

The Bradfieldian

October 2024





BRADFIELD
COLLEGE

The Bradfieldian

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FROM THE HEADMASTER

As always, this edition of the Bradfieldian celebrates the many achievements of Bradfieldians, both current pupils and alumni. It is especially pleasing that this year's talented exam cohorts collectively returned the highest grades in Bradfield's history outside of the pandemic years. You can read about this as well as the testimonies of our Heads of School who, whilst leading by example in academic achievement, ably demonstrated that there is so much more to Bradfield than grades.

Elsewhere, you can enjoy stories of success and achievement from cricket, our cover story, to equestrianism and recapture the enjoyment of the summer performances in the Greek Theatre and displays of creativity in the Art, Design and Photography exhibitions. You can also learn about the experiences of pupils as they engage in local community projects that span different generations.

Immediately before this edition went to print, we were delighted that Louis de Bernières (D 68- 72) did us the honour of formally opening St Andrew's Study Centre. It is therefore fitting that these pages contain the thoughtful poems of the winners of the De Bernières-Smart poetry prize.

The Warden's interview with some astute sixth formers reveals his appreciation of the strength of Bradfield's community. Several other articles demonstrate this strength, perhaps none more so than the one about the Bradfield Waifs, who championed the inclusion of young talent in repeating their 2022 victory in the Cricketer Cup final whilst their predecessors won the inaugural over 50s competition.

The same thread can be followed through the support offered by the Horizons programme and the Beyond Bradfield opportunities, where alumni interviews tell varied stories about breaking the glass ceiling as a female in the commodities sector, volunteering for OSCAR and starting-out in a 'career of the future' working for Campus-XR.

We also honour our history in this edition, with an insight into the writing of 'Prosperity Past our Deserving' and Bradfield's philanthropic heritage, as well as a tribute to the lives of some stalwarts of the Bradfield community without whom Bradfield would be a lesser institution. The College's 175th anniversary allows us both to celebrate this history and to look forward to its next chapter.

Finally, as we approach ten years of The Bradfieldian in its current format, please let us know what your Bradfieldian of the next ten years should look like.

Dr Christopher Stevens,
Headmaster

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Articles featuring this icon contain enhanced content only in The Bradfieldian Online. To view the online versions scan this QR code or visit www.bradfieldcollege.org.uk/whats-on/the-bradfieldian/



A man with glasses, wearing a blue shirt, a striped tie, and a purple and red academic gown, stands outdoors on a paved path. He is gesturing with his hands as if speaking. The background features greenery and a stone wall.

LIVING OUR VALUES IN A DIGITAL AGE

An abridged version of the
Headmaster's Speech given at
Commemoration

Over the coming months we will be scoping the College's next five-year Strategy. As we do so, we will be re-evaluating the skills we need to teach, knowing the coming years will be a period of unpredictable technological and professional evolution.

In my opening addresses of the year, I spoke about the College values and specifically positivity. Noting that we live in an age when anxiety and gloom readily take hold, I cited the example of Elton John belting out *I'm Still Standing* at Glastonbury a year ago tomorrow as the embodiment of positivity and resilience. Those attributes and the College values of integrity, respect, inclusivity, and kindness have been evident throughout the ensuing terms. This fact reflects great credit both on the pupils and on the College community as a whole.

Children tend by nature to be optimists but negotiating work, play and relationships can be a complex challenge. Teaching, coaching and mentoring teenagers bring their own challenges. Our pupils are fortunate to be supported by staff who are unstinting in their efforts to promote the pupils' best interests. In turn, we know that we are privileged to work with some wonderful young people and to enjoy the support of a parent body who have understandably high expectations of the College and of their children but who recognise that progress will not always be smooth or predictable.

Negotiating the digital world is an increasingly complicated aspect of the adolescent journey. Rapid advances in AI promise exciting opportunities and pose uncertain threats to us all. Pupils are fast mastering new skills in this area. Alongside them our teachers are demonstrating their own considerable learning powers.

Confronted by the potential of AI to augment and transform the educational space, we are adopting a progressive approach whilst simultaneously emphasising the importance of critical thinking, ethics and values. These will become more important as the pace of change quickens and we see technology do things that were unthinkable a very short time ago.

Over the coming months we will be scoping the College's next five-year Strategy. As we do so, we will be re-evaluating the skills we need to teach, knowing the coming years will be a period of unpredictable technological and professional evolution. For now, the underlying principles of an Education for Life which helps pupils develop individual attributes in a community underpinned by strong values seem well adapted to a time when mindsets may prove the key differentiator between humans and machines.

Living with technology can be a challenge socially and pastorally, as well as academically and professionally. There has been much recent publicity around the impact of smartphones and social media upon mental health. Young people often struggle to live happily in a world where they are considered natives. The College has introduced progressively tighter policies in this area and has remained ahead of national guidelines. Moving forward, we will continue to seek the right balance between enabling our pupils to enjoy the joys of technology and encouraging them to engage in the analogue activity which is so good for their physical and mental wellbeing. We must try to do likewise ourselves.

Whether it be smartphones or generative AI, teaching young people to use tools responsibly is part of our role as educators. Again, balance is key here, not because extensive technology use is necessarily bad in itself, but because of the things we are not doing when we rely on it. There is an opportunity cost in terms of social and emotional development when technology replaces face to face interaction. And there is an opportunity cost to cognitive development if we rely on generative AI to do the work for us. There's also a surprising environmental cost when you consider the carbon footprint of a Google search or ChatGPT query.

It is for all these reasons that we are proud to celebrate the multiple achievements of our pupils in their work, their play and their service. Over the last year we have seen pupils gain scholarships, places or offers in outstanding institutions worldwide. Alongside successful applications for medicine and veterinary science, two pupils have gained scholarships at the Guildhall and the Royal Academy of Music and two more places at prestigious music schools. One pupil holds simultaneous offers from Cambridge and Harvard, another a football scholarship to Charleston College and many more hold offers up and down this country, from Exeter to Edinburgh and LSE to Liverpool, and on both sides of the Atlantic from Madrid to McGill and Babson to Bocconi.

Outreach, charity, and partnership work have continued to flourish this year with new initiatives such as a Science Roadshow to primary schools and Film Studies work with local secondary schools taking their place alongside established projects such as volunteering with ABC to Read, Rushall Farm, the Carwarden House Olympics and Powerhouse Games. We are once more deeply indebted to the donors and organisers of the Harvest Festival and Christmas Shoe Box appeals and to everyone who has raised and given money to many charities. That nearly £125,000 has been raised in the last year by the Bradfield

Visit online for the full version





Restless Triathlon and by our multiple initiatives for the Oscar Foundation is particularly fitting as these organisations promote the welfare and prospects of underprivileged children all over the world.

In sport this year five pupils have represented their country in shooting, three in football, and two in hockey, whilst one was crowned French junior real tennis champion. In netball, cricket and riding pupils have performed in the top tier of their sport and across multiple sports pupils have played for district, county and regional teams. Collective distinctions and successes have included the 1st XI boys' hockey team playing in a national hockey final, and the under 16 girls team making the national indoor finals, victory for our golfers in the Micklem Plate and for the 1st XI girls' football team in the ISFA seven-a-sides alongside their runners up place in the ISFA trophy.

We have also enjoyed the wonderful opportunity to see our girls' 1st XI cricket team contest the final of the Schools National 100 competition at Lord's only yesterday and to return to MK Dons stadium to watch the boys' 1st XI football win the ISFA cup as well as the HUDL League and secure a second double in three years. As ever, it was not just the way all these players and teams conducted themselves on and off the pitch but how they supported one another and how the College supported them that made us proud.



In performing and creative arts there have also been multiple individual and collective highlights. The creativity and innovation of our artists and designers are on show today setting new standards in two of the most vibrant and varied exhibitions I can recall and in the outstanding work of our film students. Those films, along with numerous other recordings, copies of prizewinning poetry, TiB talks and more are available via the online Commemoration link.

Our actors have also pushed boundaries this year. The Senior production of *4.48 Psychosis* highlighted our commitment as a 'talking school' to tackle issues around mental health. A striking ensemble piece, it included standout solo performances, as did the Scholars' play, *Rope* and the powerful production of *A Few Good Men*. The last week's performances of *The Little Shop of Horrors* prompted much well-deserved applause and some welcome laughter at the end of an eclectic and cathartic year of drama.

Our musicians have treated us to a similarly wide-ranging repertoire from Classical, Choral and Carols in Chapel



and the Music Hall, to Jazz, Pop, Musical theatre and more at the Berkshire Young Singer of the Year finals, the Bedford pub, Yattendon Village Hall and in this very space. The Upper Sixth is a wonderfully talented group. We very much hope that exam success will crown their musical, dramatic and sporting triumphs. Most importantly, however, they have given a strong lead to the wider College, living our values in their lessons and activities, in Houses and in school. As ever, the JCR have set the tone and have themselves been superbly led by our Heads of School and their Deputies. The all-round ability of Bella, James, Zara and Enoch is legendary but it is above all their positive engagement with everything the College has to offer that sets a magnificent example.

I can think of no better way of paying tribute to all our Leavers than by using the words one of these four wrote for an event earlier this year: 'To the parents in this place: You've raised them well. They'll do alright in this lifetime, because they're hard workers, but above all they are fantastic people. You ought to be incredibly proud not only of their accolades, but of the strong young adults they've become.'

One of the highlights of the year has been witnessing the manner in which pupils have beaten a path to the new Study Centre. Over recent weeks, St Andrew's has

demonstrated its potential to have a profound effect on generations of Bradfieldians. We always knew that St Andrew's would offer a superb environment for study but we did not anticipate the enthusiasm with which it would be adopted by pupils.

St Andrew's is truly 'an inspirational space that promotes inquiry as well as industry'. Its completion has been a superb team effort, relying on many people. Its addition to our campus has only been possible through the great generosity of the many Old Bradfieldian and parent supporters whose donations met half the cost of this project. Thank you all. Just as you and your children have benefited from the philanthropy of your predecessors in helping to build this great school, so generations to come will benefit from your legacy.

In conclusion, I would like to pay tribute once more to the young people in whose future we are all so invested. They are extraordinarily lucky but wear their privilege lightly. Characterised by integrity not by entitlement, they remain grounded, kind, respectful, inclusive and overwhelmingly positive, both about their own education and their future. It remains a joy to live and work alongside them.

CRICKET

NATIONAL 100 BALL FINAL AT LORD'S

After a fantastic win against Millfield School in the semi-final, our girls' 1stXI had their final of the National 100 Ball Cup on Friday 28 June at the home of cricket, Lord's.

The Marylebone Cricket Club opened every door and had gone out of their way to make the players and supporters feel welcome; tours of the pavilion and the opportunity to train in the nets allowed the girls to get used to their surroundings and relax before their final began.

Inserted by the Ipswich captain, Poppy (M) and Shristi (J) began the innings confidently, Poppy's power balanced by Shristi's elegant strokeplay. When Emma (K) replaced Poppy the runs continued to accumulate with a large total looking possible. Quick wickets in the middle sets threatened an under-par score until some late clean striking from Bella (I), hitting sixes into the Tavern stand, put Bradfield in a good position at 117-5 from our 100 balls. The Ipswich openers scored freely in the opening sets with the ball racing away across the perfect outfield, but by the time that both had been dismissed 70 runs were still required and the final was very much in the balance. With 24 needed off 20, and then seven off the final five balls the batting team looked to be the favourites but the girls kept fighting and the wickets continued to fall. In the final over Ipswich chased three runs from the penultimate ball of their innings to claim victory in what was a thrilling and closely contested final.

While congratulations must go to Ipswich for the calm way that they secured their victory, the day proved to be an incredible experience, at an historic venue, for our Bradfield cricketers and a fitting end to a fantastic season. The girls' 1st XI have made it to the semi-finals of national competitions four times over the last five years and with nine of those playing at Lord's this summer returning to Bradfield hopes are high that the extraordinary level of achievement can be sustained.

Following their contributions to the success of this XI Poppy (M) has been awarded a contract with the Southern Vipers while Shristi (J) played regularly for the Vipers Academy side. Poppy and Shristi were joined by Lily in the Berkshire Women's 1st XI and numerous others have also played age-group representative cricket.

Mike Hill, Master i/c Cricket



SEASON SUMMARY

Summer arrived late in 2024 but the cricket season began at the start of the academic year. Multiple group sessions were run each day by Rob Ferley (Head of Cricket Performance) and his team of professional coaches in addition to almost 100 pupils taking 1:1 lessons, giving members of the Cricket Club every opportunity to learn and develop new skills. Pre-season camps for the U18 and U15 boys and girls at the second edition of our Bradfield Cricket Festival found 38 teams playing in rather soggy conditions for a week in April; a phenomenal effort from those involved. Between them, the boys' and girls' 1st XIs will play more than 50 fixtures throughout the season with formats ranging from 100 ball to two-day declaration games, allowing many of our cricketers to challenge themselves against some of the strongest young players in the country.

The boys' 1st XI has had a mixed season; it is not only the England team that battle for consistency as they try to play brave cricket! Five wicket hauls for Sam (F) and Nick (C) and hundreds for Andrew (A), twice, and Enoch (D) demonstrate the high levels that have, on occasion, been reached. Through the age groups both boys and girls have achieved great success in regional and national competitions. Just as significantly as the top-end performers, I take great pride in the way that we are now

typically putting out up to 17 teams on a fixture weekend and play over 230 fixtures in total. These opportunities enable all cricketers at Bradfield to represent the College and practise the skills they have been working so hard to develop.

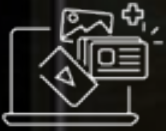
U17 PLATE COMPETITION

The season drew to an end in September with victory for the boys in the final of the Cricket Paper U17 Plate competition. Having been inserted by hosts Uppingham, Bradfield were dominant for large portions of the game; a serene opening partnership between Ethan (D) and Artie (A) was built upon by Arush (A) whose run a ball 71 helped set an imposing total of 212 in 35 overs. Once the powerful opposition Captain had been removed by James (D), and the spinners had taken charge, the result was in little doubt. A 60 run victory was secured with three quick wickets by captain Ethan demonstrating why he has just been selected for Scotland's U19 team to play an autumn triangular series against England and Ireland.

In addition to the fantastic achievements of the girls' 1st XI at Lord's, they also won their County Cup, as did the girls' U15 team and the boys' U14 team. The U14 boys showed great promise but only really managed to complete a full performance in their final against Eton. Isaac (C) took four wickets as the opposition were limited to 142 which was chased down quickly by openers Jack (A) and Isaac (D).



ST ANDREW'S OFFICIAL OPENING: A CELEBRATION OF COLLECTIVE PHILANTHROPY



Following a pupil opening for the start of the Summer term, the St Andrew's Study Centre was officially opened on 7 September by author and Old Bradfieldian, Louis de Bernières (D 68-72).

Before cutting the ribbon to officially open the Study Centre, Louis had been gainfully employed by the English Department inside the building, delivering literary workshops to some incredibly fortunate Bradfield pupils. In the opening speech he recalled how when he used to walk past the church on his way to Fly Fishing Club he thought it was a shame that the building was not

more widely used and that there was a sense of likelihood that someday it would play a greater role in College life. He told pupils, 'How wonderful it has been turned into the most fabulous study area and how lucky you are to have such a good place to study.'

“WITH A CAPITAL PROJECT, SUCH AS A BUILDING, YOU'RE NOT JUST INVESTING IN YOUR OWN CHILDREN, BUT IN HUNDREDS OF YEARS OF CHILDREN IN THE FUTURE. THIS PROJECT ALSO INVOLVED BRINGING TO LIFE AN OLD BUILDING, CREATING A FACILITY TO BE PROUD OF.”

Richard Mayfield, Current Parent



“ I HAD THE MOST INCREDIBLE HOUSEMASTER WHO HAS INSPIRED ME THROUGHOUT MY LIFE. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN DO IS TO ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILDREN TO EMBRACE EDUCATION. IF YOU HAVE REACHED A STAGE IN YOUR LIFE AND YOU CAN GIVE SOMETHING BACK, INVEST IN EDUCATION. ”

John Muir (G 70-75), Chair of the Bradfield Foundation

Over 125 guests attended the opening including the Bishop of Reading, Olivia Graham and many of the 178 donors to the project from across the community; parents, alumni, former parents and staff. The St Andrew's Project has been the most successful College fundraising campaign raising £3.75 million towards the £8 million project with equal numbers of parents and alumni donating and 58% of donors doing so for the first time.

“ WE WERE EXCITED BY THE ASPIRATION OF THE ST ANDREW'S PROJECT AND SAW MAKING A GIFT AS A WONDERFUL WAY OF SUPPORTING THIS SCHOOL THAT HAS GIVEN AND CONTINUES TO GIVE SO MUCH TO OUR GIRLS' ”

Katie Salter, Current Parent

The project demonstrated the power of collective philanthropy. It showed how a community can come together to deliver a project that will benefit generations of pupils and at the same time preserve and enhance the fabric of the building that inspired Thomas Stevens to set up his school, almost 175 years ago.

“ I LOOK BACK FONDLY ON ST ANDREW'S AS A PLACE I USED TO SING. I AM SO PLEASED THAT BRADFIELD STEPPED-IN AND TRANSFORMED IT INTO THIS AMAZING SPACE THAT ALLOWS THIS SPECIAL BUILDING TO REMAIN AT THE HEART OF ITS COMMUNITY ”

David Wright (E 48-53)

Bradfield is only the outstanding institution that it is today thanks to the philanthropy of the Bradfield community. Alumni, parents and friends have helped the College to transform and revitalise its campus by supporting strategic projects such as the sports complex, science centre, the refurbishment of the Greek Theatre and now the St Andrew's Project.

If you are interested in supporting the college please do contact our philanthropy lead, Kirsty Perkinson, development@bradfieldcollege.org.uk



BRADFIELD EXAM RESULTS

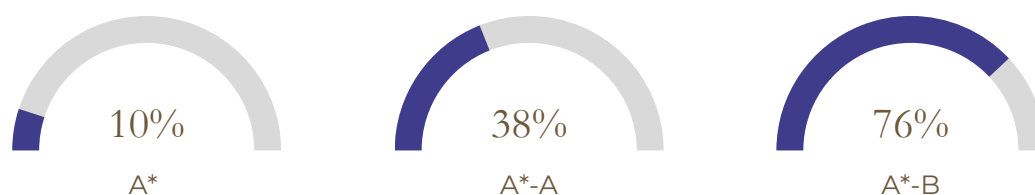
This year's talented exam cohorts collectively returned the highest grades in Bradfield's history outside of the pandemic.



IB DIPLOMA: 93% of grades for individual subjects were above a 5 out of a possible 7 marks and the average point score across the cohort was 37 out of a maximum possible score of 45. Over 90% of pupils scored above 32 where offers for Russell Group universities begin and more than 20% of pupils scored over 40 points, the threshold for the most competitive universities.



A LEVEL: 76% of all grades were A*-B, 10% of all grades were A* and 38% A*-A.



GSCE: over 39% of all grades scoring 9/8/A* and 59% scoring 9-7 (A*-A).

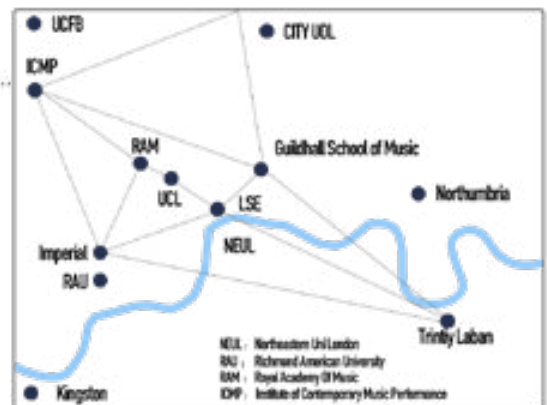
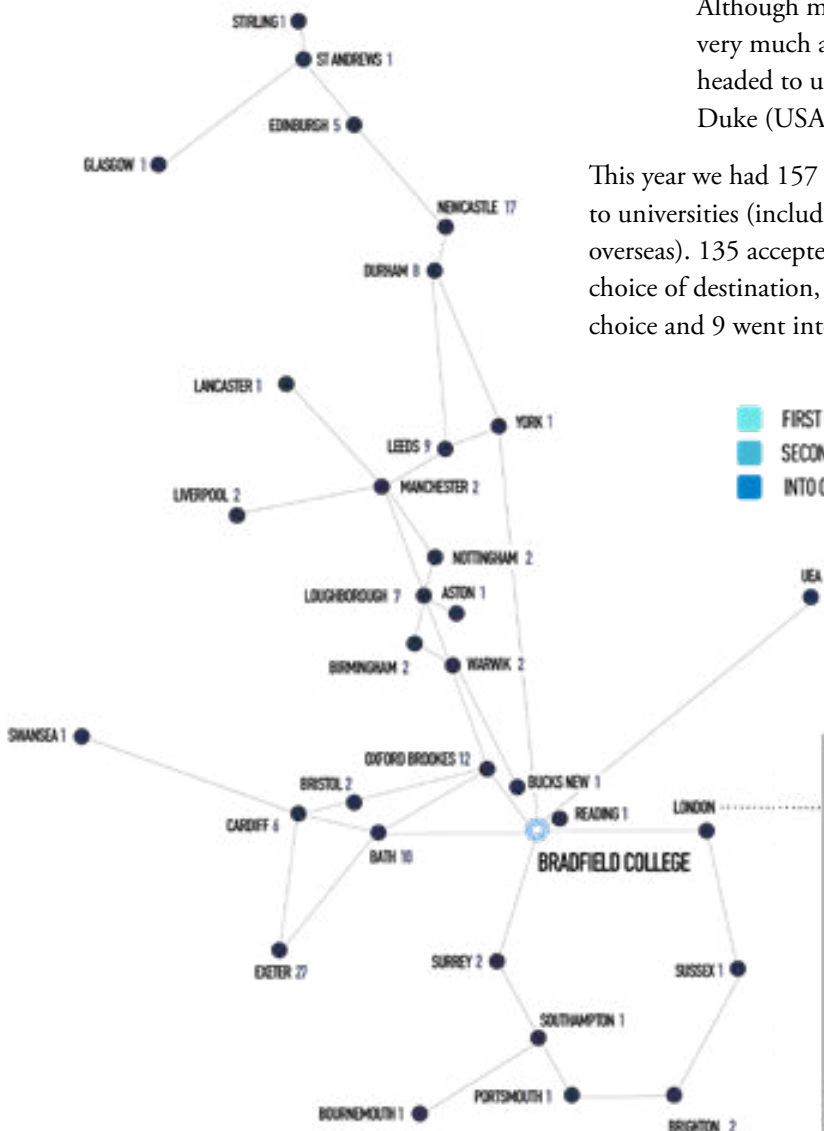
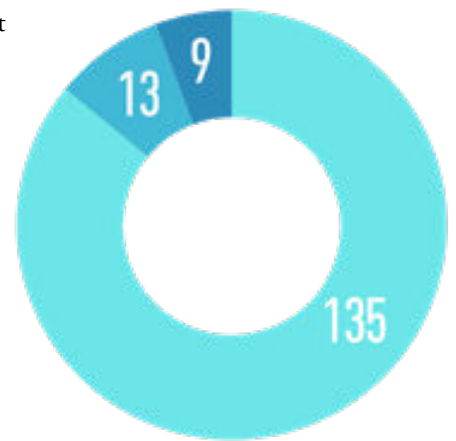


UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS



Although most pupils will take up places in the UK, it is very much an international arena with a significant group headed to universities overseas, including Harvard (USA), Duke (USA), Bocconi (Italy) and McGill (Canada).

This year we had 157 applicants to universities (including overseas). 135 accepted their first choice of destination, 13 second choice and 9 went into clearing.



BELLA COX (M 19-24) - CHAMPIONING PUPIL VOICE AND BEING INSPIRED BY BRADFIELD'S DIVERSE AND CARING COMMUNITY



Standing here in Greeker today, I'm lucky to have the rare opportunity to share a new perspective on the Bradfield community before me. A community is a group of people living in the same place or sharing a common belief. At Bradfield, we may not have one particular belief but we do share values and an attitude toward what we aspire to achieve.

“ I HAVE LEARNED THAT ONE OF THE MOST COMMON SHARED VALUES OF BRADFIELDIANS IS THAT OF APPRECIATING DIVERSITY, ENCOURAGING THE STRENGTHS AND ACCEPTING THE WEAKNESSES OF EVERY INDIVIDUAL ”

I believe that support is the epitome of success in any community. Knowing that you are not alone and that people are rooting for you is powerful. The Bradfield community genuinely cares and that pervades all aspects of our lives. It helps to build our confidence and courage, deepens our respect for others and embeds integrity in our actions.

Despite us all having our own unique school experiences, these core values are evidenced through the endless opportunities that are available to us and they are sewn through the memories that we have made.

I have personally experienced the power and the care of the Bradfield community. The summer before I came to Bradfield I was given my first hearing aid. As a small 13 year old joining a huge new place with so many new people this terrified me. Was it going to be obvious? What would people think? But more importantly, what would they say? I was met with support and kindness and anyone who asked about it did so out of curiosity and care and my worries quickly faded. I no longer hate this weakness but see it as part of who I am and I am content with that.

“ **THE INCLUSIVITY AND OPEN-MINDEDNESS OF THE COMMUNITY HAVE HELPED ME TO GAIN A PERSPECTIVE ON MY CHALLENGES AND I KNOW THIS APPLIES TO OTHERS AS WELL** ”

After all, what holds a community together? The people. As I have progressed through Bradfield the power of the people has become increasingly apparent to me, strongly supported by the value placed on Pupil Voice.

“ **WE TAKE PRIDE IN INSURING THAT WE HEAR THE VOICE OF ALL THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY AND MY MAIN GOAL THIS YEAR WAS TO ACT AS CONDUIT FOR ALL BRADFIELD PUPILS** ”

Being Head of School for the last year has been a real privilege and I

could not have done this job alone and to that end I would like to thank the JCR team. Thank you for the hugely entertaining yet still productive meetings and your collaboration to make Bradfield even better. To the Deputy Heads of School, Enoch and Zahra, it has been a pleasure. Your good humour and enthusiasm are always so refreshing and I've enjoyed spending time with you this year.

And finally to James, I was so happy that it was you by my side when the Headmaster asked us if we would take on the roles of Heads of School. Your kindness, humility and integrity are a few of the many reasons why you are perfect for this role. Thank you for all of this and for your shared desire to make a difference.

Looking around Greener at the faces of the people that have accompanied me on this journey, it is unbelievable how much as an Upper Sixth we have grown and changed. I know from my time here that our belief in 'One Bradfield Many Bradfieldians' could not be more true.

“ **I CANNOT TELL YOU HOW MANY TIMES I'VE BEEN INSPIRED BY THE DIVERSE TALENT OF THE COMMUNITY THAT I'VE LIVED IN** ”

Whether that is in having an angelic voice, an incredible work ethic or just a glowing character that brings out the best in others, I feel so lucky to be able to call these gifted people my friends and I cannot wait to see what the future holds for them.

To quote Michelle Obama, I believe that each of us carries a bit of an inner brightness, something entirely unique and individual. A flame that's worth protecting. When we can recognise our own light, we

become empowered to use it. When we learn to foster what's unique in the people around us, we become better able to build compassionate communities and make meaningful change.

I believe I can speak on behalf of the whole Upper Sixth when I say that we will cherish the memories that we have made here. We look forward to whatever awaits us outside the 'Bradfield Bubble'.

“ **THANKS TO BRADFIELD WE FEEL READY TO CREATE THE CHANGE WE WANT TO SEE AND TAKE ON THE WORLD, OR AT LEAST HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO TRY** ”

I know that we shall all greatly miss the people and the place that we're leaving behind. So, to all remaining pupils here today, you ultimately make this place; please reflect on the privilege of being a Bradfieldian. Use it to fuel your ambition and the enormous fun you will have along the way. Support each other's successes and take pride in your own. Make the most of your time here. It is said time and again, but you don't realise how fast it goes until you're sitting here like all the friends I see before me wondering where the time went.

As I reach the end of this particular chapter, I reflect with both gratitude and affection the part that I played in the community that cared and strived for more. A community whose strength is channeling diversity and compassion for the greater good. And finally, in the speech I gave to prospective students at the beginning of this year, I offered them one piece of advice.

“ **YOU HAVE TO MAKE DECISIONS FROM YOUR HEART. I CHOSE BRADFIELD FROM A FEELING I HAD IN MY HEART AND I CAN TELL YOU THAT MY HEART HAS NEVER BEEN MORE RIGHT** ”

'LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS'



DRAMA

The 2023/24 Bradfield Drama Season started with a production of Sarah Kane's *4:48 Psychosis*, an unflinching examination of mental health and living with depression. It was without doubt challenging content for staff, parents and pupils, so to end the year, the department decided to revive the cult musical, *Little Shop of Horrors*.

Little Shop of Horrors started life in 1960 as a low budget film from the *King of the B's* Roger Corman and was in fact a loose remake of an earlier low-budget film, *The Passionate People Eater*. Shot on a shoestring budget of \$30,000 over just two days and with no time for reshoots, the original film is full of fudged lines, amateur camerawork and were it not for a small cameo from Jack Nicholson as a patient in Orin Scrivello's dental surgery, it is likely *Little Shop* would have been consigned to the history books as so many B-movie quickies of the era have been. However, as Nicholson's star rose and he became one of the most critically lauded actors of the 1970s, the film was re-released numerous times on home media to capitalise on Nicholson's fame and slowly, but surely, it became a classic example of a "so bad, it's good" underground classic.

Unexpectedly, in 1982 composer Alan Menken and writer Howard Ashman took it upon themselves to reinvent the story and by adding songs, the original film was not a musical, they premiered their musical *off-off-off* Broadway and something about the story of amateur botanist Seymour Krelborn and his monstrous creation captured the imagination of the New York public. The show moved upmarket to the prestigious Orpheum Theatre where it would run for 2,209 performances making it (at the time) the third-longest running musical and highest-grossing production in Off Broadway history.

The results were gold dust and it wasn't long before the movie moguls came calling a second time and in 1986, Frank Oz, perhaps best known as the voice of Yoda in the *Star Wars* films and various *Muppets* characters, but also a respected director, signed on to direct a big budget remake. He brought Rick Moranis, Steve Martin, Ellen Greene, Vincent Gardenia, James Belushi, Levi Stubbs, John Candy and Christopher Guest along for the ride. Jack Nicholson regrettably couldn't be convinced to reprise his role from the original so Bill Murray joined his *Ghostbusters* co-star Rick Moranis in the role instead. Inevitably, the film drew attention back to the musical and, since its release in 1986, you can guarantee that numerous productions of *Little Shop of Horrors*, both amateur and professional are running at any one time.





Little Shop was my first production as Head of Drama at Bradfield and ideally Bradfield audiences would have waited until 2025 for the tenth anniversary of the first Bradfield performance. However, the summer play cycle of Greek Play, Musical and Shakespeare Play meant that after last year's production of "Oedipus the King" the return of Audrey 2 fell one year short.

The 2015 production was staged in the Old Gym whereas this year the Greek Theatre inevitably gave it a very different feel. As a director, the biggest challenges of staging a musical in Greker are ultimately deciding where to position the band and how to achieve many of the difficult effects needed without using theatre lighting and blackouts. Adapting Mushnik's Skid Row florist to Greker required careful planning and I am extremely grateful to Jason Thomas and the Estates Team for realising my set design so effectively. Combined with the monstrous plants and the fantastic costumes, once again designed and made by Claire O'Toole, I hope we managed to help the audience make the leap of imagination needed to transport themselves into the story being told.

Akin to the 2015 production we had an excellent cast who brought the show to life and made it so memorable for the Greek Theatre audience.

Lead actors Luca (H) and Emma (M) brought Seymour and Audrey to life as both instilled sensitivity and vulnerability in their respective characters. They captivated the audience and sang superbly, ably supported by Daisy (K) as the matriarchal Mrs Mushnik. Shell pupils Jemima(I), Jennie (M) and Kiki (M) were magnificent as Chiffon, Ronnette and Crystal who, in their role as a Greek Chorus almost, guided us through the story and tackled some difficult harmonies with apparent ease. Special mentions should also go to Scarlett (J), Charlotte (LI), Jack (E) and Wilf (E) who also shone in their roles.

The ensemble nature of the production was further exemplified by Bea (LJ), Isabelle (LM), Heidi (LJ), Imogen (LK) and Issy (LM) who were convincing as the hobos, often gathered around their oil drum for warmth and sipping bottles hidden in brown paper bags. Similarly, Alec (G), Romilly (K), Emma (M), Bronte (K), Amelie(M), Bella (K) and Sophia (M), choreographer for all the dances, also populated Skid Row in a variety of supporting roles without which the performance would have been considerably less rich.

Mention must be made of Seb (G) who drew perhaps the biggest laughs of the night as the evil dentist, Orin Scrivello. Free of inhibition, Seb embodied the definition of 'going for it' and the audience couldn't get enough.

The biggest applause however was rightly reserved for George (G) when he was finally revealed as the voice of Audrey 2. For so many people to think that we were using a recording and be stunned when George appeared was testament to the great job he did. Equally, Charlotte (LI), Jackson (A), Ginny (M) and Nell (J) deserve credit as they puppeted various versions of the plant bringing Audrey 2 to life and without them the 'magic' wouldn't have been so real.

Many thanks also to David Quinn, Musical Director, and the talented musicians who accompanied the performance from their lofty perch upstairs in the Skene.

Little Shop of Horrors was a magical way to end the 2023/24 Season ... but remember, whatever you do, don't feed the plants...

Nic Saunders, Head of Drama



BRADFIELD COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES



Bradfield is always keen to engage in local community initiatives for mutual benefit. Benefiting from particularly good links with local primary schools, multiple events took place throughout the Lent and Summer Term.

Towards the end of the Lent Term, 16 local primary schools travelled to Bradfield for The Annual Primary Schools Cross Country Championships. Nearly 400 runners made their way around the College grounds with the help of our Shell pupils who acted as course marshals as well as hares.

This Primary School's Science Afternoon was planned as a 'Women in Science' event. 20 Bradfield pupils from the Lower Sixth prepared and executed six workshops to 115 local primary school children on inspiring women from the scientific community such as Florence Nightingale and Ada Lovelace. The Bradfield pupils delivered inspiring talks and led practical experiments looking at DNA, fossils, bacteria, rockets and elements.



Additionally, we have continued to run our weekly activities supporting reading in local primary schools through the Assisting Berkshire Children to Read programme.

During the Summer Term, 160 children from 16 local primary schools from across West Berkshire and Reading took part in the annual Primary Schools Kwik Cricket Cup. This year the festival took place at St Andrews Prep School as part of our ongoing partnership where 18 Shell pupils umpired and ran the competition.

The Carwarden Olympics is a multi-sport festival with Carwarden House School, based in Camberley, that educates children with complex needs. 200 Carwarden pupils and staff came to Bradfield and combined with 90 Bradfield Lower Sixth pupils to make up the teams. These mixed school teams competed for the Bradwarden Olympic Trophy in a range of adapted sports. This event is much loved and lives in the memories of the Carwarden House and Bradfield pupils alike.

Late in the Summer Term the History of Art Department and its pupils hosted an art workshop on the theme of 'season' for a group of Year 6 pupils from Basildon Primary School. The workshop took place in the Stunt Pavilion on a warm summer afternoon. The pupils from Basildon Primary and Bradfield were grouped together, and each chose a painting from the College's 'Seasons'

Exhibition. Each painting was analysed in detail, with thoughts presented to the room. Matisse-inspired cutouts were a firm favourite with the young pupils, as they used their creativity to create their own designs, with inspiration from *The Parakeet* and *The Mermaid*. All the new creations were exhibited during Commemoration and enjoyed by the wider Bradfield community. The afternoon concluded with a well-earned ice cream before the pupils returned to Basildon.





THE OVER 60S CONNECTIONS CLUB

A new initiative has come to fruition through our links with Theale Green School. Bradfield's Assistant Chaplain, Jacinta Holmes, assists part-time as the Community Chaplain at Theale Green School, linked to Holy Trinity Church in Theale and its inspirational Reverend, Martin Davy. In a meeting before the start of the last academic year Rev Davy proposed the idea of inviting Lower Sixth pupils to meet with members of his Over 60s Connections Club, a group that encourages its members to make connections with those living in their immediate vicinity but also local businesses and organisations like Bradfield College.

To get the conversations going and flowing he suggested that the pupils talk with the members with the aim of writing up their life stories. This proposal captured the imagination of Bradfield's Head of Partnerships, Hayley Morris, and she arranged for pupils to attend the 90-minute sessions on a Tuesday hosted in the John Cumber Hall in Theale. The pupils have spent time listening to and documenting 'Life Stories', serving tea, and engaging in conversations with community members.

"I really enjoyed the opportunity to connect with the whole community. It was a really heartwarming and happy way to spend a Tuesday morning." Sophia (M)

"My time with the connections group has led me to reflect on the profound value that most grandparents place on the time spent with their grandchildren. I gathered many valuable pieces of advice from listening to the life stories and experiences of growing up during the wartime period." Flora (J)

"The connections group has been a great experience for me because it has allowed me to get to know new people, all of whom have had fascinating stories and backgrounds. I have enjoyed listening to people's lives and giving them a personal booklet that they can keep forever." Francesca (J)





Danail (D), wrote up the life story of a gentleman who served in the Army for 17 years and only met his biological family as an adult after 50 years of separation.

“As our conversation came to an end, I couldn’t help but feel grateful for the chance to share in this journey. His stories were more than just words on a page – they were a testament to the triumph of the human spirit and the enduring power of love. And as I bade farewell to my newfound friend, I carried with me a newfound appreciation for the good old days and the remarkable people who lived them.”

Having had their conversations with group members they then prepared a personal booklet containing the life stories that they had heard. In the second session pupils then presented the booklets that they had prepared for members to keep and pass on to their families and friends.



“THE PUPILS HAVE BEEN WONDERFUL IN TALKING TO OUR MEMBERS... WE ARE INCREDIBLY GRATEFUL TO THEM FOR GIVING UP THEIR TIME TO SUPPORT THIS INITIATIVE, IT HAS BEEN A HUGE HIT ,”

Rev. Martin Davy

The effectiveness of this initiative was evident in the lively and animated atmosphere on the minibus ride back to the College, a testament to the rewarding nature of the activity.

“PARTICIPATION IN THE CONNECTIONS CLUB HAS BEEN AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR PUPILS TO PRACTISE THE SCHOOL VALUES OF KINDNESS, COLLABORATION, OPEN-MINDEDNESS, TOLERANCE, PERSPECTIVE AND OF COURSE COMMUNICATION. ”

Hayley Morris, Head of Partnerships



SPRING AND SUMMER MUSIC



A large programme of performances has been squeezed into a relatively short Lent Term, showcasing a variety of genres and offering solo and ensemble performance opportunities to a high proportion of the College's student body.

LENT TERM

This term particular congratulations should go to the winners of our Junior and Senior Instrumental Competition, Luca (H) on piano and Arion (G) on saxophone. Both competitions saw an incredibly high standard compete and I should like to echo our adjudicator's comments regarding Arion that his performance would not have been out of place as an undergraduate's final recital. Having put particular emphasis on the piano in the department this year it was particularly good to see so many of our Juniors playing so well. Highlights from the lunchtime concert series include those dedicated to our Dr Gray Scholars and Music Exhibitioners. It was also thrilling to see Luka (C) play the electric cello.

The College Ensembles were also busy this term. The Chapel Choir enjoyed a trip to Winchester Cathedral to participate in Choral Evensong, ensuring they continued their upward trajectory after the busy Carol Season. The vocal group 'IV' led the organisation of this term's Community Concert in Yattendon Village Hall, raising money for their chosen charity 'Skin'. The evening, which took 'Film Music' as its theme, saw many excellent solo and band performances.

The two significant concerts were the Lent Concert in the Chapel and the Easter Concert in the Old Gym. The Lent Concert saw a long overdue return of the Bradfield College Choral Society, comprising staff, parents and other local vocal enthusiasts. They were brought together to join our Chapel Choir in a performance of Fauré's Requiem, as we sought to highlight the composer in this the 100th year since his death. The performance of Elegie by Luka (C) on the cello was another standout performance in a concert which saw the Clarinet Ensemble, Flute Ensemble, String Ensemble, Guitar Ensemble, Brass Ensemble, and Chapel Consort all take to the stage.





The Easter Concert, by contrast, celebrated our pop and jazz musicians, opening with an atmospheric performance of a Suite from *Interstellar*, performed by our Orchestra. This was followed by Palmer House's reprise of 'Where Have You Been', the winning House Harmony performance from earlier in the term, an evening worth a mention as the standard from both girls' and boys' Houses continues to rise.

SUMMER TERM

The Summer term started with the Early Summer Soirée in our own Concert Hall. Once again, the Chapel Consort kicked off proceedings with two madrigals. These performances were led by our Head of Singing, Liz Croft, who will move into a new position of responsibility within the Bradfield Group at the end of this term when she moves to become the Director of Music at St Andrew's Prep School. Liz has led the singing department at Bradfield with distinction, and her stewardship of the Chapel Choir is of particular note. Whilst it is sad to lose a colleague of Liz's quality from the department, I am thrilled that we will continue to work closely together as she heads down to St Andrew's full-time from September. A particularly exciting development for the Music Department at St Andrew's and I have no doubt we will start seeing the impact here at Bradfield in the not too distant future.



The Early Summer Soirée gave us an opportunity to celebrate our year 13 classical musicians and we were treated to fantastic performances from Evie (J), Freddie (H), Nathan (A), Theo (H), Miranda(J), and Arion (G). Amongst this, we also heard a performance of Britten's *The Sally Garden* by Charlotte Knox, a small peek into the talent we have to look forward to in the coming years.

Less than a week later we hosted a performance with a completely different feel at The Bedford in London. In this programme, our top jazz and pop musicians performed to a packed house in a venue which has enjoyed performances by many high-profile acts such as Ed Sheeran.

The crown of the Summer Term however goes to "Jazz on a Summer's Evening" when Bradfieldian musicians once again delighted the audience of parents and alumni in the Greek Theatre. The forecast promised showers but Mr Etherington need not have fretted as the evening stayed dry and pupils delivered strong performances from classic jazz and contemporary pieces in performances full of energy and soul. In addition, £7500 was raised for the

music therapy charity Nordoff & Robbins who harness the power of music to break through barriers caused by life-limiting illness, disability and social isolation. Their work can be transformative for all ages and all needs, reaching many who benefit from the ability of music to make their lives better.

The Summer Term is always bittersweet and while we enjoy some of the very best quality performances from our top musicians the thought that we also say goodbye to such a talented Upper Sixth lingers in the background. The current Year 13 have had a significant impact on the musical landscape of the College and will leave big shoes to fill. We will miss you... but there is always the opportunity to return to Bradfield to perform in one of our Alumni College events so please await Mr Etherington's call!

David Quinn, Director of Music



Enjoy recorded versions of the performances



WARDEN'S QUESTION TIME

*C*urrent Sixth Formers and newly appointed members of the JCR Jemma (I) and Devan (G) put Bradfield's Warden, Tom Beardmore-Gray through his paces in a recent interview.





Jemma: Please tell us a bit about yourself and how you came to be Warden of Bradfield?

By profession I am a chartered accountant, starting my career at what is now PWC, then Pepsi-Cola International before moving to De Beers. I travelled widely during my time at De Beers, including setting up a new office in Vancouver for my then boss, George Burne (A 48-53). Keen to have a UK-based role upon leaving De Beers I became finance director of the Girls Day School Trust, one of the largest educational charities in the UK before moving to my current role as Chief Executive of 'Prep Schools Trust' based in Oxfordshire. I have held several non-executive roles over the years including as Chair of the Audit Committee for the University of Reading council becoming Vice-President. My daughter, Isla, attended Bradfield from 2011 to 2016 and had a fantastic time and as parents Yuki and I had a great experience.

“ WHEN I SAW THE ROLE OF WARDEN ADVERTISED, IT FELT RIGHT THAT I SHOULD GIVE SOMETHING BACK TO THE COLLEGE. I ALSO THOUGHT THAT I WOULD ENJOY THE ROLE AND THAT HAS PROVED TO BE THE CASE ”

Devan: What are your views on the St Andrew’s Study Centre and are there any other major projects on the horizon?

The completion of the St Andrew’s Study Centre project is an amazing achievement. When this project was first considered ten years ago it was a daunting prospect. There are many complexities associated with working with old buildings but I think that the St Andrew’s Study Centre makes a huge statement about the importance of nurturing the academic potential of Bradfieldians,

which is so important for the College’s future. I feel very proud that Bradfield succeeded in this project.

“ SCHOOLS NEED TO CONTINUALLY INVEST IN THE FUTURE, STANDING STILL IS NOT AN OPTION ”

Out of respect to parents the College is very careful about how it spends its money. When deciding on future capital expenditure we balance our strategic priorities against what is affordable. The current major project, the repair of Army House roof, is a maintenance priority. On a more strategic level we are considering a Wellness Centre which would bring together physical and mental wellness under one roof and enhance the College’s pastoral provision. Those are the two major projects but there are also other projects we would like to progress, were funding available.

Jemma: Sticking with the construction theme, having installed solar panels onto Faulkners' Boarding House does the College have any other big schemes to address the College's carbon footprint and sustainability?

This is an important question and something that the Council takes very seriously. Bradfield needs to be doing everything possible to ensure that we are working in the most sustainable way. The recent energy crisis taught us that we do not want to be at the mercy of fluctuating energy prices but, just as importantly, we have a moral obligation to reduce our carbon footprint. We are doing a lot, not just the solar panels on Houses, but also replacing old lights with LEDs, replacing heaters and boilers with more energy efficient versions as just a few examples, but we need to be doing more; yes, more solar panels but also a range of initiatives to reduce our footprint and be environmentally responsible. We are also fully behind the work being done to change the behaviour of pupils and staff through the Golden Egg Sustainability Competition.

Devan: What are your thoughts on AI and its impact on Education?

I tend to look at the opportunities rather than the problems. Institutions need to embrace change and look to the future. If you look back 30 years to the introduction of the internet, perhaps people would have asked the same question. I believe that it is a question of how it is used. You can use the positive aspects to enhance performance but not let AI dictate everything. There are clearly aspects of Bradfield life that you would want to remain distinctive and special but let's try to use all the good things about AI to enhance College life. Of course, a major opportunity



that harnesses the strengths of AI in combination with Virtual Reality is the Campus-XR initiative – see article on Will Bray p66 for more information about Campus-XR

Devan - I am lucky enough to attend Bradfield on a Royal Springboard Bursary, what does the wider bursary programme at Bradfield look like?

Bradfield aims to support 10% of pupils a year with some level of means-tested bursary. The highest level of bursary support is provided to pupils proposed by the Royal National Children's Springboard Foundation such as yourself as well as those recommended by the Headmaster's Conference and others who approach Bradfield directly.

Many public schools have large endowments to fund their bursaries,

unfortunately Bradfield has no such provision. The Bradfield Foundation helps to support the College's bursary students through its Bright Futures Bursary Fund, which is made up from single-gifts, regular giving and legacies from alumni, friends and current and former parents. The 175th anniversary of the College next year will see us launching a renewed campaign in support of bursaries at Bradfield and we look forward to hearing more about this in due course.

Jemma: What do you see as Bradfield's strengths?

There are lots of things that make Bradfield stand out from the crowd. Over the last ten years Bradfield has shown increasing academic strength. The opening of the St Andrew's Study Centre sends a clear signal about

Bradfield's academic ambition. I believe that this trend will continue. The co-curricular programme, notably music and drama with performances in the Greek Theatre; Jazz on a Summer's Evening and the Greek play, are also very distinctive and unique to Bradfield and to be celebrated. I am also delighted by the strength displayed by Bradfieldian teams in sport and it is vital that equal attention is given to the boys' and girls' games. It is remarkable for the College to be able to maintain such strength across as many sporting disciplines as it does.

Another key strength of Bradfield that is perhaps overlooked is its supportive community. The Bradfield Society, made up of alumni, current and former parents and friends means that your involvement with Bradfield does not have to stop when you are no longer a pupil. You can engage with the Bradfield Society socially or for sport or by giving your time to offer career advice, give a talk or even volunteer for the Council. The extension of this engagement is seen

in the philanthropic support offered to the Foundation in support of either the bursaries or capital projects campaigns and demonstrates the immense and enduring warmth that is felt for Bradfield.

“IT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR ANY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION TO BUILD ON ITS STRENGTHS, OF WHICH BRADFIELD HAS MANY”



DE BERNIÈRE-SMART POETRY PRIZE

The De Bernière-Smart Poetry competition is open to all pupils with the aim of enhancing creative communication and expression for all students.

This year the winning poem was 'Abandonment' with highly commended status given for 'Ashes', 'We Walk the Line' and 'Mosaic'.

ABANDONMENT

I have tasted abandonment.
I have felt its power, shrunk from its grasp, bowed under its weight.
I know it by name and it terrifies me.

Abandonment knows me.
It smells my fear and rejoices in my wide-eyed pain,
Amused by the wild circus of my desolation.

In the wee small hours it would seek me out,
Slithering snake-like into my tiny cot to swallow me up,
creeping in
Like a thief to steal my soul.
Night after night while the house slept, the beast would rise up
To thrust its ugly head through the slats of my cradle
Where you left me alone, incarcerated, afraid.
Abandoned.

I was a child betrayed.
A shattered puzzle on the nursery floor, crying out
For one last piece of the jigsaw to make it whole.
Aching for your mother's touch, longing to feel your arms around me.
Between huge sobs I called out for you, willing you
To reach inside and gather me up into the safety of your embrace.
My heart was broken, crushed,
Without a beat.

But nothing.
Only silence.

You didn't come.
I called your name but still you didn't come
And I was alone, a child betrayed.
Abandoned.

Will not cry, will not cry, will not cry....
But the sobs came.
One loud, uncontrollable and choking sob,
Then another and another and another ...
Great, howling, blubbering sobs, shaking and trembling
Through the semi-darkness of the room.
Hot, salty tears welling up in my eyes, burning my eyes,
filling and spilling,
Impossible to blink away.
They were sad tears, angry tears, tears filled with fight.

Still, you didn't come.
I felt the deep, invisible wound of separation grow
stronger, tightening
Around my throat and suffocating me in a stranglehold.
In the dim light, my silent screams would draw circles all
over the nursery walls,
Scribbling fierce messages of hope as the bitter roots took
hold.
Why did you leave?
Why did you leave me here alone?
Please don't leave me here alone, the snake will eat me
alive.
Giant python fangs dribbling poison into my crib.

Please don't leave.
I'm your child, don't you love me?
Don't you?

And then you came.
A flicker of light on the landing as you crept in, quietly,
To blow away my thunderstorms.
My sun at the start and the end of every day.
A guardian angel to watch over me.
I knew you straight away, smelled your mother's healing
scent,
Heard the soft, low timbre of your voice
As you whispered my name,
Your soothing smile shining through the gloom.
I melted into the warmth of your caress as you scooped
me up
And pressed me to your breast.
I felt the slow, reassuring beat of your heart
And my world was restored.

Scarlett (J) Shell

WE WALK THE LINE

In sunlight we're strong,
We hide our souls away,
For none of what we are
Could make it in the day.
In light we are the drifters,
We just wait to drown.
But at night we can be free –
We escape this town.

Down the road we run,
The pavement set ablaze.
By the river we have power –
The water shouts our names.
To the dawn we scream,
Horizon set aglow.
For when alone we say
What no one else can know.

After that we're cold,
The clouds set in again.
And we of all people
Would know what happens then.
Just to feel alive,
We pull ourselves apart –
And when all is broken,
We mend our shattered hearts.

But all of our walls crumble
And everything aligns,
When on those paths we tread,
And up that hill we climb.
For my pain is yours,
And yours is mine –
In the dark,
We walk the line.

Bea (I) Faulkners

MOSAIC

Tiles on a wall,
Plaster seeping through
Cracks inbetween prints
Of beauty and pain.

Fragments of adoration
Pieces of awe
Slotted perfectly together
One by one
A mosaic of love.

Parts of myself I see above
On granite stones or
Ceramic vase though
Blood may lie far and wide.

Our lips once kissed,
Eyes an object of desire.
Parts of my own gifted by the
People I know not through stories
But through the mirror in front of
me.

I owe me not to myself but to
The age old tales of love before me.

Bella (K) Year 12

ASHES

I'll spread our ashes in the vista
In a place by a lake and a lazy
crippled willow tree
And I won't let the wind steal you
away, to a land unknown
To flutter, to scatter, to be lost.
You will grow, grow into a sunset
painted by the gods
Grow into a melody in visual form
Let your beauty enchant any who
will listen.
Blossom to white poppies – soul
purifying poppies
Do not taint the redeeming quality
yet let it consume you
Settle for the petals.

Let me nurse you from afar so it
won't scar
Do not let my red seep into your
petals that you settle for
Do not let them taint with fire to
become common.
As that is what I already did?

So redeem the petals that settle
Burn your common crimson, for
the winter has blown for you
And I was left with the ashes.
So please, let me spread our ashes in
the vista
Where a lake is placed by a
crippling willow tree.
Oh dear wind! Please do not scatter
them away
For astilbe will thrive and I will not
survive.

Scarlett (K) Year 11



BRADFIELD ART EXHIBITION





JAMES STEWART (A 19-24): PROUD TO REPRESENT BRADFIELD AND ITS DOWN-TO-EARTH PRINCIPLES



On 29 May last year, I received a message from my Dad, entitled 'Rules to teach your son' and my response was, rather jokingly 'that's the Head of School speech sorted for next year then'.

Yet here I am, a year later, about to give you a speech based upon this list and the qualities I believe it highlights that Bradfieldians display. So, either I'm rather unimaginative, or there's really something about it that resonated with me. Let's go with the latter...

Firstly, I feel very fortunate to have been given the opportunity to speak with you and share my story of Bradfield.

“ WHEN WRITING THIS SPEECH I WAS ADVISED NOT TO LOOK TO OTHERS FOR INSPIRATION BUT TO LOOK WITHIN WHICH WASN'T TOO CHALLENGING AS BRADFIELD HOLDS A VERY DEAR PLACE IN MY HEART ”

The more I reprised the 'Rules to teach your son', the more I saw that the qualities it mentioned are embodied by the College and especially the Class of 2024. I am so appreciative to have been part of an incredible cohort that lives up to everything and makes Bradfield such a special place. I am intrigued to see where life takes these talented people with all the skills to go so far in whichever path they choose.

It would be easy for many of us, enclosed as we are within the 'Bradfield Bubble', to lose sight of the many challenges in the world around us. In an environment in which we are so privileged it would be easy for

a wishbone to grow where a backbone should be, however this is not common amongst Bradfieldians.

Many people have experienced or maybe have struggles of their own right now but down to the help of Bradfield's supportive environment come through these experiences stronger than before. My younger brother, Ben, is the perfect example of this; he has faced much adversity in his life already but never gives up and never fails to make me laugh when he walks into the room. He doesn't know this and maybe I shouldn't say this with him here, because he will never let me live this down, but he is the person that I admire most. I love you Ben.

I remember coming home from my first weekend and my Mum asking me 'James, what is your favourite thing about school?' and without a moment of hesitation I replied 'the people' and the answer to that question has never changed.

“ BRADFIELD'S FOUNDATION IS ITS GENUINE DOWN-TO-EARTH PEOPLE WHO FOSTER AN ENVIRONMENT OF INTEGRITY, RESPECT AND HAPPINESS THAT ALLOWS US ALL TO THRIVE ”

The JCR is 'the ultimate team', people who give each other credit, are willing to accept when they have made mistakes rather than pass the blame on to others as well as having the genuine interests of others at heart. Building upon the works of previous JCRs this year's team has been instrumental in leaving Bradfield in a better place for the great work to continue.

'The brain with the problem is usually the brain with the solution' is



a phrase given to me by my Dad. We all can all solve problems, we just need to have the desire and belief to do so and the JCR have embodied this ethos, supported by the skills Bradfield has taught us in the principles of 'Education for Life'. That said, I don't think that we would have been able to achieve quite in the way we did this year without Bella. Her bright personality and leadership by example rather than by explanation have set the tone; I am lucky to have been friends with her over my five years at Bradfield and it has been a pleasure to work with her in this leadership role.

I will spare you the full details of the 'Rules to teach your son' email, however I do have a few pointers for Bradfield pupils during their remaining time at College;

- Be like a duck – remain calm on the surface, yet paddle like crazy underneath
- Always eat lunch with the new kids
- Manners maketh the Man

And a final thought, a quote from David Rocastle, 1980's Arsenal player aka Rocky, that represents how special Bradfield is to me as Arsenal was to him and is a piece of advice to all Bradfieldians 'Remember who you are, what you are and who you represent'.

On behalf of the 2024 Leavers Bella and James wish would like to thank every person who has contributed to their happiness at Bradfield. To the teachers and coaches, for their saintly patience and incalculable care that has meant so much. To the HSMs, Matrons and Tutors who have made House feel like home, no mean feat. To the Senior Management Team and Headmaster for leading Bradfield so well. Many thanks to all the Operational Staff who we perhaps take for granted and yet could not function without. Finally, they would like to thank all the parents for their unwavering support and belief in them and for enabling them to be a part of such an incredible place.



**INSPIRING LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL CURIOSITY:
MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES AT BRADFIELD**

The Modern Language department has embarked upon several exciting new initiatives aimed at enthusing and engaging our pupils in appreciating a deeper understanding of the value of language learning, both now and through later life.

FAULKNER'S CURRICULUM

Launching the new Faulkner's curriculum has inspired the 'Languages & Culture' course to include more specific cultural content, allowing pupils to explore the links between ancient and modern languages. Subject knowledge is still at the heart of everything we do, but the new curriculum has also enabled a broader focus.

Inspired by the World of Languages, Languages of the World (WoLLoW) initiative, we have examined the health and mental benefits of language learning, and code-breaking techniques, as well as introducing them to linguistics and creative translation, giving pupils an appreciation of the interconnectedness of world languages and insight into languages beyond just those studied in class.

In the Anthea Bell Prize, organised by Queen's College, Oxford, Ludo (LA) was Highly Commended for his creative translation of the German poem "Grashüpfer" by Heinrich Seidel, and Heidi (LJ) was the Area Winner for her translation of an extract from "Ma Famille du Cameroun: de Paris à Yaoundé" by Jessica Reuss-Nliba and Didier Reus, fantastic achievements.

PARIS TRIP

At the start of Michaelmas Long Leave, Sixth Form pupils studying French headed to Paris on a four-day cultural visit. Staying on the outskirts they became experts at using the Metro and RER to visit many of the main sites of Paris including Notre Dame, the Arc de Triomphe, Montmartre, La Tour Eiffel, le Centre Pompidou and the Louvre. They also spent a day at Versailles and enjoyed some pure relaxation and fun at Disneyland Paris. The Bateau Mouche trip down the Seine will live on in memory, as will the unexpected video of our group exploring the Cinema Rex, and all returned to Bradfield with a greater appreciation of this wonderful city and the language immersion opportunities it offers.

IMPROVING CONVERSATIONAL LANGUAGE

This year we have increased opportunities for French conversational practice. In what will hopefully become a regular fixture, this March Y10 pupils from College Colette spent the day at Bradfield giving our pupils some conversational practice. Next year we also hope to spend a day at College Colette, perhaps combining it with a day trip to Paris.



In November, eight Sixth Form linguists travelled to Cheltenham College to participate in their annual MFL Debating Competition. Pupils competed in pairs against other schools, debating three different topics in their studied language; French, German or Spanish. The competition was intense, pushing pupils outside their comfort zones but also increasing their linguistic confidence.



THE MOSAIC SOCIETY

Described by Sixth Form lead Rayyan (C) as ‘the world in a room’ the Society celebrates internationalism, bringing together pupils from all year groups as well as members of staff interested in, or with experiences of, other cultures. The society gatherings are always well attended, and the inaugural September Mosaic BBQ was also a hit.

“LIFE IS LIKE MOSAIC, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO GET UNTIL YOU WALK IN!”

This year MFL was delighted to welcome Sir Jeremy Blackham (E 57-61) to share his thoughts and personal experience of languages for the MFL component of the Minerva Lecture Series.



THE IMPORTANCE OF LANGUAGE AND INTER-CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING: SIR JEREMY BLACKHAM KCB (E 57-61)

Having studied Classics at school, Sir Jeremy joined the Navy in 1961 rising through the ranks to become Deputy Chief of Defence Staff (Equipment Capability) before leaving in 2002 to become UK Country President of Airbus, followed by independent consultancy in the defence sector. A frequent speaker at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) and Kings College London, he has also been Editor of the Naval Review for the last 20 years.

In a wide-ranging talk, Sir Jeremy shared his enthusiasm and the joy that speaking a foreign language can bring while also reflecting on why, in today's world, understanding each other's languages matters so much. He began his talk with some riddle-like questions;

Why are there five different languages spoken in Spain?

Why is German widely spoken in the Trentino in Italy?

Why is Welsh spoken in Patagonia?

He explained that language is a key part of understanding how our world has developed and talked about the impact history has had on language and what language can tell us about history. Describing language as ‘a curious beast’, he asked us to consider starting from Dunkirk and walking east to Vladivostok, demonstrating how everyone can speak to their next-door neighbour and that language shifts slowly and subtly and oral language is often different from the standard languages we learn at school.

By Jo Hanbury (Head of Modern Languages)



He also explored what is special about language, the ability to form and express abstract ideas, philosophy, subtlety and aspiration. Without words we cannot form complex thoughts in a transferable way or communicate them to others or indeed to ourselves. He also spoke in depth about the art and subtlety of translation, the danger of simplifying language and the repressive impact that can have on ideas.

“LANGUAGE IS A PRE-REQUISITE FOR ALL THAT MAKES CIVILISATION; ART, SCIENCE AND MATHS, WITHOUT LANGUAGE WE CANNOT LEARN ”

Suggesting that our range of thought depends on the richness of the available language, he said that it was no accident that Greek was the first language to develop serious philosophy because of its sophistication, extensive vocabulary and ability to indicate precise shades of meaning by the inflections of its words.

“A RICH AND VARIED LANGUAGE, FREELY USED, IS A MAJOR GUARD AGAINST REPRESSIVE GOVERNMENT ”

Sir Jeremy warned that the world is at a difficult and arguably dangerous point in its history, with differences of opinion in politics and a tendency to take very narrow national positions. The key to understanding problems and working towards their resolution is always knowledge, communication, mutual respect and understanding, without these history shows us that there is no peace.

He understands that whilst learning the hundreds of languages of the world is not realistic, it is possible to learn the basics and at the very least to improve one's understanding of the business and social customs of other nations to avoid offence. He impressed upon us the immense value of immersing oneself in the culture and language by living and working in the country where that language is spoken.

“ALL THAT I HAVE SEEN IN MY PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL LIFE HAS PERSUADED ME OF THE VITAL NEED FOR SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING OF OTHER VIEWS AND CULTURES, THE FIRST STEP OF WHICH IS TO LEARN OTHER LANGUAGES AND TO LIVE, SO TO SPEAK, INSIDE THE OTHER WAYS OF LIFE ”

The MFL department is always looking for inspirational speakers. If anyone has used languages in their jobs, studied languages at university or later in life, or can share their experiences about the importance of developing cultural awareness and would be interested in speaking to Bradfield pupils, please contact jhanbury@bradfieldcollege.org.uk



WELCOME
TO THE
A LEVEL
& GCSE
DESIGN
EXHIBITION
2024





TENNIS

As we finish another busy tennis season, we are delighted to be able to reflect on a term where we fielded a record 41 teams in block fixtures against other schools as well as entering five additional competitions demonstrating some strong performances.



The girls' team finished a creditable third place in the Independent School Tennis League. Congratulations to Zahra (I), Pippa (M), Georgia (M), Poppy (M), Jazireh (J), Maddy (J), Alice (M), Bea (M), Eliza (J), Stella (I), Allegra (LK) and Gabby (LI) who combined so effectively in this cross-year team. Congratulations should also go to Pippa (M) and Milo (C) who finished as runners-up in the Bradfield hosted mixed doubles competition and to Pippa and Eliza (J) who finished as runners-up in the St. George's Cup Doubles. Finally, Elliot (A), Wally (G), Pablo (A) and Miles (E) performed well to finish as runners-up in the plate competition at the Eton Junior Pairs.

In block fixtures, the boys' 1st VI recovered from a challenging start to the term to put together an unbeaten run which included wins against Wellington, Radley, Sherbourne, Charterhouse and Abingdon, whilst the girls' 1st VI continued their fine form of recent seasons, recording five victories.



Both the girls' and boys' 2nd VIs have performed well, recording five victories. In the middle year groups, the U15s have drawn praise from their coaches for their camaraderie and impressive attitude in both training and practices. On the girls' side the U15A, B and C team all achieved winning records. In the U15 boys, there has been considerable competition for selection, as demonstrated by the strong results of the B Team (seven wins from ten matches) and the C Team (six wins, one tie and two losses). The best record in the College, however, came from the U15D team who finished with an unbeaten season – a fine achievement.

In the Faulkner's year group, Allegra (LK) should be commended for her impressive performances, representing the 1st VI in her first year at the College.

Ella (LK) should also take credit for the dedication she showed to her tennis, rising from third pair in the B Team at the start of the term, to finishing the season as first pair in the A Team.

On the boys' side the U14As had a brilliant season losing just one of their nine fixtures. It was great to see 12 different boys representing this side, a sign of the competitive nature of selection in the U14 boys' teams this term. This competition for places helped the B Team also have a successful season in which they won five of their fixtures.

Congratulations to the following pupils who have qualified for the finals in their respective age group College Championships which took place on Commemoration Day on 29 June.

Vildaskaya Cup (18 & Under Girls)

Pippa (M) vs. Zahra (J)

Sets 1 - 2

Stoye Cup (16 & Under Girls)

Alice (M) vs. Stella (I)

Sets 1 - 0

Baltzert Cup (14 & Under Girls)

Allegra (K) vs. Charlie (K)

Sets 2 - 0

Billington Cup (18 & Under Boys)

Milo (C) vs. Fraser (H)

Sets 0 - 2

Stotesbury Cup (16 & Under Boys)

Jonathan (D) vs. Harry (E)

Sets 2 - 0

Gorringe Cup (14 & Under Boys)

Joe (D) vs. Louis (G)

Sets 2 - 0

There are a few individuals to thank as we end another busy season. The club has been effectively led by Captains Pippa (M) and Fraser (H) and Vice-Captains Harry (C) and Zahra (J), who have demonstrated significant commitment to tennis during their time at the College. The academic staff have also given considerable time and energy to facilitate training and deliver matches for the pupils. And finally, a huge thank you to the excellent Bradfield Tennis Coaching Team of Peter Mogan, Ricky Reardon, Chris Spiller, Mark Bradley and James Marsh

for their incredible energy and input over many hours. Not only do the team deliver the College team sessions they also coach over 100 pupils throughout the term in addition to running a very strong commercial club programme. Their commitment is invaluable to the on-going delivery of all facets of tennis at the College.





GOLF AT BRADFIELD

This year saw the Golf Course celebrate its 25th anniversary of the official opening, following the expansion of the original three hole course into a nine hole course designed by renowned golf course architect Donald Steel.

A course that rewards straight hitting with deep rough and streams always eager to capture stray shots and demands that players have a precise short game around the challenging slopes of the greens, it remains one of the best on the school circuit, maintained par excellence by Head Greenkeeper Alec Horsburgh.

COLLEGE GOLF

Starting with the creation of the Golf Course, Golf at Bradfield has continued to grow over the last 25 years. A major step in this evolution was Simon McGreal starting as resident professional in 2013 enabling coaching to be provided to pupils throughout the week. Then, following the generous legacy of John Tyndall (H 57-62), the opening of the Golf Studio followed in 2017 which has considerably enhanced the coaching offering with detailed analysis provided by Trackman in two separate simulators. Mike Goodwin has now retired from teaching but has stepped into a golf coaching

role to further enhance the support provided to pupils.

Golf's popularity as a sport within the College continues to grow with well over 100 pupils being members and the course itself has been busier than ever in the past year. Whilst the 1st team are prioritised for coaching on a Monday and Wednesday afternoon, a key emphasis has been on golf being a sport for all abilities. The coaching programme has enabled all players to access high quality instruction on other afternoons with some pupils making rapid progress from beginner to competent team player.

The College continues to play regular fixtures with the likes of Charterhouse, Radley and Wellington at both 1st team and Junior levels as well as entering competitions such as the Swifts Foursomes and Strokeplay events, the Micklem Trophy and the West Sussex Invitational. Angus Flanagan (H 12-17) remains the outstanding golfer of recent years

with his Walker Cup appearance and Killian McGinley (D 14-19) has performed successfully in the NCAA Division winning two titles in the States. Several other recent leavers including Patrik Wall (H 17-22), Nick Wall (H 18-23) and Luca Misra (E 19-24) have left as scratch golfers and should be valuable additions to the Halford-Hewitt team in the years ahead. Recent school successes include third place in the 2022 team competition at the HMC Strokeplay Championship at the Berkshire GC and victory in the 2024 Micklem Plate competition at Woking GC.

Another key fixture in the College golfing calendar is the annual match versus the Old Bradfieldian Golf Society. This year the match was held at Calcot Golf Club, for the first time since 1995, owing to the particularly inclement course conditions earlier in the year. A close match with some spectacular shots, the OBGs golfers used their experience to edge a 2-1 win.

Nick Taylor, Master i/c Golf

ALUMNI GOLF - ENJOY GOLF AFTER BRADFIELD WITH THE OLD BRADFIELDIAN GOLF SOCIETY (OBGS)

The Bradfieldian spoke with OBGS Captain for the College Match Jamie Gallacher (B 90-95)

The College versus OBGS match is one that Jamie has always enjoyed and has played every year since leaving university in 2001. Over that time he has noticed that the arrival of Simon McGreal, the advent of the indoor practice facilities and Mike Goodwin's focused support has allowed the strength and depth of Bradfieldian golfers to improve.

“ I ALWAYS ENJOY PLAYING OUR ANNUAL MATCH VERSUS THE PUPILS, IT'S FUN TO CATCH UP WITH THE BRADFIELDIANS OF TODAY AND IT OFFERS A VITAL LINK BETWEEN THE COLLEGE AND THE ALUMNI GOLFING COMMUNITY. ”

After leaving Bradfield Jamie went to study Economics at Wake Forest in North Carolina attracted by the fact that American universities take sport seriously, placing it on a par with academic study. Wake Forest has a rich golfing history and has produced recent stars Will Zalatoris and Cameron Young who made their third Masters Tournament appearances in 2024. When Jamie had completed his degree he returned to the UK to do a Masters in Commercial Real Estate and maintained his love of golf by joining the OBGS. The OBGS is one of the more active alumni clubs and is always keen to recruit young Bradfieldian golfing talent into its ranks upon leaving College.



Jaime Gallacher, Jordan Speith, Justin Thomas, Rickie Fowler

Since 1927, the OBGS has competed in the prestigious Halford Hewitt competition, described as 'The greatest of all truly amateur tournaments' and the largest of its kind in the world. The OBGS is competitive and consistently ranked in the top ten out of 64 schools in the Halford Hewitt. Jaime captained the Halford Hewitt team for many years before handing over to current Captain Mike Jones (F 67-71)

“ WE ARE A TEAM TO BE FEARED BY MOST OF THE FIELD. WE HAVEN'T HAD THE BREAKTHROUGH NEEDED AT THE LATER STAGES OF THE COMPETITION IN RECENT YEARS BUT WITH NEW BRADFIELDIAN TALENT COMES NEW OPPORTUNITY ”

Other competitive matches played include The Grafton Morrish, The Mellin for over 55s and the Senior Mellin for over 65s. The OBGS also has a full calendar of matches against other Clubs and Spring, Summer and Autumn meetings as well as a biennial tour which in recent years has included Florida, France and Spain.

Founded in 1926 the OBGS is rapidly approaching its centenary, which it hopes to make an extra special year, watch this space...

If you are interested in joining the OBGS visit the Golf Club website on the Bradfield Society online or contact Club Secretary Andrew Shilton on andrew@janeshilton.co.uk



*Jaime Gallacher with Adam Williams, Jack Banton, Jack Beckett
(E 87-92) (G 11-16) (C 03-08)*



BRADFIELD GOLF EVENTS FAMILY FOURSOMES GOLF

Sunday 21 April was the perfect day for golf this year and we had a bumper number of parents, pupils and alumni register to join us for the afternoon.

“ WHAT AN AMAZING DAY, IT WAS GREAT TO BE ABLE TO PLAY GOLF WITH MY SON AND SEE MANY OTHERS FROM BRADFIELD ” *Current Parent*



The event is hosted each year to showcase the Golf Course and involves a wide variety of players of different abilities. In this anniversary

year, it was pleasing that the course was full. Competitors played for four prizes: Best Stableford Score as a pair which was won by parent Sean Shapcott and his son Grant (C). Best Stableford Score as an individual was won by Bradfieldian James Grant (G 80-85). Nearest the Pin and Nearest the Pin in two were won by current students Sam (G) and Charlie (F) respectively.

Other Bradfieldians playing included Charlie Kitson (G 80-85) playing



with friend and contemporary James Grant and Michael Constantine (F 06-11) playing with his father Simon.

Thank you to everyone who came along; Family Foursomes is a lovely event and one of the most popular in the Bradfield Society calendar so we would encourage anyone interested in playing next year to sign up early to avoid disappointment, visit www.bradfieldsociety.org.uk/events for our forthcoming events programme.

GOLF COURSE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

On Saturday 8 June we welcomed past and present members, Captains, Cup Winners, Old Bradfieldians, parents and pupils to the Bradfield course for two 18-hole matches with nearly 40 participants each. The quality of the golf on the day was high with a keen competitive yet friendly spirit amongst players. Lunch was enjoyed by all who attended on the day, players and spectators alike, 100 people sat together to share stories and reminisce about past and present successes while toasting the winners.

Individual and Team Winners were presented with prizes donated by our Club President James Strang, our Golf Pro Simon McGreal and our sponsors for the event The Padel Hub & Renegade Brewery.

Much of the success of the event needs to be attributed to the hard work of the Golf Course Green Keepers; Alex, Will and Joe who worked tirelessly beforehand and on the day to ensure the course was in perfect condition.

The Anniversary was a lovely opportunity to invite back all our founding members who originally helped the Golf Course become a reality and we look forward to our next excuse for a celebration.

New members are always welcome to join the Bradfield College Golf Club as a Friend of Bradfield, for enquiries please contact frontdesk@bradfieldcollege.org.uk or call 0118 964 6400



TOP LEVEL PERFORMANCE FOR THE BRADFIELD EQUESTRIAN TEAM



The Bradfield Equestrian team maintain their strong winter season performance with a successful debut at Hickstead.

WINTER SEASON

In the winter season our equestrian team earned victories in four separate events securing qualification for multiple events at this summer's upcoming Hickstead Elite Championships.

November was a busy month for National Schools Eventing Association (NSEA) events. In the first event at St Mary's Calne the team won the 100cm arena eventing and third place in the 90cm. Cecily (J) also rode to an individual sixth place while Sofia (J) took an individual first in the 100cm competition. They headed to the second event at Dauntsey's high in confidence and had another excellent performance culminating in a double win in the 100cm. Cecily placed first individually while Flora (J) was placed third and Sofia ninth. The team then finished the month in style at Pangbourne College where they were placed an impressive third out

of 17 teams in the 90cm, with only one second separating the top three teams. Sadly this meant missing out on qualification for the Windsor event despite Freddie (C) pulling off an incredible jump-off to win his class individually.

Setting their disappointment aside, the team went on to gain a County Final qualification with a 100cm team victory and secured their place to represent Berkshire at Hickstead in the summer. Freddie produced another fast jump-off to place second individually while Millie (M) finished third and Sofia fourth.

Following the Christmas break the

focus turned to dressage and further success, this time at the Cranleigh School competition. Sofia (J) won the individual First Class with 75.77% and placed third in the Second Class with 66.43%. In the subsequent event they scored a Silver in the 100cm Showjumping contest with Flora scoring an individual fourth place. Sofia took third in the 100 Combined event while teammate Freddie rode a spectacular round in the 1.1m competition to take first place and qualify for the Main Arena at Hickstead.

2024 NSEA CHAMPIONSHIPS AT HICKSTEAD

The Bradfield team were placed in all three team competitions at the NSEA Championships, including winning the super competitive 1m team Show Jumping Championship class.

The first rider into the arena, Flora (J) held her composure and blazed the trail with a clear round, setting an incredibly high standard for the Bradfield team and the entire class to follow. Bradfield then had to wait for literally the last rider to go in before the results were confirmed; it was incredibly tight but they came out the champions. The Bradfield result was absolutely amazing especially as they were competing against some very experienced teams and horses in a full-up 1.05 course and with all the pressure of a championship class.

In the 1m arena eventing Bradfield were conversely one of the last teams to compete, not starting until gone 7.30pm so it was a long wait. The team knew they all had to have a good round and they did. The competition was in two phases; nine show jumps in one arena before moving into a second arena to face

13 cross-country fences looking for an optimal time. The competition amongst the top scorers was very tight and Bradfield finished in an impressive third place. Such a placing was a great achievement as it was a super competitive class and a very long course.

The final team class of the Championship weekend was the Hickstead Elite 1m showjumping on Bank Holiday Monday. Bradfield knew that only clear rounds would result in placings, so were delighted when Bradfield's four faults were combined with Freddie's fastest time of the day meaning that the team

snuck into sixth place but with the fastest overall, all our riders combined, meaning that once again Bradfield was at the prize giving ceremony.

In the individual classes Sofia (J) won the 1.10m show jumping facing massive fences in a tiny arena but once again she went clear and placed third and sixth in the dressage finals with two high-scoring tests!

All in all, a super-intense but amazing three days and an incredibly consistent, high performance from riders and horses; many congratulations to the whole team.





TARGET RIFLE SHOOTING

2024 has been another busy season for the Bradfield shooting team with some excellent individual performances and great promise shown by our Faulkners' shots who are new to the sport this year.

We returned from our Easter Training camp at the start of the season to be greeted by the exceptional news that Bella Cox (M) had been successful on GBU19 selection weekend and would tour with the team to Guernsey in August. Roanna (M) and Alex (F) were also successful on Ex Maple Taste, the selection weekend for the UK Cadet Rifle Team, and would also tour with the team to Jersey in August. In April Maya (J) shot in the victorious Berkshire County team in their match against Sussex.

In May Maya (J) and Will (H) shot for Berkshire and London respectively in the Southern heat of the King George V Challenge Cup. It proved to be a very successful day for them with Berkshire winning the heat, Will being London's top scorer on the day in his debut match and Maya also participating in an England team friendly match against the RAF, where she went clean with a maximum score of 105. The College also had seven firers shooting in the

Berkshire County Championships where Amelie (M) was our top scorer and crowned the Bradfield College Full-bore champion for 2024 while Roanna (M) also received a Berkshire County Jewel for her achievements.

In June Amelie (M) and Will (H) represented Berkshire and London respectively in the Inter-County Championships. Amelie on her County debut had a 50 and 6vs at 300 and was the county top score at that range. Berkshire were placed third at Long Range and second overall winning Bronze and Silver medals.

Activity continued over the Summer break with College firers shooting for the final two weeks in July at Bisley, first in the Schools' meeting and then the Imperial Meeting.

SCHOOLS' MEETING

14 firers from Faulkners to the Upper Sixth represented the College in the Schools' Meeting. The week went

well with our performances improving each day. The Tuesday and Wednesday competitions saw ten of our cadets winning spoons for finishing in the top 100. On Ashburton day it was very hot and nerves played their part in our performance which unfortunately was below par and saw us placed 10th overall. Isla (J) won the Reserve and reserve aggregate on the day which gave us all something to cheer about at presentations. Nine cadets were also placed in the top 100 and received Cadet 100 badges.

THE IMPERIAL MEETING

Ten Bradfield pupils attended the meeting, the largest Bradfield representation to date, and once again proved themselves a worthy bunch on their rifles. Eight made it onto prize lists, with five highest possible scores during the nine days. Amelie (M) reached Kings 2 and St Georges 2, Maya (J) reached St Georges Final and Kings 2, Alex (F) got to St Georges 2.

Maya, and Will (H) shot for Berkshire and London respectively with Will winning a gold medal for the Astor which London won. Will was also awarded his Welsh flashes in his debut for Wales in the National match. Amelie was selected and shot for an England XX team against the Armed Forces receiving a special embroidered badge for her achievement. No team success this year but individually a good performance by all those that took part and some great experience gained ready for 2025.

Alumni in HM The Kings Final were Lucy Mace (I 91-93), Christina Cuming (M 15-20), Elliot Sewell (C 12-17) and Matthew Keel (E 17-22) in his first final. Christina had a great afternoon and finished in tenth place individually.

ALUMNI COMPETITION

The A Team, C Cuming, R Mace, K Farley, M Wilkins and L Mace came second place overall, and were awarded five National Rifle Association (NRA) bronze medals.

The B team, MJ. Keel E. Sewell CN. Tremlett WJGD. Dixon GR. Breitmeyer won the B team Trophy as well as The Challenge Trophy and Five NRA Silver Medals.



CHRISTINA CUMING (M 15-20) WINS WITH U25 GB TEAM IN TARGET RIFLE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Our alumni firers continue with their passion for the sport and continue to demonstrate their success in this area. On Day 15 of the South Africa Tour in March the Great Britain Under 25 Rifle Shooting team produced a spectacular display of wind-reading at 900m to win their Team World Championship over the USA in second place.

“ SHE IS TRULY AN AMAZING SHOT AND BRADFIELD CAN BE PROUD THAT SHE IS ONE OF OUR OWN AND PERFORMING BRILLIANTLY ON THE WORLD STAGE. ”

Steve Bates, Head of Shooting

Owing to delays in the competition due to Covid, as a 21 year old Christina was also able to shoot individually for the U21 cup where she was placed second.

In 2023 Christina graduated with a Psychology degree from Durham University, where she was also Captain of the University Rifle Club. This year, she has taken a year out to shoot, work a ski season in France, climb to Everest Base Camp and travel around South-East Asia. She has also helped to coach the Bradfield Shooting team where her support has been much appreciated. Upon returning from her travels she hopes to move to London and find a job in

the City.

Christina was not the only Old Bradfieldian in South Africa, Lucy Mace (I 91-93) shot as an individual, Rory Mace (G 18-23) shot for the GB Under 21, Nick Tremlett (A 72-76) was GB Palma Team (Vice Captain).

The next big test for the Alumni shooting team will be the Tremlett Trophy annual match versus the College on Winter Bradfield Day, Sunday 11 December. Last year it was a draw, who will prevail in 2024?

If you are interested in joining the Alumni rifle team contact Club Secretary, Richard Vary (E 86-91) Richard.Vary@twobirds.com



PHOTOGRAPHY

EXHIBITION



BROADEN YOUR HORIZONS: DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME INSIGHT



HARRY BANTON (G 13-18)

The grand finale to the Horizons calendar for the academic year is the 'Broaden your Horizons' event, an annual Higher Education, university and careers fair for the benefit of Bradfield and our local partner schools*

This year the team were delighted to host over 50 exhibitors including several gap year organisations, overseas universities and advisors as well as the usual mix of UK universities. This year there was also an increased number of businesses that attended offering fantastic alternatives to university through some excellent Degree Apprenticeship schemes as well as school leaver programmes.

One such organisation is IT and business consultancy firm CGI who sent Harry Banton (G 13-18) as their

representative and were one of the first organisations to adopt the Degree Apprenticeship scheme model. Harry is a regular supporter of Horizons events, this being the third careers fair he has attended in addition to the pupil networking event in the Michaelmas term.

“ I AM VERY HAPPY TO COME BACK TO BRADFIELD TO SHARE MY EXPERIENCE AS A DEGREE APPRENTICE AND THE BENEFITS THAT THIS CAREER PATH OFFERS ”

He is also an advocate of the Degree Apprenticeship scheme as a career path that has worked for him. Harry joined CGI directly after completing his A-levels at Bradfield. In his first three years he and his fellow Degree Apprentice cohort worked four days a week for CGI and spent their fifth day at Winchester University.

That day was a week of lectures in one long day so it was a very intense experience but the company was supportive and flexible when it came to allowing the apprentices to meet their study deadlines.

So, six years after leaving Bradfield Harry is now a senior consultant at CGI with a flat, car, a university degree and no debt, an enviable position in comparison to his full-time university attending peers. There is also no lock-in period for degree apprentices who can leave the scheme at any point. In terms of entry requirements applicants need to have strong but not necessarily top A level grades - 120 UCAS points - as the company is very interested in a candidate's character, attitude and trainability which it judges on assessment days.

If you are interested in learning more about the Degree Apprenticeship schemes open to your child or would like to volunteer your services in terms of supporting our Horizons events at Bradfield please email horizons@bradfieldcollege.org.uk



**Our local partner schools are Theale Green, The Downs, Little Heath, and Pangbourne and they bring a further 100 plus pupils to the event which helps to draw in the variety of universities and companies.*





MEL PAYNE (J 90-92): POSITIVE ENERGY

Currently Global COO for Energy Trading Fund Roscommon Analytics, Mel has more than 20 years experience in the fast-paced and complex world of commodities trading with previous appointments including Executive Director and COO for Oil (Europe) at Morgan Stanley and Executive Director Strategic Initiatives Castleton Commodities.

She has experience of career change, working as a woman in a male-dominated industry and juggling life as a working parent. She is passionate about the importance of mentoring and took the time to speak with the Bradfieldian about her experiences and to offer advice to Bradfieldians.

Mel started Bradfield at a watershed moment when the College was making inroads into co-education, so what had started with a smattering of girls across the institution became more formalised with the introduction of Palmer House and subsequently Armstrong House. Mel joined the new Armstrong House in their first Lower Sixth cohort. She has a clear memory of her first ever lesson when all the girls sat on one side of the classroom and all the boys on the other and it was all 'rather awks' but ultimately the boys and the

girls integrated well and Mel enjoyed her time at the College and felt privileged to be a Bradfieldian.

“APART FROM BEING A BEAUTIFUL PLACE, THE BREADTH OF OPPORTUNITY AND LEVEL OF SUPPORT BRADFIELD OFFERED WAS FANTASTIC”

At A-level Mel studied Economics, Geography and German, enjoying all three, but it was the Geography department that shaped her Bradfield experience owing to its collegiate approach. After lessons they would stay together as a class and ‘do lunch’ in Hall together making it a more holistic experience than the purely academic bent of the other two subjects.

Not having a clear idea on a future career at Bradfield Mel received what turned out to be fantastic advice to do something that she enjoyed. Given her positive experience at Bradfield, she chose to read Geography; at A-Level she had been particularly drawn to Human Geography and chose Southampton because, unlike other universities at the time, it allowed students to specialise in this from the second year onwards. Her interest in Human Geography is a thread that has continued throughout her career, and she is very passionate about setting and achieving the right culture within business.

“I WORK IN A VERY REGULATED INDUSTRY. YOU CAN WRITE AS MANY POLICY DOCUMENTS AS YOU LIKE, BUT IF THE CULTURE ISN'T GOOD, YOU ARE ULTIMATELY UNLIKELY TO ACHIEVE THE CORRECT BEHAVIOURS”

After Southampton Mel still wasn't sure what direction to pursue so decided to apply for the John Lewis Graduate Management scheme which she knew to be well structured and highly regarded. The scheme gave her an excellent insight into business and people management, with challenges ranging from managing staff on the shop floor to dealing with the sometimes ‘tricky’ customers. After four years in Reading then the flagship Peter Jones store on Sloane Square, she concluded that she didn't want to remain in retail but appreciated all that she had learned from the experience.

Leaving John Lewis Mel took a couple of temporary jobs in small businesses to try to work out her next step and it proved to be a successful strategy. One of the roles was assisting an oil trader set up his London office in Mayfair. She would later recognise this desire and ability to create and build something enduring from the ground up as one of the key themes in her career. Although her role at first was primarily administrative and logistical support she gained insight into the business of trading and moving oil around the world which led her to subsequently take up an operational role at Rinex Energy. The new role married her understanding of Economics, the real-world application of the economic theory that she had learned at A-Level, with the human element of the business that she had learned through Geography.

“EVEN THOUGH I HAD NEVER ENVISAGED A CAREER IN COMMODITIES, ALL THE THREADS OF MY EDUCATION STARTED COMING TOGETHER AND LED IN THIS DIRECTION”

From Rinex, Mel was headhunted by Morgan Stanley. At that time, in the early 2000s, commodities were not such a core area of business for Morgan Stanley, so there was the opportunity to institutionalise the operational framework and help build and expand the commodities group commercially. She spent nearly 12 years there holding various roles including Head of Oil Operations and ultimately COO for Oil (Europe). Post the financial crisis, the oil business was sold to another energy trader, ‘Castleton Commodities’, for whom she went on to set up their London business.

After a few years at Castleton she decided that it was time for a change so took a pause from the high-level operational roles to undertake some study, completing the International Diploma in Governance, Risk and Compliance with the ICA (International Compliance Association), alongside setting up her own consultancy firm ‘Eve Energy Consulting Limited’. Consultancy at Eve also proved a success and led to an interesting contract as Business Manager/ COO at Shell from which she was head-hunted for her current role as COO of Energy Trading Fund, Roscommon Analytics, a post she has held since 2022.

Mel has undoubtedly been extremely successful in her career to date but she reflects her success has certainly not been a ‘slam dunk’. Mindful that she doesn't want this narrative to shift towards the challenges of being a woman in a male-dominated industry, she would however like to help others navigate the path.

By her mid-thirties Mel had a wealth of experience and was performing well yet could not understand why she wasn't necessarily being offered the same opportunities as her male



counterparts. Only at this point did she realise the significance of networking and career mentoring. Prior to this, she had assumed her boss would also act as her mentor, not appreciating that there can be little incentive for a boss benefiting from excellent performance to promote subordinates beyond their reach.

She also found the attitude towards returning to work after maternity leave in some firms challenging, as if mothers had to pretend they did not have children and hide their family behind an army of childcare to succeed. Not a lot of good came out of Covid but Mel identifies that whilst businesses are shifting back to a more office-centric culture there is still a willingness to offer flexible working which is a great advantage when trying to meet parenting

commitments. Mel recently returned to Bradfield in support of a Horizons pupil networking event to have the opportunity to share what she has learned from her career with the next generation of Bradfieldians. Mel recognises that it is hard when starting out in your career to know which way to turn and offers these five tips for young Bradfieldians;

- Start building your network early and find a good career mentor outside your line management or even organisation
- Take up opportunities as they arise - don't get hung up on knowing exactly what you want to do
- Every type of work experience is valuable, the key is to have the experience and take the learnings with you

- Small businesses and less defined areas of larger businesses offer fantastic opportunities for growth
- If you can afford it, go to university, it is a great place to learn to be independent, learn life skills and make friends and a network that will last for life

“ FOR ME BRADFIELD REPRESENTED A COLLEGIATE CAMARADERIE AND IT IS DOWN TO EACH BRADFIELDIAN TO DECIDE HOW BEST TO USE WHAT BRADFIELD GIVES THEM TO ACT AS A SPRINGBOARD TO THEIR FUTURE ”

If you are interested in developing your Network and finding a mentor visit the Careers Section of the Bradfield Society online. If you would like to harness the power of the Bradfield community and set up a networking event for your sector we would love to hear from you, email bradfieldsociety@bradfieldcollege.org.uk



CREATIVE INDUSTRIES NETWORKING EVENING

A BRADFIELD SOCIETY-HORIZONS COLLABORATION

On a warm summer evening in June, the Art School became alive with animated conversations as pupils met with creative industry professionals to practice networking in an informal setting. The event was well supported by 26 alumni and parents from across the spectrum of creative professions including photographers, broadcasters, journalists, artists, musicians, interior and garden designers, representing industries such as fashion, film, marketing, advertising, communications, TV and cosmetics.

“FIRSTLY, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SPACE TO HOST THIS EVENT. I HAVE BEEN TRULY IMPRESSED BY THE CURIOSITY AND THOUGHTFULNESS OF THE PUPILS PRESENT THIS EVENING. I WOULD BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY FUTURE QUESTIONS THAT THEY HAVE „

Current Parent

“THANKS SO MUCH FOR ORGANISING SUCH A BRILLIANT EVENT, I WOULD HAVE LOVED THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND THESE SORTS OF THINGS WHEN I WAS A STUDENT AND I JUST KNOW EVERYONE ENJOYED IT SO MUCH „

Lulu Parry Clarke (I 11-15)

The event was also eagerly attended by Y10 and Y12 pupils studying Film, Photography, History of Art, Design, Drama, Business, Music, and English as well as other pupils interested in learning about these professions. Pupil feedback for the event was overwhelmingly positive with pupils delighted to have a networking opportunity tailored to their specific area of interest and to have so many different professions represented to choose from.

“THANK YOU FOR ORGANISING THE NETWORKING EVENING, THE PEOPLE I SPOKE TO REALLY OPENED UP MY OUTLOOK AND HAVE INSPIRED ME „

Jemima (M)

Once the pupils had largely dispersed the professionals enjoyed the opportunity to do some networking of their own over nibbles and drinks.

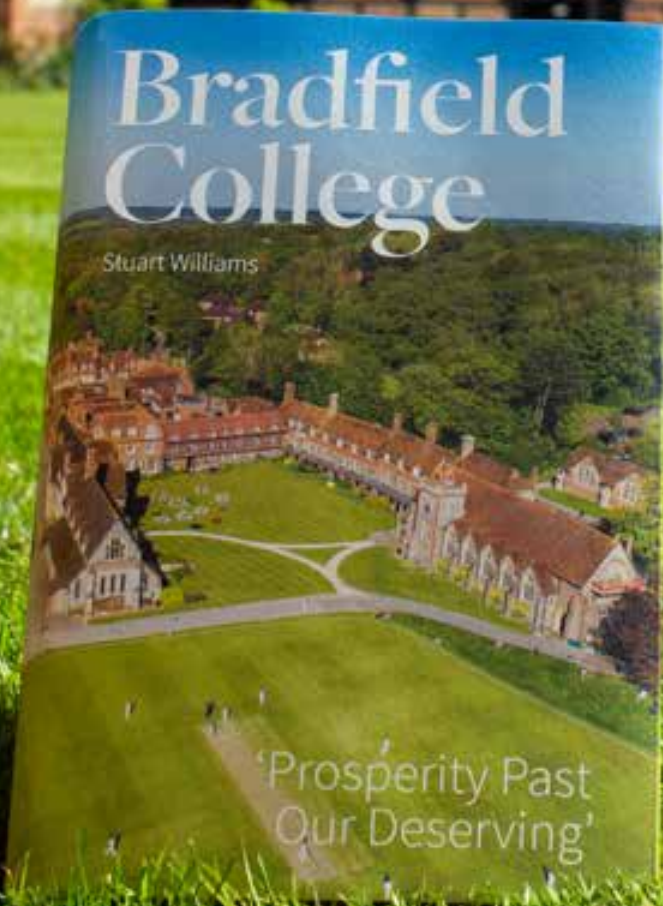


A huge thank you to all the professionals who attended and made the event a success. We look forward to hosting this event again next year.

If you are interested in supporting a future event of this nature or offering, for example, help with interviews and CV writing do consider being involved with our Horizons team. Please complete the Be Involved with Horizons form to register your interest and if you would like to chat with someone about the opportunities available please email horizons@bradfieldcollege.org.uk



'PROSPERITY PAST OUR DESERVING' THE LATEST HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE



The Bradfieldian interviews Stuart Williams, recently retired from the classroom and author of the latest history of the College. The book brings readers up to date on the last fifty years of Bradfield's history as well as re-examining and interpreting the work of previous histories by Blackie and Leach. Be prepared for a classically understated pitch...

My first point of enquiry was the title, 'prosperity past our deserving': it seems very humble, self-deprecating and not remotely 'salesy'. Stuart agreed. The line is taken from the College hymn, written by Dr Gray, one with a tune that for him is very emotionally charged and the quoted line speaks to Stuart of Bradfield's wonderful ability to survive against the odds.

30 years after the founding of the College, Rev Thomas Stevens, Bradfield's warden and squire of the Manor of Bradfield, went bankrupt. Leaving immense debts, the trustees appointed Gray as both Warden and Headmaster, saddling him with the burden of responsibility for those debts. Somehow, Gray secured the College safe passage for his 30-year tenure and gave Bradfield a nationally significant reputation. Even so, economic insecurity persisted right up to the arrival of Quick in the 1970s.

My suggestions of analogies with 'who dares wins' and 'fortune favours the brave' were quickly dismissed by Stuart: in his opinion when things happen against the odds there should be a sense that it is somewhat undeserved, hence he believes his subtitle apposite. He did, however, add that Bradfield had deliberately become much more adventurous than most schools in the latter years of the twentieth century, particularly in the way that it was prepared to engage in borrowing and embrace the risk of debt in order to reposition the school.

“IT HAS BEEN A BOLD SCHOOL AND I THINK THAT THE BOLDNESS HAS PAID OFF”

In researching the book, it became apparent to Stuart that there was a lot to say that went beyond events in the history of Bradfield. In particular, when he started thinking about the Founder's intent his interpretation parted company with that of Blackie and Leach, authors of the previous histories. When reading with 20th or 21st

century eyes that the school was founded 'to make loving sons of the Church of England' we understand this as being about religion and religious instruction. Stuart however takes this to refer to Stevens' commitment to the sort of nation he believed that England should be. Leach and Blackie attack the view that Stevens was interested in the ritualist side of the Church of England and underplay his interest in the Oxford Movement. However, Stuart believes that Stevens' interest lay in the other side of the Oxford Movement – in its assertion of the independence of the Church from the State and hence a key theme in the book is the independence of the College from the State.

It was important to Stevens that Bradfield had an independent educational philosophy and that wish has been repeatedly revived. Not wanting to overstate Bradfield's case, not least because the College is renowned for being understated, Stuart believes that Bradfield is quite an important school because of this insistent tradition of independence.

Bradfield's determination to not follow the crowd has been manifest throughout its history, not least when doing something unique when compared to other independent boarding schools; the Greek Play and Faulkner's present immediately obvious examples of this. Stuart also explores the idea of boarding school as 'total institution', aiming to mould young people into a 'type'. For him, Bradfield has always had the reverse approach. Where other institutions might seek to emphasise cohesion and marginalise difference, Bradfield has increasingly held individuality aloft and celebrated it.



In writing the book Stuart feels that he clarified his thoughts on of the purpose of education, on what it should aim to achieve and what schools like Bradfield should aim to be. Although the book is about Bradfield, it is also about the value of a distinct type of education that exists in the British Isles – the independent boarding school – which, if allowed to continue unstifled, has a lot to contribute to the way that our national life might be enriched.

One of Stuart's concerns is that education, as it has evolved in the last 30 years, has become about 'delivery of the curriculum', in his view a rather Orwellian understanding of education, obsessed by instruction, examination, measurement and testing. When he reflects on what he learned at school, he finds he has used almost nothing of what he was tested on in his final exams; 'What mattered in my education was that I learned how to think and to do things for myself.'

“THE GREAT BENEFIT OF SCHOOLS LIKE BRADFIELD IS THAT THEY ARE STILL FREE IN MANY WAYS TO DEPART FROM THE STRICTURES OF THE STATE; EXCITINGLY, THE NEW FAULKNER'S CURRICULUM IS CLEARLY TRYING TO SAY SOMETHING FRESH ABOUT WHAT A 13 YEAR OLD SHOULD BE LEARNING ,”

So far, so fascinating. How would Stuart recommend that a reader should approach his book? Not cover to cover was his reply, whilst suggesting that this might be an excellent cure for insomnia or cause of insomnia, depending on your disposition. The book was written as something to 'dip into'.

Whereas Blackie deals with sport, for example, in a few paragraphs under each successive Headmaster, Stuart has collated topics and this allows readers to fast forward to the areas of the book that interest them whether that be sport, co-education, Faulkner's or overseas engagement. The comprehensive index enables readers to pick up key themes of the last 50 years quite easily. If, on the other hand, you are interested in the things that Headmasters do with their days, there is a historical narrative on that and, if you have particular heroes and villains, you could start on their chapters and work your way into the book from there.

Pushed to move onto something that approached being 'a sell', Stuart mentioned the significance of the 30 images included in the book. He is delighted with them but can take no credit – they are the work of Steve Wallace, former Editor of the Bradfieldian.



“THE PICTURES CAPTURE THE QUINTESSENCE OF BRADFIELD WHICH, ARGUABLY, IS ULTIMATELY GEOGRAPHICAL RATHER THAN PHILOSOPHICAL ,”

Stuart suggests that there is something extraordinary about how the appearance of the school and its hinterland remains almost entirely nineteenth century even though 'it is only eight miles from Reading and two and a half miles from the M4'. Its preservation is a miracle and, part of Bradfield's DNA, an aspect of the 'prosperity past our deserving'...

When he arrived at Bradfield in the 1990s, Stuart had a life plan to stay only for three years, 'at that time I was much more delighted by the setting I found the school in rather than the school that I found in the setting'. However, since then College has moved in the direction that he would have wished, with a steady trajectory towards academic excellence and he is glad that he changed his initial plan. Due to this, he appreciates the synchronicity of this history being launched alongside the opening of the St Andrew's Study Centre for he sees this not only as a nod towards the creation of history for the next 50 plus years of Bradfield but as an important statement of vital educational purpose.

He ends our conversation by referring back to the title potentially underselling the College story: he believes this to be reflective of Bradfield's approach.

“A SCHOOL THAT HAS HISTORICALLY UNDERSOLD ITSELF, BRADFIELD IS IN MANY WAYS A HIDDEN GEM AND IN MANY WAYS THE HIDDEN GEMS ARE THE BEST ,”



So I think you might agree that despite his best efforts Stuart is indeed the master of the inadvertent sale. Now how can you resist that kind of non-sales pitch?

Bradfield College: Prosperity Past our Deserving is available to purchase in the Bradfield Society online shop



BRADFIELD
COLLEGE
1850 175 2025

CREATING A YEAR TO REMEMBER

2025 heralds our 175th anniversary and we look forward to celebrating this milestone fittingly by paying tribute to the rich history of Bradfield, recognising the achievements of Bradfield today as well as looking forward to the Bradfield of the next 175 years.

In the Spring we will officially unveil a timeline detailing the key achievements in the College history that will run the length of Bloods Corridor as well as information boards providing historical facts on key features in the College grounds such as the Greek Theatre, the Sunken Garden and St Andrew's Study Centre. For those interested in learning more about the College's history Stuart Williams book, 'Bradfield College: Prosperity Past our Deserving' is a great way to start, read the book review on page 60.

As the Summer ushers in hopefully clement weather we will also be warmly encouraging the Bradfield community to visit the College with a series of events, detailed timings to follow;

Sunday 1 June - National Gardens Scheme Open Day at Bradfield – Wander around the beautifully maintained grounds at Bradfield and enjoy coffee and a slice of cake – entry fee applies - *Members of the Public*

Saturday 21 June – Summer Bradfield Day – Step back into Bradfield and enjoy a series of exhibitions around the College followed by a matinee performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* - *Alumni and Friends of the College*

Thursday 26 June – 175 Gala – An evening to celebrate the extraordinary talent of Bradfieldians across the generations in the Greek Theatre - *All members of the Bradfield Society*

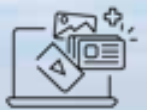
SHARE YOUR MEMORIES OF BRADFIELD

What do you remember about your time at Bradfield? Was it playing cricket on Pit, performing in the Greek Theatre... Or even racing a hovercraft on Hill 2?

We would love to hear your stories and will collate them to share with other members of the Bradfield community as part of our celebration of 175 years of Bradfield.

As we explore Bradfield's philanthropic founding principles, we would especially love to hear the stories of former scholars and bursary recipients.

If you would like to share your story please email bradfieldsociety@bradfieldcollege.org.uk



175 years supporting 'Bright Futures': THE HISTORY OF SCHOLARSHIPS, EXHIBITIONS AND BURSARIES AT BRADFIELD

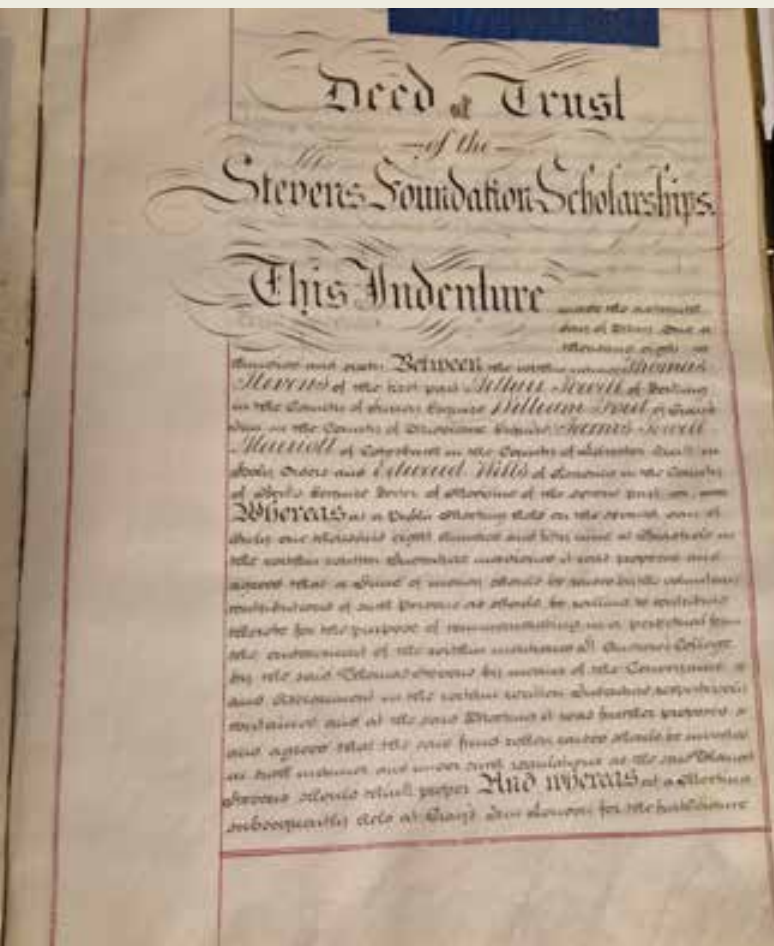


The Junior Section of the Upper Sixth Form

Showing a corner of the Library, in which the boys of this form do their work. The Restoration Library, so called because it was inaugurated by Mr. Bosworth, Rector of Sturbeck in 1674, contains mainly books of reference and more advanced literature, the lighter works being kept in the separate house libraries.

As we approach the 175th Anniversary of Bradfield College, Stuart Williams, author of 'Bradfield College: Prosperity Past our Deserving', takes a look back at the College's philanthropic foundations which offered talented young people, irrespective of family background, the opportunity of a transformational Bradfield education.

'The altruistic ambitions of the College have been present since its foundation in 1850. The original Statutes, annexed to the Charter of 1862, specify 'certain free boys' as constituent elements of the Foundation (in the same paragraph as the one requiring appointment of a Warden, Head Master and Organist). 14 of these Statutes indicated that these free boys, 'Founder's Boys' as they were called, should be sixteen in number but permitted a reduction in the headcount if the number of fee-paying pupils fell below 150. Furthermore, 15 provided for an additional 'Simonds' Scholar' who, like the Founders' Boys had to be 'either Fatherless or the son of some poor Gentleman or Clergyman'. This paragraph also specified two 'Simonds' Exhibitioners', who were either related 'by blood' to Blackall Simonds or 'sons of commissioned officers in Her Majesty's Navy or Army'.



There were further developments after World War I. In July 1917, more than a year before the end of hostilities, a general meeting of Old Bradfieldians began an appeal to fund 'a Memorial of the Great War and a tribute to the memory of the fallen'. A Circular was issued, resolving that 'the first object of the Fund was to find Scholarships for the sons of past members of the School who have fallen in the War' and, in October 1921, Council formally resolved that it would 'undertake the duty of providing Scholarships per the terms of the Circular'. In consequence, with pupil numbers averaging about 350 during the 1920s, it was taken as an absolute that any sons of those killed would receive significant financial assistance and this would be given in addition to the support the College was statutorily required to give the seventeen boys educated without charge (and the two exhibitioners educated at half cost).

When the Second World War ended, education in England was changed beyond recognition. The 1944 Education Act established free County grammar schools and in 1947 secondary education was required for all children up to their fifteenth birthday. By then, the College Statutes were almost a hundred years old and, in 1956, their reform was overdue. The eventual overhaul was substantial and provision for the non-discretionary support of pupils became less generous: 20 provided for Foundation Scholarships of 'not less than £100 p.a, about £3130 p.a. in today's money; 21 specified Exhibitions valued at no less than £30 p.a. The old requirement for a Simonds Scholar, 'either fatherless or the son of some poor gentleman or clergyman', was sustained but the level of support reduced to £100 p.a. and the associated Simonds' Exhibitions dropped in value to £30 p.a.

Even so, an important point of principle remained firmly in place: that was that the provision of financial support to some pupils of the college was not a matter for the Headmaster's discretion or Council's strategic expedience, but a clear-cut requirement of the Bradfield Statutes. Therefore the College's provision of bursarial support to pupils in every generation is a fundamental part of the Bradfield DNA and a school occupying the site in West Berkshire could never properly claim to be 'Saint Andrew's College, Bradfield' were it not structurally committed to a policy of fee remissions to talented and deserving pupils without the financial means to benefit from a Bradfield education.

RECEIVING A BRADFIELD BURSARY IN THE 1980S

'I flourished in the Classical subjects, principally with Dr Stace for Latin and Mr Norwood for Greek. The three-yearly cycle gave me one opportunity to appear in a Greek play as a chorus member in *Antigone* (1985). We were so comprehensively drilled I can still rattle off many of the lines and I'm pretty sure that my recitation



of the Parodos from *Antigone* was instrumental in the offer of a place to read Classics at Cambridge!

For me, the most enriching and nurturing aspects of College life were the numerous clubs and societies, which provided a platform for engaging with ideas and culture as well as developing confidence in presenting in front of others. The energy and generosity of Dr Stace (The Club, Classical Society), Mr Read Wilson (Remove Club, Freelance), Mr Burgess (Parnassus, Bridge Club), Mr Farrar-Bell (Christian Union), Mr Whiffin (Junior Debating Society) and Mr Porter (Barry Society) were exceptional in broadening the horizons of this otherwise insular individual.

My first-ever experiences of going abroad were the Choir tours to the Netherlands (1984) and Germany (1986). Mr Harding exuded a passion for music that was infectious and singing in choirs has continued to bring me great pleasure through most of my adult life.

Without the award it would not have been viable for my parents to send to Bradfield, I am enormously grateful for my time at the College and how it shaped my direction in later life.

You may leave Bradfield, but Bradfield never leaves you!



*Andrew Wilson (A 83-87),
Bradfield Scholarship and Bursary recipient*

BRIGHT FUTURES BURSARY CAMPAIGN

True to our Founders' beliefs, Bradfield continues to support 10% of pupils with a means-tested bursary today. Furthermore, nearly half of our Bursary Award holders receive a life-changing 85% plus bursaries. With the imposition of VAT on private school fees threatening to create an even greater social divide across the education sector, it is even more important than ever to ensure we continue this provision.

As Bradfield College doesn't benefit from an Endowment Fund, our Bursary provision is heavily supported by our Bright Futures Bursary Fund made up of legacies, donations from charitable trusts, regular giving and one-off gifts from our generous Bradfield community: Alumni, parents and former parents and friends.

If you are in a position to help and would like to know more about our Bright Futures Bursary Fund, please contact our Philanthropy Lead Kirsty Perkinson on kperkinson@bradfieldcollege.org.uk or to make a donation directly visit www.bradfieldcollege.org.uk/bradfield-for-life/bright-futures

WILL BRAY (H 14-19): WORKING IN 'A CAREER OF THE FUTURE'



Early in my time at Bradfield I vividly remember sitting alongside my parents in the Music School listening to a talk by Dr Christopher Stevens in which he explained that his challenge as a Headmaster was to prepare Bradfieldians for 'the careers of the future', jobs which most likely hadn't yet been created.

Fast forward ten years and I work for Campus-XR, an education platform using Virtual Reality (VR) and Artificial Intelligence (AI), concepts that I certainly had not heard of then, so it's safe to say my current job would have been hard to predict. Bradfield however prepared me well to make the most out of the opportunities presented to me. Here's my journey towards joining Campus-XR...

“I WAS SUPER EXCITED TO START AT BRADFIELD BUT LITTLE DID I KNOW HOW AMAZING AND TRANSFORMATIVE THE NEXT FIVE YEARS WOULD BE ”

Right from the outset I was keen to be involved with as much as possible at Bradfield and I stuck with that mantra all the way through which made life quite busy! GCSEs went by in a flash and for Sixth Form I opted to take the International Baccalaureate so that I could continue with a range of topics and chose Higher Level Biology Economics and Geography and Standard Level Spanish, Maths and English.

I really enjoyed the co-curricular side of Bradfield, particular highlights including my Gold DoFEx expedition with Mr Beith where I was part of a good group which chose to take a detour to incorporate climbing Snowdon into our walking route just for the fun of it. I played the saxophone and loved the opportunity to perform alongside talented performers like Tom Houston (F 15-20), Elise Golding (K 15-20), Kwaku Akonnor (C 17-19) and Raff Burrowes (G 14-19) at memorable events like 'Jazz on a Summer's Evening'.

Some of my best memories of Bradfield however had football at their core and played a huge part in my enjoyment and development at the College. Then 1st XI Coach Luke Webb created a programme that focused on developing each player on and off the pitch and regularly referred to the parallels between football and business.

“ I LOVED FOOTBALL AT BRADFIELD, NOT ONLY FOR THE SPORT BUT LEARNING HOW TO ADOPT THE RIGHT MINDSET, HOW TO DEAL WITH SETBACKS AND BOUNCE BACK ”

My football career at Bradfield led me to reach striker for the College’s 1st XI football team, the first Bradfield team to win the ISFA cup trophy in 2018. The memory that brings back the biggest smile however was scoring a second-half hat-trick against Charterhouse to win 6-1 after being 1-0 down at halftime and securing us the League title on goal difference.

My journey with VR started with football. During my time as the striker, Trevor Benstock, Director of IT and Founder of Campus-XR, helped the 1st XI with player development in his free time. I had a particular challenge with heading the football and having worked with me a little bit Trevor said that he had an idea.

He asked me to come down to the IT department one afternoon and, placing a VR headset in my hands, my training started. I was sceptical about how a virtual experience could translate into on-pitch improvement however the VR environment that Trevor had created was perfect. The graphics simulated a football coming towards me which allowed me to practise my timing, movement and jumping for headers.

“ TRAINING WITH VR MEANT THAT I COULD REPEATEDLY PRACTISE HEADING A FOOTBALL IN A WAY THAT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE IN REALITY AND OF COURSE WITH NONE OF THE NEGATIVE SIDE-EFFECTS WE ARE NOW DISCOVERING ”

The outcome of the VR training was that my confidence on the pitch increased massively and I was much better at scoring goals with my head! This was my first insight into the power of virtual reality to enhance educational outcomes.

Five years then passed. I went to the University of Exeter to study BSc Business and Management where I succeeded in achieving 1st Class Honours with an academic commendation and a proficiency in entrepreneurship, followed by a course in Venture Finance at Oxford University’s Saïd Business School.

Meanwhile, Trevor had been busy developing the product that is now known as Campus-XR, an educational platform designed to enhance student learning through VR and AI. When Trevor introduced me to Campus-XR in 2023, I was blown away by the immersive and interactive worlds he had created. I realised how valuable this platform would be for student engagement and enjoyment and knew I had to be part of this journey.

I joined the team a few weeks later, keen to embrace the mission to share the opportunity to use this cutting-edge technology with students all over the world. I have no doubt that access to Campus-XR will have a transformative effect on education.

In the Campus-XR team I am Investment and Engagement Lead. My role involves actively pitching to investors as we raise the ‘Enterprise Investment Scheme’ (EIS) funding necessary to expand our team and increase our market share of UK schools adopting Campus-XR. Additionally, I engage directly with schools, providing demonstrations and selling our subscription-based service.

“ THE RESPONSE FROM SCHOOLS HAS BEEN INCREDIBLE, MANY DESCRIBING OUR PRODUCT AS ‘GAME CHANGING’ FOR EDUCATION AND PUPIL ENGAGEMENT ”

It is amazing to be part of such an exciting company at the forefront of technology. I am particularly proud to provide both independent and state school students with a learning experience I would have loved to have had when I was in school.

The support given to the development of Campus-XR by the College highlights the forward-thinking nature of Bradfield and its commitment to the Headmaster’s words ten years ago.



ANNUAL BRADFIELDIAN LONDON LUNCH 2024



On Friday 17 May 2024 we hosted our sixth Bradfieldian London Lunch, returning to the Lansdowne Club in Mayfair.

We had a range of Bradfieldians spanning over 70 years of the College's history on the guest list which included those who left in the Class of 1950 including Chris Lee (G 45-50) and John Nott (B 46-50) alongside some of the most recent leavers being Marshall Scott (G 17-19), Will Bray (H 14-19), Harvey de Meester (H 15-18) and his brother Chester de Meester (H 12-17) who also happen to be the grandsons of George Burne (A 48-53).

Guests came from overseas too. Bradfieldians Michael Devitt (A 52-57) known as Michael Chapman whilst at Bradfield and Robin Elliott (B 54-59) usually live

in the USA and Pete Jones (F 93-98) and Johanna Lindström (M 14-16) both live in Germany. David Cook (E 55-60) and Tim Sills (D 55-60) left Bradfield in 1960 and others from the 1960s included James Wyatt (G 58-63), Raoul Pinnell (C 65-69) and Crispian Cartright (C 65-70).

This year we also had a group of girls from the Class of 1992 using the lunch as a 1992 reunion from Palmer House. Organised by Olivia Garran (I 90-92), the group included Paula Oppenheimer (nee White), Michelle Giles (nee Fischer) and Henny Swan. Also on the same table Will Dixon (C 86-91) and Hannah Greatrex (nee Iredale) (I 89-91) who had not been to the lunch before and Yaser Martini (C 84-88) who returned with friends Alec Cramsie (C 83-88) and Jonathan Hassell (C 84-88).

It was great to see many of last year's Class of 1987 reunion back at the lunch again including Timothy

Walton (F 82-87), Andrew Walwyn (B 82-87), Christopher Bailey (F 82-87), Tom Mallinson (A 82-87) and James Hart (D 82-87). They are looking for even more of their year group to get together next year.

“WE THOROUGHLY ENJOYED THE LUNCH, THANK YOU FOR PUTTING US ON EXCELLENT TABLES WITH GREAT COMPANY ”

Several members of current College staff hosted tables including Head of Business Mike Rippon, Director of Co-Curricular Roger Wall and Teacher of Geography Roger Keeley, alongside the Bradfield Society team and the Headmaster.

Everyone enjoyed pre-lunch drinks followed by a three-course meal in the Lansdowne Club's Grade 2 Listed Ballroom. The lunch was followed by an update from the Headmaster on the school and its pupils focussing on the key themes of Bradfield beginning with the letter H including: Happiness, History and Humility.

After lunch, Will Bray who joined the Campus-XR team as Engagement and Investment Lead led a demonstration of the Campus-XR product, an offer that was eagerly taken up by Tom Robertson (F 95-00) among others. Nick Finegold (E 79-83) who also attended the lunch is a generous advocate of this project. See Will Bray (H 14-19) 'Working in a career of the future' in this edition, page 66.



ALICE MASQUELIER PAGE (I 15-20): VOLUNTEERING FOR OSCAR IN INDIA

When I boarded the plane to India, I was filled with a mix of excitement and apprehension. As a volunteer with the OSCAR Foundation, I was ready to assist with football sessions and educational programs. Still, I had no idea how profoundly this experience would change my perspective on life and happiness.

My journey began in Mumbai, a city that pulsates with an energy like no other. Homes are so compact that they fit together like puzzle pieces and the streets are alive with a symphony of car horns, road vendors and laughter. My days were spent between the learning centres in the community, the OSCAR office and the football pitches. Although the days were tiring and the temperature almost unbearable, the children's boundless enthusiasm and infectious smiles made every moment worthwhile.

I was struck by the stark contrasts in Mumbai between the towering (literally) affluence and the poignant poverty coexisting side by side. Initially, it was overwhelming and made me acutely aware of my own privileged upbringing. I felt a sense of guilt as if my comfortable life was somehow unjust in the face of such hardship. As time passed, I realised that despite having so little these children exuded a happiness that was pure and untainted by materialism. They taught me that joy can be found in the simplest things, a game of football or a new song learned.

From the bustling city, I travelled to the rural landscapes of Karnataka. The village with its endless fields and serene atmosphere felt like a different world altogether. Life here moved at a slower pace and the community was so tightly knit.



My mornings began with the crowing of roosters and the smell of freshly cooked chapatis. The hospitality of the villagers was overwhelming; they welcomed me into their homes and hearts, offering everything they had, even if it was just a cup of chai. The five days I spent in Karnataka gave me an authentic experience of the villagers' daily lives. I stayed at Govind's family home, hosted by his mummy who treated me like royalty, where we would share laughs in the evening over home-cooked meals traditionally eaten while sitting on the floor and discuss our night's sleep the following morning given that sleeping on the floor was a new experience for me!

I visited several villages and engaged in football sessions with the local children. These interactions, though modest, were profound. Their eagerness to learn and their excitement for football showed their true spirit.

In Karnataka, I learned the true meaning of generosity. These villagers, despite their limited resources, were always willing to share. It wasn't the value of what they gave but the heart with which they gave it which forced me to reconsider the true meaning of happiness and wealth.

My final stop was Daman, a smaller city by the beach, known for its manufacturing industry and the latest OSCAR project site. This newest project is primarily set

up for those children whose parents are factory workers, providing a chance at a more prosperous life by integrating education with sport. It was clear that the sessions were a hit as I visited the communities and witnessed the children eagerly waiting until the next time they would play. Like those children in Mumbai and Karnataka the children here taught me invaluable lessons. My journey with the OSCAR Foundation was more than just a volunteer trip; it was a profound learning experience. The kindness and generosity of the people I met was humbling. Despite having so little, they gave so much. They taught me that happiness is not a product of material wealth but human connection and simple joys. I learned to let go of my guilt and instead embrace mindfulness; to be aware of my privileges but not burdened by them, to use them to make a difference.

The most important lesson I learned is that those with the least are often the most willing to share and that happiness comes from the heart. This trip changed me in ways I could never have imagined, reminding me that true wealth lies in generosity and simplicity.

As I reflect on my time in India, I carry with me the warmth and kindness of the people, the lessons learned from the children and a renewed appreciation for life. My heart is fuller, my perspective broader and my commitment to giving back is stronger.



Former Head Girl, Alice first became involved with the OSCAR Foundation in 2017 when she was recruited at Bradfield as an OSCAR Young Leader and was instrumental in hosting the OSCAR girls in 2018. OSCAR eagerly encourages other Bradfieldians to join their volunteer programme. Take a look at the OSCAR volunteering in India webpage to find out more and if you are interested please contact lucinda@oscar-foundation.org





A SUMMER OF OLD BRADFIELDIAN CRICKETING SUCCESS

*Back Row L-R: Stuart Seymour, Ben Wyatt, Michael Silcock, Nigel Ward, James Grant, Peter Came
Front Row L-R: Hugo Norman, Simon Gammell, Will Kendall, James Kendall, Will Oscroft*

In what has been a truly memorable summer of cricket for Old Bradfieldians, Peter Came (D 77-81) talks through activities at the crease as well as his life-long passion for Bradfield cricket.

Both matches are friendlies over two days and the sides enjoy Black Tie dinners hosted at the College on the first night of the matches. This year Pelsham won by six wickets but the Waifs matched the Free Foresters in a draw. We see the matches as a great opportunity to introduce younger players into our ranks with this year's sides including Ted Brown (E 18-23), Henry Knight (G 18-23), Arthur Monk (G 18-23), Monty McKenzie (F 17-22), Zac Wilkinson (H 20-22), Jake Nichols (C 16-21),

Finn Brabham (A 13-18), Charlie Gwynn (F 12-17), Sacha Sandelson (D 17-22).

WAIFS WIN THE DOUBLE: CRICKETER CUP AND THE OVER FIFTIES CUP

CRICKETER CUP

The Waifs continue to shine in the main Cricketer Cup competition. In the first match we played Monmouth School, their first year in the

WAIFS WEEK

The OB Cricket Club, affectionately known as the Waifs play fixtures through the summer, usually at home on Pit, however 'Waif's Week' is undoubtedly the highlight of the season for the club. The team are incredibly grateful to be able to return to Bradfield annually and play on 'the most beautiful cricket pitch in the country'. The first match played is a longstanding fixture against Pelsham that has taken place for the last 95 years and the second a relative newcomer instigated in the early 1970s against the Free Foresters.



*Back Row L-R: Brabham, Gwynn, McKenzie, Bransgrove, Darby, Keyes, Sheldon
Front Row L-R: Gumbs, Ettridge, Gumbs, Birts, MacEwen*

competition. Both Harry Came (D 12-16) and Hugo Darby (C 18-23) made runs and Charlie Gwynn (F 12-17) took 6 wickets for 17 runs, the best figures of a Bradfield Waif in the Cricketer Cup competition. On 30 June the Waifs played Bedford College in the second round on Pit, winning the match with Sheridon Gumbs (D 17-22) hitting a century. In the Quarter Final the team faced Malvern, in Worcestershire. Malvern have been the most successful team in the competition in recent years, but Harry Came's 90, supported by 50s from Hugo Darby and Joe Sheldon enabled them to chase down the target with 6 overs to spare. Monty McKenzie (2-19) was the pick of the bowlers but the spinners all performed to limit Malvern to 234. Following this success, the Waifs then went on to beat the Charterhouse Friars at Charterhouse in the Semi Final which led them to face the Old Tonbridgians at Arundel Castle in the final on Sunday 11th August.

'I am thrilled to let you know that the Waifs beat Tonbridge in the Cricket Cup final. It was an excellent match. Tonbridge won the toss and elected to bat on a wicket that had quite a bit of grass on it.

Tonbridge posted 194 all out. Wickets fell steadily throughout, with only one partnership of note; Charlie Gwynn and Finn Brabham picked up 3 wickets each.

The Waifs started the chase well staying ahead of the required rate, but lost wickets in regular intervals. The Waifs old guard may argue that there were a few too many reverse sweeps. Crofton Keyes and Charlie Gwynn had good partnership before Tom Ettridge (Man of the Match) came in to hit the winning runs with a 4.'

Mark Taylor (F 77-82)

OVER FIFTIES CRICKETER CUP

The Cricketer Cup wanted to give 'the old and bold' an opportunity to play and approached five schools to participate. In the first match Bradfield were drawn against Winchester and managed to chase 180 odd and won, the second match versus the Eton Ramblers was tougher but Bradfield still prevailed. In the final on 21 July at Bradfield the Waifs went on to win the inaugural Over 50s Cricketer Cup versus the Oundle Rovers who posted a good score of 187-5. Bradfield won by 5 wickets with former Hampshire batsman Will Kendall making 67. With more teams keen to participate in 2025 the Waifs can look forward to defending their trophy next year. Congratulations to the winning side of Peter Came, Michael Silcock (G 77-82), Will Kendall (A 87-92) *Captain*, Stuart Seymour (F 87-92), Nigel Ward (G 71-76), James Kendall (A 85-90), James Grant (G 80-85), Will Oscroft (A 83-88), Hugo Norman (B 79-84), Simon Gammell (H 82-86), Ben Wyatt (A 85-90).

Full information on both competitions is available on The Cricketer Cup webpage.



Tom collects his award as Player of the Match - the first person to win the award twice in the final.



Sheridon with the Cricketer Cup. Bradfield have now won the trophy 5 times.



Distinguished Waifs enjoying the cricket from Pit Bank. From left: Peter Workman, Mark Taylor, Jumbo Fuller, Peter Came



A PITCHSIDE CHAT WITH PETER CAME (D 77-81)

The conversation started with Peter stating that cricket was the reason he was sent to Bradfield. His father had played for the Free Foresters against the Bradfield Waifs back in the sixties, 'If Peter wants to play cricket he needs to come to Bradfield, if he can't get runs there he won't get them anywhere'. So, Peter was duly sent to Bradfield on the basis that it was a good wicket!

Peter's father was in the military and after dropping him off at Bradfield on his first day of school he left the country to serve as the Defence Attache in Pakistan with his mother

for five years. Peter wryly jokes that he was incarcerated at Bradfield for that time, only seeing his parents at the end of each term when he would fly out to Pakistan for holidays though his mother would fly over to visit him during the summer and watch him play some cricket.

Peter remembers Bradfield as a tough environment, where Senior boys pretty much ran the Houses. He was grateful to play lots of sport which 'kept him out of trouble' and made up for his academic studies that did not motivate him, as he just longed to play cricket for England.

His father recommended that he join the Army, suggesting that otherwise he would never be able to provide a Bradfield education for his children. Sadly, Peter's parents died in his early 20s but the comment provided some strong motivation. Peter settled on a career in insurance and with some luck and a lot of hard work he managed to make a success of it and could afford to send his children, Harry (D 12-16) and Charlotte (M 18-25), to Bradfield.

Harry inherited Peter's love of cricket and Peter proudly shared that in 2015 as a 16 year old, in his second year in the boys' 1st XI, Harry broke the batting record set by Michael Mence (G 57-62) in 1962 of 1006 runs in the school term.

“ I JUST LOVE BRADFIELD, IN MANY WAYS I'VE NEVER REALLY LEFT. ”

Peter has been involved with the Waifs ever since leaving Bradfield, including 15 years as Secretary when Jumbo Fuller was President. He is very keen to encourage the youngsters leaving Bradfield to join and play for the Waifs. He was also delighted that the Bradfield girls' 1st XI had played at Lord's in the School's 100Ball Final and emphasized that they should not be sad about being narrowly defeated in their match:

“ THE TEAM PLAYED EXTREMELY WELL, IT WILL BE A GREAT EXPERIENCE ON WHICH TO LOOK BACK. I CERTAINLY TREASURE THE MEMORY OF THE GAME THAT I PLAYED AT LORD'S ”

Harry Came (D 11-16)

Harry is currently in the second of a three year contract with Derbyshire CC and made his first class hundred last summer. Peter is of course immensely proud of Harry, whom he describes as 'living his father's dream'.

Photo Credit: Derbyshire CC



OLD BRADFIELDIAN CRICKETERS.. WHO'S WHO..

Alongside the Waifs other Old Bradfieldian cricketers have been performing well; keep a look out for the following playing in the professional game:



Gus Atkinson (A 11-16)
Oval Invincibles, Surrey & England

Photo Credit: ECB



Lauren Bell (J 17-19)
Southern Brave, Southern Vipers & England

Photo Credit: ECB



Ryan Higgins (D 08-12)
London Spirit and Middlesex

Photo Credit: Ray Lawrence TGS Photography Ltd



Ava Lee (M 19-22)
Berkshire, Southern Vipers and England U19

Photo Credit: ECB



Zach Lion Cachet (D 17- 22)
Sussex

Photo Credit: Sussex Cricket



Poppy Tulloch (M 19-24)
Berkshire & Southern Vipers

Photo Credit: Roger Byrne Photography

If you are interested in joining or supporting the Waifs contact Club Secretary George Bryans (G 08-12) on george.bryans@hotmail.co.uk





MICHAEL SEYMOUR (H 54-60): A LIFE-LONG PASSION FOR REAL TENNIS

In May Michael once again represented Great Britain in the 2024 Over 80s Real Tennis World Championship, winning matches against Australia, the USA and The Rest of the World to retain the Munoz Trophy for GB, having won the previous biennial event in Paris 2022.

In the world Championship individual events the following week, Michael reached the finals of the World Over 80s Doubles played at Queen's Club, sadly to be beaten in 3 sets by a strong American pairing.

Michael's recent victories are impressive and come from playing for many years. During his career, spanning 5 decades, Michael has achieved 9 International caps and has played all over the world, including Paris, Hobart and Melbourne. Michael didn't discover Real Tennis until he left Bradfield where he had excelled at Fives and went on to achieve a blue at Cambridge in Fives.

So why Real Tennis? Real Tennis is the original form of Tennis, probably originating in Southwest France, although also originally played in Italy and Spain. It was played by many royal families, including of course Henry VIII and Charles I of England, James V of Scotland, Francis I and Henry II of France and William of Orange. At one point, there were 200 courts in Paris alone. Cardinal Wolsey had a court next door to Henry VIII.

This article was co-written with Michael and we were very sad to learn of his passing just before this edition went to print.



Most players who play both Real Tennis and its later version, Lawn Tennis, will say that Real Tennis is by far the better and most interesting sport of the two. Played at professional level, the standards are incredible. Real Tennis also has the advantage that it is a sport that can be taken up in middle age and still played competitively courtesy of an effective handicapping system.

Edward Fairbairn (SCR 82-02) and David Barnes (SCR 67-92) introduced many Bradfieldians to the sport in former years. Charlie Billington (H 93-98) is probably the best player Bradfield has produced and won a blue at Cambridge. In the collation of material for this article we have discovered that there are more Old Bradfieldian Real Tennis players out there...

There is a public school alumni Real Tennis tournament with competitors from Radley, Wellington, Eton, Harrow, The Oratory and others and Michael is keen that Old Bradfieldians should include a team to enter. **If you play Real Tennis and would be interested in meeting other Old Bradfieldians who play, email The Bradfield Society on bradfieldsociety@bradfieldcollege.org.uk and we will put you in contact.**



GIVE IT YOUR MAX TENNIS

Blessed with sunshine after what were a few unseasonably cold weeks the Bradfield College Clay Courts provided a great location for this year's 'Give It Your Max' Mixed Doubles Tennis Tournament organised by the Bradfield Society.

It was a friendly morning of short matches with everyone playing five games in a Round-Robin format against all pairs in the Group, followed by a Semi-Final and a Final.

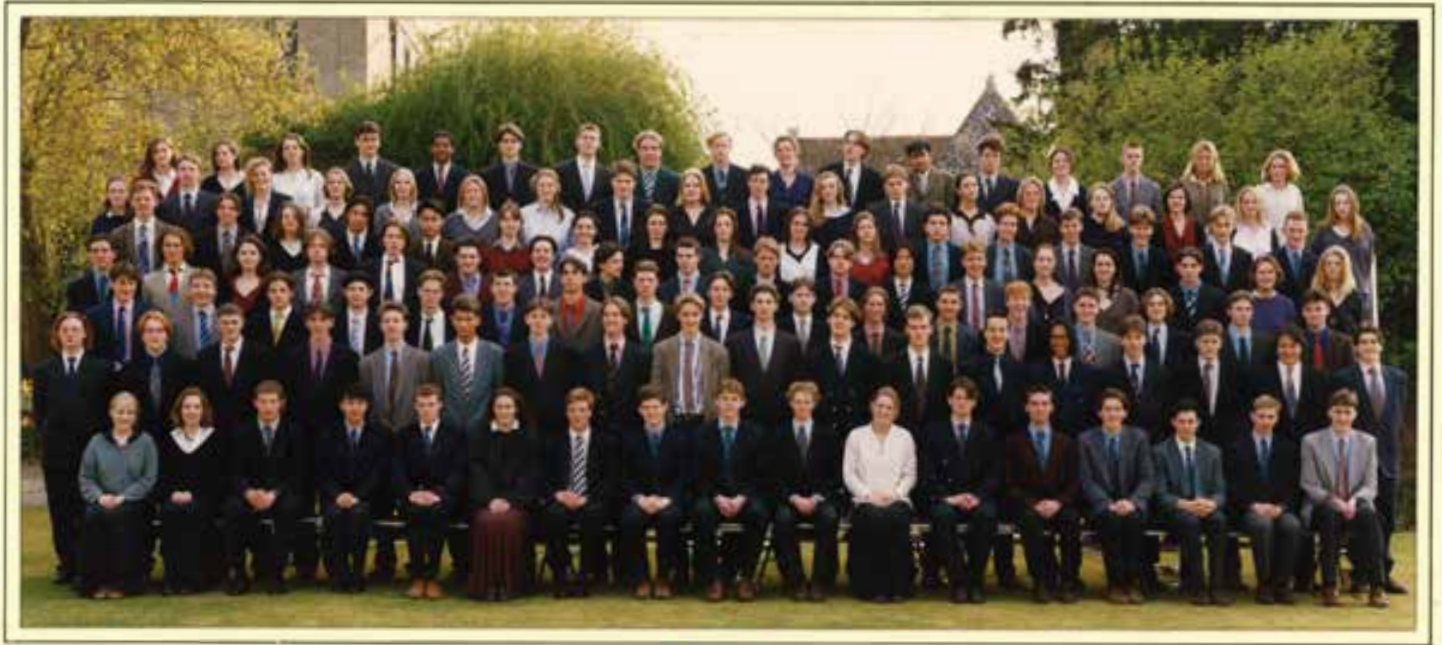
Pairs playing included Old Bradfieldians Sam Berry (E 06-11), Christian Ward (F 15-17) parents and pupils and even youngsters who play at the Bradfield College Tennis Centre.

The runners-up this year were Bradfieldian Stephen Bale (B 84-89) and his wife Suada joining us for the second time in the tournament and the winners were Noah, son of Anna Moss-Gibbons (I 95-97), and his partner Veronika. Both Noah and Veronika play regularly and are coached at the Bradfield College Tennis Centre and at only 12 years of age are very talented players. Prizes at the end of the tournament were presented by Michael Stotesbury (E 56-60) who set up the charity in memory of his son Max.

Thank you to everyone who signed up and played and who donated to Give It Your Max (GIYM). We raised £345 for the charity.

Many thanks also to everyone who brought along their old tennis racquets which will be refurbished by the charity and shared with disadvantaged children learning to play tennis. If you would like to support this worthwhile initiative please hand in your old racquets to the Bradfield Tennis Centre for collection by GIYM.

CLASS OF 1994 RETURN TO BRADFIELD FOR THEIR THIRTY YEAR REUNION



William J. Hamer
©1994

Saturday 1 June 2024 was a special day for the 'Class of 94' as 54 of them descended on Bradfield, many returning for the first time since leaving. The reunion started at 4:30pm with tours of the College campus which was a great way for attendees to start to re-ignite old memories and see what has changed in the intervening time – quite a lot as it turns out.

The tour was followed by a drinks reception outside the newly opened St Andrew's Study Centre hosted by the Bradfield Society and two 'alumni in residence' Jonny Saunders (F 88-93), Housemaster in Stone (E) House and Phil Clegg (H 82-86), Head of Sixth Form.

After drinks celebrations continued into the evening as the party moved to The Old Boot Inn in Stanford Dingley for supper.

This reunion was the idea of Tim Dellor and co-organised by Will Garner (A 89-94) and Tammy Penny nee Blackmore (I 92-94).

“WE ARE A VERY TIGHT-KNIT YEAR GROUP AND TO GET HALF OF US BACK TO BRADFIELD 30 YEARS AFTER LEAVING IS TESTAMENT TO THAT ”

Tim Dellor (G 89-94)



If your year group is coming up to a special anniversary and you would like to organise a reunion do reach out to the Bradfield Society on bradfieldsociety@bradfieldcollege.org.uk and they will help you to coordinate your event.



PETER SMITH (HEAD MASTER 85-03): SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

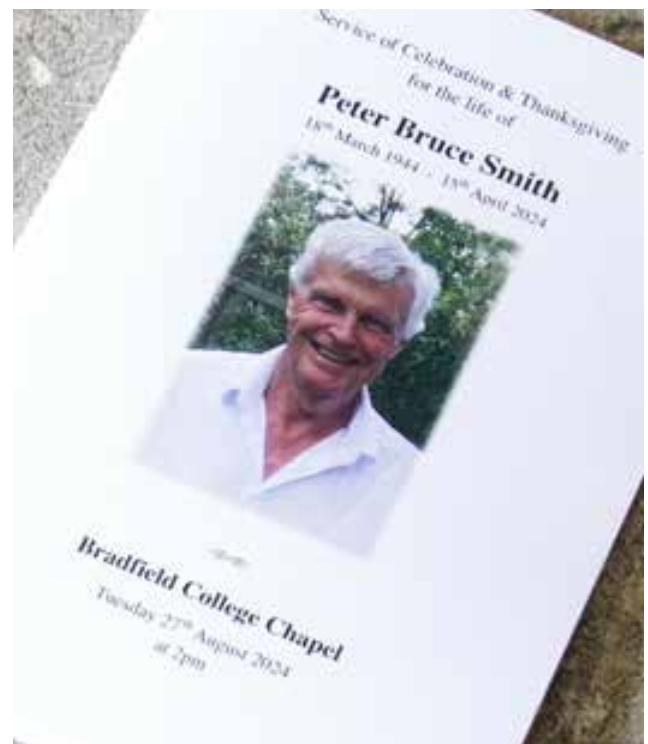
At 2pm on Tuesday 27 August 2024, the College bell rang out across Quad and into the Bradfield College Chapel where pews were filled for the start of a Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving for the life of former Head Master Peter Smith.

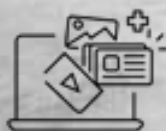
Bradfield College Chaplain Peter Hansell warmly welcomed all those gathered on behalf of the Warden, Council and Headmaster before introducing former College Chaplain Cathy Pynn (SCR 00-06) who led the service. Reflective of the esteem in which Peter was held and the wide-ranging nature of his career, the service was interspersed with speakers each talking about different aspects of his life. These included Stuart Williams (SCR) who spoke of Peter's time as Headmaster at Bradfield and former Housemaster Chris Saunders who spoke of Peter as a friend.



In addition, there was a family musical tribute and memories shared by family members. Following the service the admiration for Peter by the community, friends and family was apparent as all gathered in the College's main Dining Hall for refreshments. It was a very special occasion to remember a very special man who did so much for so many.

Diana, Peter's wife was keen to ensure the widest possible access to this event and accordingly the service was livestreamed to those unable to attend in person. If you would be interested in watching the service recording Watch the live stream of the Thanksgiving service online.





PETER SMITH (Head Master 1985 - 2003)

The longer version of this appreciation is published in the Bradfieldian online.

*Si monumentum requiris
circumspice' – what was set
in stone for Wren can be
written of Peter. The Bradfield
campus still testifies to his mighty
contribution as Head Master.*

Three girls' Houses were 'built to a market-leading standard'; Faulkner's is a building credited with mitigating the sector-wide decline in Year 9 boarders and creating a USP that still distinguishes the College. In parallel, there was investment in sports' facilities: the Sports Complex, Pool and Tennis Centre are among these. Enhancement of the academic side came, among other things, in the creation of the Garrett Library and more peripheral to Bradfield's core purposes, a new Medical Centre was established, staff accommodation increased and a fine garden laid below Terrace.

Peter was also instrumental in establishing the Foundation as part of his ambition to make the College less conservative when funding capital projects. He was the Head Master who first took advantage of borrowing to invest in growth and Peter's astute business acumen was enhanced, early in his Headship, by a period at INSEAD, the European Business School.

Assured servicing of borrowing testified to a mind attuned to good business and human skills assisted him. Peter's 'Valet' emphasised his 'sympathetic understanding of families' and the monuments he took most delight in were the human ones. He was proud of the quality of the staff he appointed over the years and Antony Collieu recalls he had 'almost always been able to spot the candidate most suitable for the job'.

Coeducation developed under Peter's stewardship. When he arrived the unambitious plans in place for day girls became a programme of rapid work to facilitate girls' boarding. Importantly, the new girls did not replace boys,

as they did in many schools deciding on coeducation at the time, and allowed Bradfield to expand the A-level programme. Additionally, girls enriched the creative arts, bringing more vibrancy to the Commem Art Show, Music and Drama.

Women joined the teaching staff to support much that the new girls required and their impact was comparably far-reaching. The old SCR had enjoyed termly stag dinners and a wine cellar which was the envy of the local circuit. Now it underwent a gentle revolution that caused overdue change in the tone of relations between staff and pupils.

Peter's last strategic success was to persuade Council to extend coeducation to the Junior school. This meant his successor, Peter Roberts, was faced only with the mapping and achieving of plans necessary to realise the change; he was not delayed by preparatory politics.

Peter was unashamedly a moderniser as was apparent in his acclaimed Commem speeches which also mocked the plodding education policies of successive governments. It was evident, too, in his commitment to an international Bradfield, something he pressed for as purposefully as he pursued an authentic coeducational community. There were few pupils from overseas when he arrived at the College, except for a cadre from Thailand but, by 2000, Council had adopted a strategic target of recruiting 15% of the pupil body from abroad and almost thirty countries were represented on the school roll. His belief in the integration of communities once distant from each other was further apparent in his efforts to use the College's improved facilities to enhance sporting opportunities within the local community.

Through-and-through a family man, Peter and Diana made Crossways a real home for their daughters, Helen and Lizzie, despite the challenges present in living with several school offices at one end of the house. They were used to sharing for, when at Rugby, they had been accustomed to boys coming and going through the front door of the House's private side and popping into the kitchen en route to their studies. Lizzie was born just as they moved into School Field and Diana remembers her busy and rewarding life as wife of a young Housemaster. She remembers, too, the stress: in the first term a boy almost died and, in the second, an outbreak of Russian Flu quickly overwhelmed the sanatorium.

Much that formed Peter professionally can be found in such experiences and in younger years. He won a scholarship to Magdalen College School from Headington

CP School and went on to read History at Lincoln College, Oxford. At MCS, he was not only Head of School but also played rugby and hockey, and captained cricket. Later, as Captain of Oxfordshire CC, he led his team to the Minor Counties Championship.

His understanding of what makes for success undoubtedly developed on the sports field: his management style evidenced the belief that individuals do best when empowered to participate responsibly in a defined team strategy. Subsequently, his capacity to meld people with diverse opinions made him an outstanding Chairman of several governing bodies and his work with United Learning oversaw the successful merger of three girls' schools in Kent.

Almost immediately after he arrived at Bradfield, he created a Senior Management Team to accelerate decision making which previously had been bogged down in committee discussions where it was hard to establish consensus. In similar vein, he appointed a Head of Games to take on much that had previously been the responsibility of a conservative Games Committee. By the end of his time, Bradfield's football and hockey had thus reached new heights although cricket, Peter's first love, was in clear decline and when, in his last year, Bradfield reached the ISFA Cup Final for the first time in College history, the loss was an obvious disappointment.

Peter's eighteen-plus years at the College were longer than any previous Head, except Gray, and followed seventeen at Rugby where he was Head of History and then Housemaster. A man of broad interests, he had a life beyond the College and, among other things, was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

Personally liberal, his charming manner was never boastful, and it is instructive to remember that, in retirement, rather than revel in professional successes, he would choose to talk of good friends and of his family, that now includes four grandchildren of whom he was immensely proud.





JOHN ALLDAY (E 53-57)

The last Bradfieldian made a brief announcement of John Allday's death which occurred just before the edition went to press. I am now pleased to be able to say more about a dear friend.

John was an outstanding Bradfieldian, both at the College and as a long-time member of The Old Bradfieldian Golfing Society (OBGS). In his final year at Bradfield John represented the College 1st XI in football, hockey and cricket, a significant achievement. His innings of 210 not out v Lancing in 1957 stood as a record for over 30 years. After leaving school John became an MCC Young Cricketer and in one match missed his century at Lords when he ran himself out on 99! He also reduced his handicap to one and then played county golf for Hertfordshire.

After Bradfield, John followed his father into Barton Mayhew and qualified as a Chartered Accountant. He remained with the same firm throughout his career although he retired as a partner of what is now EY, one of the 'Big Four' of the accounting profession. John's speciality was in the valuation of companies and over the years he advised both the corporate sector and the government on privatisations, mergers and acquisitions. It is testament to his standing in the profession that he was on both Michael Heseltine's and Margaret Thatcher's Christmas card lists!

John played in the Halford Hewitt competition, the annual golf competition for the alumni of 64 independent schools for 24 years winning more matches than he lost. He captained the Bradfield side both as a player and more recently as a non-playing Captain. Like everything

John did, his captaincy was calm, authoritative and always reflective of each individual member of the team. Bradfield won some memorable matches, but the winners' enclosure has eluded the team since 1927.

John was President of the OBGS for 15 years and presided over the Society with a keen eye and quiet words of encouragement. He gave unstintingly of his time to the OBGS, regularly driving from his retirement home in North Somerset to the East Kent coast, a formidable journey at the best of times. He led the Halford Hewitt team in that modest, unflashy but inspirational way typical of John being well respected by generations of OBGS members for whom he became a willing mentor to those of us who succeeded him.

In retirement, John and Leonie made their lives in a North Somerset village where John quickly became a pillar of the community. He was the trusted advisor to numerous local organisations, including the Diocese of Bath & Wells, and even took on the role of sub-postmaster in the village. There were no discrepancies on his watch! John's funeral in April was attended by what appeared to be the whole village as well as old colleagues, golfing friends and several members of the OBGS. We heard heartfelt tributes from his children, Andrew and Susannah (both OBs), as well as Leonie, who all spoke about John's passion for sport, his wise counsel to so many over the years and his love and support for his large family.

A good man who will be greatly missed.

By Martin Young (C 59-64)
Past Warden
President OBGS

ROBERT STALLARD (G 57-62)

We are sorry to hear of the passing of Robert Stallard (G 57-62) who died peacefully at home on 7 January 2024. He was a keen Bradfield Waif, Treasurer, administrator during Waifs Week and Scorer for over 20 years. After Bradfield Robert went to work in journalism, but it was his time in the Waifs for which he is remembered;

‘Robert became 1st X1 scorer in 1960, halcyon days for Bradfield cricket under Michael Ricketts, widely considered the best Master in Charge on the circuit, hence he managed an MCC Schools tour of South Africa. Indeed, EM Wellings writing in 1963 Wisden stated that in 1962 ‘of the individual schools Bradfield perhaps deserve first mention. They were unbeaten in 15 matches, and since they have lost only 5 inter-school games in the past 11 years they have the strongest possible claims to be considered the most consistent team of the period. At the start of term the prospects were not good; that a new side was fashioned so successfully proves how well-founded cricket is at Bradfield. Another Mence seems to be on the way up. Among the new members of the side was GRJ Roope, who at the age of 15 made 611 runs, took 11 wickets and became a first-rate slip fielder.’

James Wyatt (G 58-63)

‘RIP a Waif Legend. Robert always had the Club’s best interests at heart. There were few kinder, gentle people and his passion for the Bradfield Waifs knew no bounds. He scored for the Bradfield Waifs for many, many years religiously, neatly and accurately. My abiding memory of Robert will be of him enjoying Waif Week while collecting match fees from players, a job we struggle to accomplish with the same efficiency. He will be greatly missed, what a truly lovely man.’

Rupert Cox (F 81-86)

‘He has been much missed by us all since he relinquished his roles in the Club.’

Peter Came (D 77-81)

‘I wholeheartedly agree with your sentiments – a truly lovely man.’

Martin Latham (D 57-61)



In memory of Robert a bench has been purchased which will sit above Pit and we intend to dedicate the Score Box to him with a plaque in memory of his outstanding contribution to cricket at Bradfield.

DEATHS

BASCOMBE, Bob (D 43-48)

COLEMAN, Richard (C 48-53)

CRAIG WALLER, Michael (F 91-96)

BLOFIELD, Hugh (G 45-50)

FREEMANTLE, David (G 55-60)

FRY, William (C 45-50)

EVANS, Michael P (E 64-68)

HAMILTON, Murray (A 69-74)

LAING, Alastair (C 57-61)

HUGHES, Chris (C 58-63)

PIKE, Robert (F 54-56)

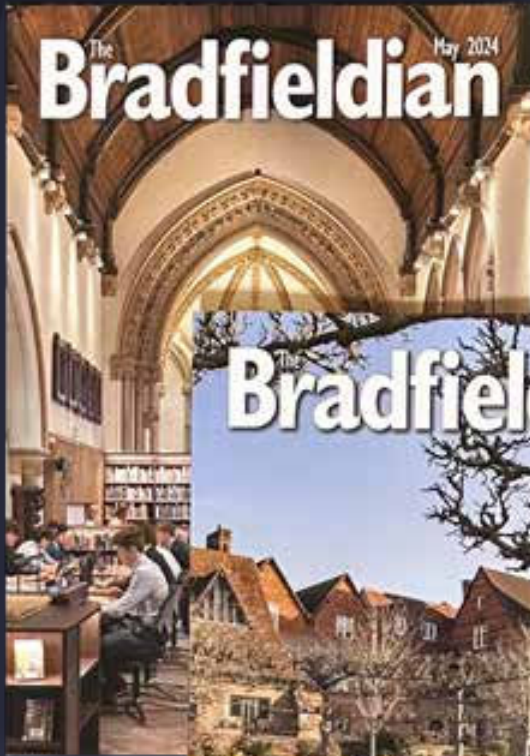
POPE, Jolyon (C 66-71)

ROSS, John (G 51-54)

ROWLEDGE, Michael (C 49-52)

SEYMOUR, Michael (H 54-60)

STRAKER, Stephen V (A 52-57)



THE BRADFIELDIAN: HAVE YOUR SAY

Did you know that the Bradfieldian in its current format is reaching its 10 year anniversary? A lot has changed in that time. You can now access all our latest news on our websites, Bradfield College (www.bradfieldcollege.org.uk) and The Bradfield Society (www.bradfieldsociety.org.uk) and we also send termly newsletters and events updates to those who have shared their email addresses with us. Additionally, we are committed to reducing our carbon footprint, operating sustainably and delivering value for money in these financially challenging times.

Please share your opinion on the potential future format of 'The Bradfieldian' with us by either completing the short form on the reverse of the address sheet and returning your response in the Freepost envelope provided, or by scanning the QR code to complete the form online.

Deadline Friday 1 November 2024.

Many thanks for sharing your feedback.

