Scholarships to Rugby – Verity Bush, Harry Gedye, Lucy Green, Jacob Jones, Hugo Nicholson, Sebastian Skene
- Sports Scholarships to Bloxham - Leo Coulthard Griffiths & Hamish McGregor
- Sports Scholarship to Sibford - Hamish McGregor
- Sports Scholarships to Solihull & Princethorpe - Kian Mali
- Sports Scholarship to Claremont - Ethan Sutton

GIRLS' Sport Review

Girls' sport has continued to grow in strength this year. The addition of more coaches has enabled smaller coaching groups and greater opportunity for individual instruction, especially with the newer pupils.

Hockey

This year, our increased numbers allowed us to field five teams in the seniors, two U11 teams and two at U10. There were quite a few girls who were new to hockey, and this meant that there was a vast range of ability, skills and experience across the board. Nevertheless, the new girls picked up the skills quickly and, as the season progressed, the gap narrowed.

With the younger girls, we played a number of 'festival' style tournaments and triangulars, where everyone played for the fun of the game. With many of the little ones having not even picked up a hockey stick before this season, this seemed a wonderful way to introduce the experience of match days to them.

Throughout the season, we had a mixture of fixtures and results and, when we didn't have matches, we were often able to use Rugby Schools' facilities as well as our own so that all the girls could train outside. Having some excellent gap assistants, with a love of hockey, to assist JJ and her team of coaches enabled consistent quality of coaching. Watching the different teams' progression was a pleasure to behold.

Netball

The girls had a fun term of netball where we saw a great many games played across the age groups. The U8s and U9s played a mixed bag of festival and tournament-style fixtures of 5-a-side and full, 7-a-side matches. For much of the season, these girls played friendly games where they enjoyed the experience of competitive games, without any winners or losers. The Middle School girls found themselves up against a lot of strong competition this year, especially the U11s. They never let their heads drop and managed to finish the season off with a couple of good, confidence boosting wins.

Some of the senior teams had a challenging time of it too as, to accommodate our opponents, the 2nd,

Tigers, Panthers and Jaguars often played teams ranked above them. The first team, who were a little below their best at the IAPS qualifying tournament, were runners-up in Warwickshire and, over the season, played 11 calendared games and were unbeaten; a feat last achieved in 2011!

Cricket

This year, we made more transition to hard ball for the majority of the senior and U11 girls. The 1st, 2nd, Tigers and U11A teams, resplendent in full protective gear, stuck to a pairs format. A fair number of our new and younger girls only started playing cricket this year, and some still found the harder ball a little intimidating, so we continued to play with an incrediball for the remaining teams. The junior girls and boys played mixed cricket in ability and gender. This resulted in some slightly mismatched games on occasions, but it enabled those with more experience to encourage their team mates, which made for much fun in training and matches. Although the inclement weather meant we missed nearly half of our planned fixtures, progress was made across the age groups, with the introduction of the new cricket nets making a big contribution to the improvement in our bowling. Most importantly, the girls are really developing a passion for the sport which bodes well for the future.

To close, here are a few highlights from the sporting year:

- U9 boys and girls mixed in gender and ability for cricket matches this summer.
- 1st team hockey girls win Oakham tournament.
- Girls' 1st team netball players are County runners-up and had an unbeaten season, including all seven matches in Barbados.
- An initiative at county netball for younger players, U11/12, called 'Engage'. Lily McLaughlin selected a year young, at U10.
- Three senior teams and the U11A and U10A teams played hardball cricket for most matches.
- Verity Bush and Amelie Dugat qualify for the IAPS National finals in high jump and hurdles, respectively.
- Zara Musukuma and Lyra Tovey qualify for the IAPS National Swimming finals.

MM



BOYS' Sport Review

Rugby

The sports year began with BG fielding 12 boys' rugby teams: 80 competitive matches were played with an overall win ratio of 58.8%, with the U13A team displaying the highest win ratio at 85.7%. Captained by Hamish, highlights included winning the U13A tournament hosted at Bilton Grange against tough opposition. The team grew in strength through the season, winning 10 further matches and losing just one.

Each team from U13As to the U8 tag rugby team enjoyed a broad calendar of fixtures, the U11A winning 3 from 5 matches at the IAPS qualifying tournament. The U10A battled hard all season, producing two hard fought draws against Winchester House and Ratcliffe College and boasting a highly favourable win ratio through the two festivals attended.

Hockey

The inclusive nature of BG sports continued into the Lent Term, as we fielded 1st to 8th VIs in the Upper School, and Colts A to G VIs in the Middle School, as well as four U9 teams and four U8 teams competing in various fixtures. Every child at BG picked up their hockey stick to play.

Captain Jake led the 1st VI through 25 fixtures, producing an unbeaten season, outside of the IAPS tournament. Ranked 9th in the UK overall, having reached the National Finals, is an exceptional record!

The Colts A played 15 fixtures, winning 9 and drawing 3. The future looks bright for these boys. Other highlights of the season included hosting the U11 In2 Hockey County tournament and progressing to the Midlands Finals.

The U9 and U8 teams really got to use their hockey skills in their seven fixtures, five of which were multi-match festivals. BG hockey has made great strides forward in recent years, and this year was no exception.

Cricket

The boys and mixed gender cricket teams played 116 competitive fixtures. The BG ground staff are to be commended for the great work performed on the 11 grass wickets at BG, especially early in the season with the poor weather persisting.

Small-sided, mixed ability pairs fixtures were enjoyed by the U9 and U8 children. The 1st XI produced wins against Beachborough, Spratton Hall and Repton Prep.

Top win ratio was AMT's Colts C team, winning 5 of their 6 matches.

Highlights of the season were Junchen taking 5 wickets at Bromsgrove to steel the match, Harriet taking 5 wickets at Yarlet Hall, Sebastian scoring 57 not out v Winchester House and Harry scoring an undefeated 63 v Spratton Hall.

Athletics

Five athletes qualified at the East area Prep Schools competition at Bedford for the National Prep Schools' Finals in July at Alexander Stadium:

Kenneth Fu 2nd (high jump - 1.45m), David Allen 1st (200m - 27.8s), Dexter Barrett 1st (Shot Put - 9.89m), Amelie Dugat 2nd (Hurdles - 12.4s), Verity Bush 2nd (High Jump - 4.35m).

Cross Country

Highlights included the U13 boys' team winning the Spratton Hall relays against 15 other schools. Leo ran hard and led the whole race, Billy ran a solid leg and was just pushed back to 3rd place, Miles illustrated a high leg cadence and resilience to take the lead once more and give David the lead for the final leg. David ran out hard and managed to extend the lead to provide 1st place overall, winning the shield and a medal each.

JEA



BARBADOS 2024



Although this was our sixth tour to Barbados, it was a 'first' for many reasons, too. It was the first for any of us to endure a hurricane; what a hairy start to the trip that was! We were locked down for our first night until lunch on the second day, when 'Beryl' had calmed down a little. Luckily, our hotel was not badly affected, but some of the surrounding buildings were left completely ruined.

It was a first for our boys to win any cricket matches; in fact, the A squad won two out of three! Along with our first team girls winning all seven of their games, and the 2nd team only losing one out of six, the tour proved to be a very successful one on the fields of play!

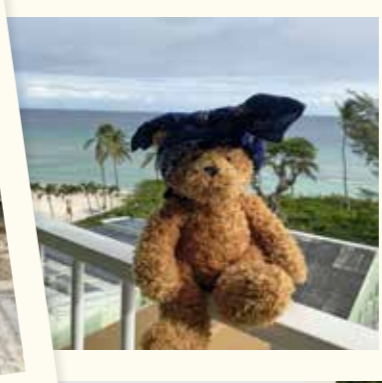
It was a first for us to join a jeep safari which was so much fun that we will definitely be adding this to the itinerary in future tours. I don't think I have ever seen so many children and adults laughing so much whilst being thrown around the beautiful Barbados countryside.

Lastly, it was the first time that the BG staff sang a song in karaoke; this is an activity that will definitely not be repeated on any other tours, for everyone's sake!

We still did our usual, wonderful excursion on the catamaran, where we swam with turtles, tarpons and rays. The children competed against each other to see who could do the best somersault off the boat. This is truly an amazing experience that always proves to be a favourite.

On our final evening, we went to Harbour Lights, where we were treated to an authentic Caribbean night of stilt walkers, fire eaters and traditional dancing. This year, we were extra lucky as we had the whole venue between ourselves and St Hugh's, Oxfordshire, who were also on tour. It was an awesome way to finish the tour.

MM



Trophy Winners



Advent 2023

Enterprise and Initiative *The Swindells Cup*

Jonathan Morshead

Guides and Brownies

Guides - Anya Sodhi

Brownies - Frankie Kerrison

Shack & Chalet Dorm Awards

Shack (Boys) - Santa Cruz

Chalet (Girls) - St Anton

Girls' Hockey Middle School

Most Improved player
The Oliver Cup for the Coaches' player
Section Champions

Lucy Winther
Darcey Mitchell
Cheadle

Girls' Hockey Upper School

The Williams Trophy for Most Improved

Tilda Passemard

The Bailey Cup for the Coaches' Player
The Matthews Plate for Section Champions

Suzie Coates
Alton

Rugby Middle School

Most Improved player
The Hudman Trophy for the Coaches' Player
Section Champions

Eito Yamasaki
Jarlath Sayer
Westminster

Rugby Upper School

Most Improved player
The Vartan Trophy for the Coaches' Player
The Ross Cup for the Section Champions

Kenneth Fu
Hamish McGregor & Leo Coulthard Griffiths
Alton

Lent 2024

Guides and Brownies

Guides - Daisy Evans

Brownies - Daphne Kovacs

Shack & Chalet Dorm Awards

Shack (Boys) - Bondi

Chalet (Girls) - Val D'Isere

Section Cross Country Champions

Upper School
Middle School
Juniors
Overall

Oxburgh
Westminster
Westminster
Westminster

Girls' Netball Middle School

Most Improved player
The Glass Cup for the Coaches' player
Section Champions

Lucy Winther
Darcey Mitchell
Alton

Girls' Netball Upper School

The Williams Trophy for Most Improved
The Bailey Cup for the Coaches' Player
The Hyde-Thompson Section Cup

Jemima Smith
Verity Bush & Lucy Green
Alton

Boys' Hockey Middle School

Most Improved player
The Vartan Cup for the Coaches' Player
Section Champions

Eito Yamasaki
William Green
Cheadle

Boys' Hockey Upper School

Most Improved player
The Moore Hockey Trophy for the Coaches' Player
The Wells Section Cup

Kenneth Fu
Harry Gedye & Jacob Jones
Alton

Trinity 2024

Golf

The Milne Cup for Senior Girls
The Jackson Trophy
The Pell Cup for Junior Golfers
The Sinclair Section Cup

Natalie Jiang
Dexter Barrett & Theo Graves
Sebastian Bell
Cheadle

Swimming

The Kaye Championship Cup for Upper School Boys
The Macfarlane Cup for Upper School Girls
The Chance Cup for Middle School Boys
The Chance Cup for Middle School Girls
Wateridge Championship for Junior Boys
Gordon Cup for Junior Girls
The Heath Upper School Section Cup
Section Cup for Juniors & Middle School

Doheon Lee
Lyra Tovey
Sennen Tovey
Francine Reinecke
George Siggers
Millie Reynolds
Alton
Cheadle

Athletics

Junior Girl Athlete of the season
Junior Boy Athlete of the Season
Middle School Girl Athlete of the season
Middle School Boy Athlete of the season
The Eaton Athletics Cup for Upper School Girls
The Goldson Cup for Upper School Boys
The Hewitt Section Cup

Emily English
Eli Foulds
Annabelle Joyce
Casper Luard
Verity Bush
Billy Taylor & Kenneth Fu
Oxburgh

Cricket

The Carter Cup for Best All-rounder
The Pugh Trophy for Highest Score
The John Fawcus Cricket Prize for Most Improved
The Pragnell Cup for Fielding
The Workman Trophy for Best Young Cricketer
The Most Improved Middle School Cricketer

Harry Gedye
Harry Gedye (63 not out against Spratton Hall)
Harriet Toms
Sebastian Skene
Casper Luard
Eito Yamasaki

The Haynes Section Cup

Upper School Boys Group 1
Upper School Boys Group 2
Middle School Boys

Westminster
Oxburgh
Alton & Oxburgh tied

Girls' Cricket

The Bailey Cup for Most Valuable Upper School Girl
The Offord Cup for Most Valuable Middle School Girl
The Williams Trophy for Most Improved Upper School Girl
Most Improved Middle School Girl
Upper School Section
Middle School Section

Rozzy Coates
Darcey Mitchell
Harriet Jones
Lauren Hall
Alton
Westminster

Music

Section Song Trophy
Section Music Competition
Section Ensembles Competition

Alton
Alton
Cheadle

Guides and Brownies

Guides – Emma Berlin

Brownies - Risa Kurata

Shack & Chalet Dorm Awards

Shack (Boys) - Waikiki

Chalet (Girls) - Val D'Isere

The Tellwright Mountaineering Trophy

Alexander Penrose

The Monson Gardening Cup

Martha Graham, Alistair Chatterton & Risa Kurata

BG OPTIONS & ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME



At the start of the last academic year, a new activities programme was introduced for Middle and Upper school pupils. The idea behind this programme was to introduce all pupils to a range of different activities throughout the year, encouraging them to try new things and develop new skills. Pupils take part in two activity sessions per week - these activities are rotated each half term - and all Prep children have the opportunity to take part in the evening Options programme.

Through our Options and Activity programme, we aim to foster a love of learning in our pupils and to provide them with opportunities to explore their interests and talents in a supportive and nurturing environment. These activities

enhance the overall educational experience of our pupils and promote personal growth and development. As well as a whole range of sports, pupils have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of co-curricular activities, including textiles, musical theatre, cookery, orienteering, STEM challenges, gardening, sign language, touch-typing, coding, debating, mosaics, dance and 'BG in the Wild'. These activities have been specifically selected to provide a diverse range of experiences that can develop pupils' creativity, critical thinking, team-building and problem-solving skills.

Here's an example of what the Middle School get up to:

CMAL

MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

	Advent 1 Tuesday	Advent 1 Friday	Advent 2 Tuesday	Advent 2 Friday	Lent 1 Tuesday	Lent 1 Friday	Lent 2 Tuesday	Lent 2 Friday	Summer 1 Tuesday	Summer 1 Friday	Summer 2 Tuesday	Summer 2 Friday
3G	Green Fingers	Bilton Quest	DT Designers	STEM challenge	Bilton Bytes	Touch Typing	BG in the Wild	Stitch and Sew	3rd Form Play Full Cast	3rd Form Athletics	3rd Form Play Full Cast	3rd Form Athletics
3H	BG in the Wild	Green Fingers	STEM challenge	DT Designers	Touch Typing	Bilton Bytes	Stitch and Sew	Bilton Quest				
3SG	STEM challenge	Touch Typing	BG in the Wild	Bilton Bytes	Bilton Quest	Stitch and Sew	Green Fingers	DT Designers	4th Form Athletics	4th Form Athletics	4th Form Athletics	4th Form Athletics
4DG	Bilton Quest	4th Form Play Full Cast	Film Making	4th Form Play Full Cast	Stitch and Sew	DT Designers	Touch Typing	STEM challenge				
4RM	DT Designers		Bilton Bytes		BG in the Wild	Film Making	STEM challenge	Touch Typing	Musical Theatre			
4RT	Film Making	4th Form Play Full Cast	Stitch and Sew	4th Form Play Full Cast	DT Designers	STEM challenge	Bilton Quest	Musical Theatre				
4SdB	Stitch and Sew		Bilton Quest		STEM challenge	Musical Theatre	DT Designers	Green Fingers	Film Making			
	4ths Play Rehearsal	MS Catch-Up	4ths Play Rehearsal	MS Catch-Up	Auditions/Set Design	MS Catch-Up	3rds Play Rehearsal	3rds Play Rehearsal				
								MS Catch-Up				



The Earle Fund



Founded in early 2022, The Earle Fund provides fully funded boarding places for 11-year-old children entering Bilton Grange in the 5th Form (Year 7). It supports talented and deserving young people with the most to gain from Bilton Grange, and whose families could not otherwise consider a boarding school education.

Our aim is for Earle Fund students to thrive at Bilton Grange and continue through to enjoy the full Rugby School experience from Year 9 (age 13).

The Earle Fund launched as an extension of Rugby School's highly successful Arnold Foundation. With the first-class pastoral care and education at Bilton Grange, it provides an inspiring foundation for students' futures. The Fund is named in honour of Rev. Walter Earle, the first Headmaster of Bilton Grange, whose academic ambition and pastoral care have shaped the School for over 150 years.

Since it began, The Earle Fund has supported five children through their boarding education at Bilton Grange, and three have gone on to Rugby School through the Arnold Foundation. We are so proud of their progress and look forward to continuing to see them thrive and succeed in the future.

The Earle Fund is only made possible thanks to the charitable support of Bilton Grange's alumni, parents, staff and friends. With the success of our 2024 Giving Day and our 150th anniversary celebrations, BG150, we have enjoyed an exceptional year of fundraising, and had a lot of fun along the way, as we hope you can see from these photos!

We are so grateful to everyone who continues to support The Earle Fund – your gifts are transforming lives. Thank you!

LF



“We are so grateful to everyone who continues to support The Earle Fund – your gifts are transforming lives.”

Bilton Grange Staff 2023 – 2024

Head Gareth Jones BA (Hons), PGCE Primary Education, MEd Educational Leadership
Deputy Head Colin Langley BSc (Hons), PGCE

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Assistant Head Pre-Prep Katie Gedye BA (Hons), Primary Science with QTS
Assistant Head Academic Greg Das Gupta BSc, BCom, PGCE Mathematics
Assistant Head Pastoral Mireille Everton BA (Hons), PGCE, MA, Head of Classics
Assistant Head Teaching and Learning Nicola Sodhi BA (Hons), MA, Head of LDD
Assistant Head Boarding Mark Tovey BEd (Hons), MEd, Head of Design Technology

TEACHING AND ASSISTANT STAFF

Jonathan Allen BSc (Hons), PGCE **Director of Sport & Head of PE**
Kitty Arthur PGCE, BA (Hons) **Class Teacher (Pre-Prep)**
Danielle Barnes PGCE, BA (Hons) **Head of EAL**
Felix Barras MA (Hons) **Early Careers Teacher**
Chris Bartley PGCE, MA **Head of Wellbeing, Head of Co-curricular Activities, English**
Hannah Blackford BSc (Hons) **Head of Middle School, Teacher of English**
Natasha Boe **Teaching Assistant (Pre-Prep)**
Rachel Bowen **Teaching Assistant (Pre-Prep)**
Kirsty Bright **Teaching Assistant (Pre-Prep)**
Sarah Brown BA (Hons) **Head of Upper School, Teacher of English**
Jayne Brumpton BA (Hons), MA **PGCE Head of History**
Sian Burdett **Swimming Teacher, Art & Science Support**
Nicola Cahill BA (Hons) **LDD Teacher, Teaching Assistant**
Alex Carlile BA (Hons) **Class Teacher (Pre-Prep)**
Sophie Chohan **Teaching Assistant (Pre-Prep)**
Dawn Connor BA (Hons) **Class Teacher (Pre-Prep)**
Patrick Davis BSc (Hons) **Head of Science and Assistant Houseparent (Boarding)**
Stefan de Bruin BA (HDE) **Head of Service & Social Outreach, Head of Theology, Philosophy & Religion**
Angela Douglas NNEB **Teaching Assistant (Pre-Prep)**
Jennifer England **Teaching Assistant (Pre-Prep)**
John Franklyn BA (Hons) **iPGCE DT & Art**
Emma Fry **Teaching Assistant (Pre-Prep)**
Simon Gedye BA (Hons) **Teacher of Science & Head of Outdoor Learning**
Kate Gillan BA (Hons), PGCE **Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages**
Francesca Goodwin BA (Hons), PGCE **Teacher of Classics & English**
Heather Gosling BA (Hons) **Teaching Assistant (Pre-Prep)**
Kirsten Gray **Head of Pre-Prep Music**
Duncan Green BA (Hons), PGCE **Head of Art**
Amy Grindal BA (Hons), PGCE **Class Teacher**
Arabella Hickman BEd (Hons) **Class Teacher (Pre-Prep)**
Debbie Higginson TA NVQ L3 **LDD Teacher, Girls' Games**
Patsy Howes BSc (Hons) PGCE **Class Teacher, Brownie Leader**
Thomas Hudson-Law, BEd (Hons) **LDD Teacher**
Jemma Jones BA Ed (Hons) **Sports Coach**
Joli Knott BSc, MA **LDD Teacher**
Melissa Landsdale BCom BSc (Hons) PGCE **Humanities Teacher and Teaching Assistant**
Lucy Lane BA (Hons), MA, PGCE **Class Teacher (Pre-Prep)**
Christopher Lindop BA (Hons), MEd, PGCE **Head of English**
Camilla Luard BSc (Hons) **Teacher of Science, Head of Options & Activities**
Rebecca Mack MPhys (Hons), MEd, PGCE **Head of Computing & Digital Learning**
Benjamin Mason BSc (Hons), PGCE **Head of Mathematics**
Josie Murray BA (Hons) **Class Teacher (Pre-Prep)**
Michelle Murray FENTO **Head of Girls' Games, PE**
Maja Nicholson BA (Hons), PGCE **Class Teacher (Pre-Prep)**
Paul Nicholson BA (Hons), PGCE **Sports Coach & Editor of the Bilton Record**
Sarah Pattison NNEB **Teaching Assistant (Pre-Prep)**
Hannah Payne BA (Hons), PGCE, MEd **Kindergarten Teacher**
Mark Penrose BMus BMusSt (Hons) BEd, MEd **Director of Music**
Nic Potgieter BEd **iPGCE Class Teacher**
Justin Pugsley BSc (Hons) PGCE **Class Teacher**
Kelly Raymond-Osman BA (Hons) PGCE **Head of History**
David Searle BSc (Hons) MSc, MPhil, PGCE **Teacher of Science, BGS Hon Sec**
Rachael Siggers Dip. Teaching (ECE) **Teaching Assistant**
Kirsty Smith BSc (Hons) PGCE **Swimming Teacher**
Eleanor Staddon-Davis BSc (Hons), PGCE **Class Teacher & Assistant Houseparent (Boarding)**
Alan Tamplin BA (Hons) **Head of Modern Foreign Languages**
Mary Taylor MEng (Hons) **Teacher of Mathematics**
Robert Taylor BSc (Hons) **Teacher of Mathematics & Head of Data Management & Analysis**
Kimberley Thompson **Head of Drama**
Lyndsay Turner NVQ Level 3 **Early Years Practitioner**
Chantene Venter BEd (Hons) **iPGCE Class Teacher (Pre-Prep)**
Nicola Wainwright NNEB **Teaching Assistant (Pre-Prep)**
Kirsty Wallace BA (Hons) **Class Teacher (Pre-Prep)**
Harrison White BA (Hons) PGCE **Class Teacher (Pre-Prep)**

BILTON GRANGE SUPPORT STAFF

Sumi Abraham-Varghese **Administrator**
Heather Balchin **PA to Deputy and Assistant Heads Academic & Pastoral**
Paul Batchelor **Finance Manager**
Anna Biddlestone **Little Grange Nursery Manager**
Fiona Bowen **Bursary Accounts Assistant**
Karen Brown **Den Co-ordinator**
Julie Burdett **Bursary Secretary**
Julie Campbell MInstAM (AdvDip), Assoc CIPD **Head's PA**
Katie Carr **Administrator & Receptionist**
Carol Cartwright **Deputy Cleaning Services Manager**
Erika Corcoran BA (Hons) PGCE MEd PGDip **School Counsellor**
Jayne Daly **Librarian**
Elisabeth Graham **Head of Day Admissions**
Cathy Gunn RGN, RSCN **School Nurse**
Dean Haydon **Grounds Team Leader**
Michelle Kneale **Den Assistant**
Jill Lewis **Science, Art & DT Coordinator**
Kate Lichfield **School Nurse**
Michelle Longden **Bursary Accounts Assistant**
Shirley McLean MA (Hons) PGDip **Pre-Prep Librarian & Speech & Drama**
Caroline Morgan **Head of Boarding Admissions**
Tanya Morshead **Administrator & Receptionist**
Darren Price **Maintenance Supervisor**
Dominique Rose **Administrator**
Pauline Timms **Pre-Prep Secretary & Receptionist**
Pieter Van Der Walt **IT Manager**
Elizabeth Wicks BA (Hons) **Chorister Liaison**

MUSIC STAFF AND SPEECH & DRAMA

Elizabeth Bowdige PDMT Dip PGCE **Speech & Drama**
Ian Foster BMus (Hons), PGDip (GSMD) **Brass**
Alison Grundy BMus (Hons) **Flute, Recorder**
Kathryn Heathcote BSc (Hons), DipABRSM **Piano**
Philippa Hyde ARAM **Singing**
Aimee Matthews BA (Hons) PGDip **Speech & Drama**
Michael Matthews BA (Hons) **Guitar**
Susan McLatchie Wade **Oboe**
Vanessa Murby **Violin**
Timothy Palmer BMus (Hons), AdvPGDip, HonRBC **Percussion**
Sanchia Sewell BA (Hons) **Piano**
Thomas Stockwell BA (Hons) **Singing**
Peter Wilson BMus (Hons) **Cello**

ASSISTANT STAFF

Isabella Ferguson
Eleanor MacGregor
Nicholas Newton
Kristian Rossouw
Eva Scullion
Hannah Teasdale

RUGBEIAN COMMUNITY TEAM

Abbie Barns **Global Data Manager**
Liselle Dixon **Liaison Officer**
Laura Fairbanks **Director of Development**
Tash Grove **Campaign Marketing Manager**
Evan Lack **Research Manager**
Stephanie McCann **Finance Officer**
Katy Steventon **Director of the Rugbeian Community**

GARDENS

Mick Turner

GROUNDS TEAM

Anthony Long
Karl Richardson

MAINTENANCE TEAM

Luke Mason
Dave Treslove
Joe Watt

PORTER

Darrell Tidder

HOUSEKEEPING TEAM

Clare Allsop (Cleaning Supervisor)
Lisa Andrew
Kumudu Arachchige
Sue Cowley
Joanne Crick
Jackie Dominy
Anna Gebala
Debbie Gibbard
Matthew Goodyear
Shirley Kimber
Mandy Minors
Louise Nicholls
Liz O'Brien
Mariama Sidibeh
Linda Walters

MATRON TEAM

Kelly John and Amanda Wilkin **Residential Head Matrons**
Rachel Bowen
Zoë Briggs
Anda Dodwell
Nicky Fisher
Sara Latham
Sarah McDonald
Matilda Middleton
Denise Slater
Lucy Tennant
Joanne Widdowson

MINI BUS DRIVERS

Jamil Nawaz
John Pitts



PAUL & HELEN NICHOLSON

At the end of the academic year in 2023, we said goodbye to Paul and Helen Nicholson. The incredible fact that, between them, they served both Bilton Grange and Homefield (the girls' school that existed in the building that is now the Pre-Prep) for a combined total of 81 years tells you almost all you need to know about their passion and commitment. But, of course, it doesn't really. This BG Record would be ten pages longer if I laid out every contribution they have each made to the Schools; every role they have each held; every child or colleague they have each inspired; or every moment of help they have each offered to someone in the community. Instead, I shall sum it up by simply saying that their child-centred and caring approach, not to mention their good humour, eye for detail and consistently high standards, ensured that they remain as much a part of the fabric of the School as anyone who has ever worked at Bilton Grange.

There was no shortage of well-wishing comments from current pupils, parents and staff, as well as from former parents, colleagues and alumni who all expressed their gratitude for the support they had received. On their final day, the Nicholsons departed with bucketloads of 'good luck', wonderful memories from several send-offs and the tune of Do You Remember by Earth, Wind and Fire (PJM's favourite apparently) ringing in their ears following a dubious flash-mob rendition at Prize Giving. This staff and pupil version, with sentimental lyrics especially written for the occasion, brought tears to the eyes of the Nicholsons but no-one is really sure whether that was out of admiration or pain!

They will be much missed at BG but forever in the spirit of the School.

GEBJ



JO PHILLIPS

Jo joined Bilton Grange in 2010, enjoying almost 13 years of service, where she was one of very few people who had the skills and experience to apply her talents right across the School.

Jo began her time at BG in the Pre-Prep, teaching in Reception and Year 2, before moving across to the Prep school in 2015 to take on a Junior class and also to teach Humanities and English in the 3rd Form. She was known there for her fastidious planning, her caring nature, her teaching skills, her willingness to learn and her good humour.

Jo moved back to the Pre-Prep in 2020, and alongside Arabella Hickman, helped to shape the curriculum, ethos and approach in Reception into the play-based, adventurous and child-led provision that we still see today. It was when Jo was fully immersed in that play that she was at her happiest!

Jo launched the Pre-Prep School Council in 2022, finding ways to ensure that the voices of even our youngest pupils were heard. Together, they improved the menus through food tasting sessions with the kitchen team, designed the playground Trim Trail, improved our environmental credentials through recycling initiatives and supported countless fundraising endeavours.

Jo has not gone far and leaves us to spend more time with family and to renovate their beautiful home.





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