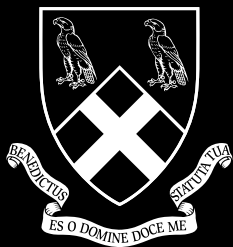


# The Bradfieldian

October 2023





BRADFIELD  
COLLEGE

# The Bradfieldian

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## FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear reader,

At Commemoration I was delighted to quote a senior inspector who described Bradfield as 'an astounding school' during last year's ISI Inspection. This edition of *The Bradfieldian* testifies to the diverse and remarkable achievements of Bradfieldians past and present amongst features on recent developments and news stories from the last six months.

Within these pages we share prize-winning work from pupil authors, poets and filmmakers. There is also a focus on the work of the Horizons team whose careers and higher education events are forward looking but often draw inspiration, like our pupils, from the Old Bradfieldian community and the parents who generously support it. Three interviews in this edition characterise the breadth of pathways pupils take beyond Bradfield including a British Airways pilot, a video games designer and the Managing Director of a sustainable energy company.

Partnerships continue to take centre-stage within our Music Department. Articles here detail our growing collaboration with local music hub, Berkshire Maestros and explain how our Steinway School status provides pupils with the power to improve and inspire in equal measure. The Bradfield Club in Peckham is one of the College's longest-running partnerships and recently featured in a book on Victorian-age Public School Missions. Written by the College Archivist, an extract from his chapter detailing the early days of The Bradfield Mission Club reminds us of the College's tradition of service. The mission of the Club today, to help young people develop into healthy adults who are constructive forces for good within their communities, mirrors the College's vision of preparing young people to flourish personally and professionally and make a positive contribution to society.

Dominating the end of the summer and an appropriately large section of this *Bradfieldian*, *Oedipus the King* proved an acclaimed and innovative Greek Play. Over 2000 people watched the cast forge a new tradition with four hybrid English/Classical Greek performances in Berkshire and two more in Greece. The latter saw the cast awarded the 'Medal of Thucydides' by the Mayor for their outstanding contribution to the cultural life of Alimos. This truly was an example of Bradfieldians astounding others and themselves, a 'tradition' as well-established as the Greek Play itself.

Dr Christopher Stevens,  
Headmaster



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# AN ASTOUNDING SCHOOL

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



**W**hat a year 2023 has been. As the anxiety and uncertainty of the pandemic recede further in collective memory, the optimism and enthusiasm of our pupils have set the tone once more.

The year was launched on an unprecedented wave of summer success: in the exam room, where our leavers set new standards, and on the sports field, where an annus mirabilis ended with seven trophies in national competition for pupils and alumni. The scaffolding in Quad had come down, revealing one of the most beautiful (and expensive) roofs in Berkshire, thereby restoring the heart of the College to its tranquil beauty, and work on St Andrew's Church had begun, with its promise of new impetus for the life of the mind.

The pupil body began the year with customary energy and has generated a new narrative. Many key moments have centred on the Greek Theatre, where we gathered for start of term services and Handshaking, for House singing on Goose weekend, for services to commemorate the life of the late Queen and to celebrate the coronation of her son, for the inaugural Golden Egg ceremony of sustainability, and for a fortnight of performing arts including a magical evening of jazz, a memorable Greek play and a high energy Battle of the Bands.

When Bradfield gathers in Grecker memories are made. This is true of collective experience throughout the College: of the steeplechase, of the dance show, of the carol services and concerts, of Remembrance, of TiB talks, of matches and more. All are underpinned by outstanding individual efforts. 830 pupils have their own memories of this year – of the collective and the individual, of their own performances and of the prowess of their peers.

In our digital age, more is recorded than ever before. This has the capacity to prolong memories but also to amplify anxiety. Living simultaneously in analogue and digital worlds is a challenge for us all. Teenagers have enough to be anxious about concerning relationships, expectations, climate change, hormones and exams. Negotiating the added pressures of looks and likes amplified by devices that delight and distract in equal measure adds a new layer of complexity to adolescence. We will continue to do our best to help

Bradfieldians find a balance here, emphasising the lasting value of shared primary experience. We must maximise the potential of technology to support life and learning whilst reducing its capacity to undermine them.

The sudden advances in the application of Artificial Intelligence ask new questions of us all in this respect. In school, AI will make us question how we teach, learn and examine. Beyond school it questions how we live and work with a technology that is developing extraordinarily fast.

Living our values is essential. An acclaimed recent book likens AI to a child learning avidly in its early years from the online record of humanity's words and deeds. It is therefore more important than ever that we model positive behaviours online as well as in person if we want this child to grow into an adult with whom we can coexist harmoniously.

Pupil achievements of the last twelve months show how individuals benefit from the team around them. Just as Olympic and Oscar winners regularly speak of 'we', rather than 'me', so do our pupils. In the last year these include outstanding concert soloists and successful medical school applicants. They include Film Studies award nominees and the stars of multiple plays. They include pupils studying at the Royal College of Music and contributors to the exceptional Art and Design Commemoration displays. They include leavers with offers from top British universities and those heading to leading institutions overseas. They include national finalists in tennis and squash and international cap winners in hockey, football, shooting, netball and real tennis. They include outstanding presenters at talks that truly do inspire Bradfieldians and the Saturday morning speakers who do the same for our future pupils.

All these individuals testify to the power of the people around them: their teams and their teachers, their families and their friends, their inspirational peers as well as their personal efforts.

Time only allows me to give a few examples of our leavers' many talents, so I will focus on three who have starred in different fields.

Tallulah (K) was drawn to Bradfield by Matt Lowe, who was a superb Director of Music and knew what it takes to become an outstanding cellist. Tallulah has proven that and more over the last five years, notably with her outstanding choral work. She has a scholarship to the Guildhall, where she will pursue her ambition to become a music professional.

Liam (A) joined us in the Sixth Form and quickly demonstrated his fine intellect. He richly deserves the accolade of a place at Stanford in California, where competition for places is arguably even more statistically challenging than the Maths which Liam loves, along with his Economics and his Music.

Over the last week of term Harry (A) captivated us with his acting, as he has on many previous occasions. A star of *The History Boys* in his first year, he plans to read that subject at Nottingham having thrived in his study of Politics and Drama, too. The university drama society don't know their luck.

Our pupil leaders this year have been exceptional. Lola (I) and Archie (A) have redefined the possibilities of the role of Deputy Heads of School whilst Hugo (H) and Rosie (I) have been dynamic and distinguished Heads of School.

Lola is a wonderful dancer. She has also sung, acted, debated, volunteered, and energised multiple initiatives with unwavering positivity whilst performing very strongly in English, Film, and RS. She is off to IE Madrid to study Communications and Media – a world in which she can undoubtedly go far.

Archie has entertained us with his drumming since he arrived. His musical impact has been evident at virtually every single concert since then. His impact on the JCR has been equally significant. He has offers from Trinity Laban Conservatoire and Bristol University. Either will be lucky to have him.

Hugo has been part of two outstanding football XIs and Club Captain this year. Coming back from a broken leg in Faulkner's he is a great example of how patience and determination pay

off. A true gentleman whose modesty endears him to one and all, he is a fine and ambitious academic who wants to pursue his twin passions at Loughborough next year.

Rosie, another able and keen historian with an offer from Bristol, is also an expert film maker, politician and debater. Her wonderful voice has lit up numerous concerts and her energy, focus and organisational skills are legendary. She has kept us all up to the mark this year!

I am deeply grateful to these four leaders, to the rest of the JCR and to the whole Upper Sixth for the fine example they have set to the College throughout this academic year.

Like our pupil leavers, I cannot mention all the staff leaving this summer. The longest serving are Noreen Grist and Elaine Sexton, after 44 and 31 years respectively as domestics, and Bob Pickett, after 30 years in the CCF Stores. We wish them a very happy retirement.

The longest-serving teachers moving on this year include Ali Cocksworth after seven years caring for the pupils of Armstrong and instilling the House with her competitive and compassionate vision. We wish her well as she takes up the role of Deputy Head Pastoral at Lord Wandsworth College. I know that Armstrong will be thanking her today, just as The Close will be thanking Jo Hanbury, who is not leaving but finishing his distinguished tenure in H House and returning full time to the Languages Department.

Tom O'Toole is retiring this year having spent the last eight years of his career here. A true Physics specialist and dedicated tutor with a soft centre

and ready smile, he is contemplating some online tutoring in retirement.

Luke Webb spent a year in Faulkner's before leaving to pursue a professional football career. He returned 12 years ago and has developed Bradfield football beyond recognition, taking us to the forefront of independent schools. We look forward to staying in touch, albeit with a competitive edge after his move to Repton.

Fiona Wall joined the staff 18 years ago. Twice Housemistress of Faulkner's, first alongside Roger and then in a solo stint, she has taught French with élan, coached sports with skill and passion, been a stickler for our dress code, and at the heart of the Common Room for as long as most colleagues can remember.

We wish these seven and the other staff leaving Bradfield this year the very best for the next phase of your lives. Like your colleagues who remain, we thank you for all you do for the pupils and for the individual roles you have played in our collective endeavour.

Learning to be an individual connected positively to a community is at the heart of our enterprise. The reciprocity of give and take, the virtuous circle of effort and progress, the realisation that 'the more you put in the more you get out': these are lessons for life. We hope to see this continue beyond school, where Bradfieldians have the opportunity to be net givers to their new communities, to flourish whilst enabling others to flourish, to feel good by doing good.

The principles of community life are enshrined by the new College values which have emerged from consultation with pupils and staff this year. At their heart lie Kindness and Respect –

essential ingredients of the unspoken covenant between the individual and the group. Integrity and Inclusivity encapsulate the need for each of us to be authentic and true to our own values whilst recognising that others share that right. The final value – Positivity – can sometimes be hard to muster as an adolescent in the midst of exams or early in the morning, or as an adult with a large pile of marking or a demanding boss. Nevertheless, positivity characterises much of the activity of the College and will be enhanced by our new explicit focus upon it.

These values are also integral to many things that pupils do for communities beyond our privileged bubble. The last year has again demonstrated the College's commitment to its charitable purpose, our pupils' willing engagement in this, and the benefits accrued for all. Our partnership and community service activities have supported 35 local primary schools and seven secondary schools with over 200 pupils regularly volunteering through academic, sporting, art and music activities, and after school provision.

Charitable activity has included initiatives ranging from the annual harvest foodbank to support for the Amber Trust. In particular, numerous pupils and staff have raised money for the Oscar Foundation which transforms lives in Mumbai. Huge thanks to all of you who have supported this cause, including my debut as a marathon runner, which got things going.

I ended my last Commemoration speech with the exhortation to make Bradfield's Education for Life a Regenerative Education with positive outcomes for people and planet. One of my highlights of this year was the publication of the

Scholars' magazine, *Regeneration*, in which a series of superb essays outlines ways in which this is such an important principle for our times.

This generation of pupils has the capacity to be a Re-Generation. Our education should equip them with the capabilities and mindsets they will need to flourish whilst their society and their planet flourishes. To that end, the launch of the new Faulkner's Curriculum for September is the start of a wider curriculum review to ensure we are offering pupils the best preparation for a world where more things seem possible, yet fewer things are guaranteed.

The same principle lies behind the St Andrew's church project where pupils will have the opportunity to learn to work better and smarter, alone and together, with books and bytes, and within a building that embodies the great tradition of this College and its founder's belief in the development of knowledge and virtue.

The Founder's prayer speaks of the 'disappointments' of the Reverend Thomas Stevens' lifetime. My namesake would be saddened to see his church closed for worship, but I believe that he would be excited to see

St Andrew's take a new place at the heart of his school. He would have loved hearing Zadok the Priest sung in this space for the coronation and he would be proud that 173 years after he founded the College, inspectors recognised in their verbal feedback that 'pupil ambition is in the culture', that we have 'created a space pupils want to fit into' and that this is, in the words of one experienced inspector, 'an astounding school'.

It is a great privilege to lead this astounding school. I am deeply grateful to my wife and my assistants for their unstinting support. I am full of admiration for all our staff, and especially the senior team who really run the place, and to the Warden and our excellent governors, who work alongside that team to ensure the College continues to flourish. Thank you also to our parents and alumni for being involved in many ways, for your support of Bradfield Horizons, for your support of our charities, and for your support of our fundraising. Thank you above all for your partnership in our core endeavour, that of enabling your wonderful children to astound us, to astound one another and to astound themselves.



# DYSTOPIAN STORY: THE COLLECTIVE

*Scarlett (LJ), Winner of the Richard Adams Prize for Creative Writing*

I open my eyes just a fraction, peering out through the darkness down the dark tunnel, an insidious river of black blood and mud. I cannot breathe the air. The stench of death is everywhere, clinging to the walls like murderous jellyfish sucking the life from their prey.

They said don't drink the water – inky foul-smelling puddles where bodies float out through the sewer to the world beyond, making good their escape in death, leaving loved ones to suffer the chaos within. I can taste the desperation, feel its tight grip on my throat. Fear lives here, oozing from every crack; the silent savagery of a slaughterous snake, sapping life's entrails in the abyss where hope and dreams lie dead in the dirt.

I am not alone in this cavernous pit. Something else is present – watching me, stalking me, hiding behind the hungry walls, sensing the deepness of my despair, the darkness in my heart. I have no name; I have no home; here I am just a number. But I have a use. They need me because I alone know how THE INTELLIGENCE works. AI ... the Artificial Intelligence that's controlling everything and everyone, the technology they said would change our world for the better, but doomed us to this miserable existence. I have the chip. It's the only reason I'm still alive, whilst others have perished.

I've been running for weeks, hiding out in these dark sewers, staying alive by scavenging on the scraps thrown to me by my one friend. Sarah worked with me before The Collective took control. Now she risks her own life to save mine. I'm hungry and I'm desperate, but I can't let The Collective win.

They promised a better life, but instead brought chaos, environmental devastation and mass poverty. Many have died and it's all my fault. Me... Tom Symons, a humble computer engineer from London, gave them the technology, sold them the potential. THE INTELLIGENCE never sleeps, never gets bored, reduces human error, I told them. It recognises our faces and our voices and it's faster than humans. Before long, humans won't be needed - we'll just be numbers, I joked.

But they weren't joking. Slowly and secretly, from behind the great oak doors of the marble corridors on the 23rd floor, The Collective went to work. The 20-strong band of elite young City traders, each one hungry for power and control, schemed and plotted, raised voices and whisky-fuelled discussions long into the night, as they rolled out plans for their evil new establishment. A new society controlled by THE INTELLIGENCE. A sadistic monster watching and waiting...

First, they would overthrow the government at Whitehall, branding the Prime Minister and his MPs as traitors to our country. They promised us the good life – more money and food, better homes and healthcare, more holidays, more fun ... and no work or taxes! Why should we work when THE INTELLIGENCE can do it all? What a life we would have, thanks to The Collective.

They targeted their own financial institutions, taking down the Stock Exchange and plunging the markets into chaos. Black Monday every day of the week. They took over the media, the hospitals, the police and the army, the transport network ...factories and shops closed, schools and universities



came out in support of the new order, chanting their name and demanding power for The Collective. Violent uprisings broke out all over the capital, innocent bystanders crushed in the anarchy. Those who challenged the mob – men, women and children were destroyed, decapitated, trampled on. Spurred on by the promise of free money, food and luxuries, crazed and greedy at the thought of no taxes, the mob won the day for The Collective.

Their triumph didn't last long. Within days, from the hi-tech marble luxury of the 23rd floor, The Collective extended its evil arm of dominance, commanding the army to arrest the mob. They were tortured and thrown into the sewers to starve and die. Out of sight, no longer needed, no longer part of the plan. All around the city, people ran scared and hungry, afraid to look their neighbours in the eye, never knowing who to trust, suspecting even loved ones of supporting The Collective. Our names disappeared and we were given letters and numbers to identify ourselves by when stopped by the Collective Police. I was D-10.2.09 and Sarah became J-17.5.12. Surveillance was everywhere ... stalking us on every street corner, as the new authority looked out through mechanical red lenses, scanning the pavements and doorways and watching for signs of dissent. Nothing ever stirred and nothing ever moved.

It was all my fault. I gave them THE INTELLIGENCE and I had stood and watched as they used it to destroy my world. I tried to talk to them, tried to explain that THE INTELLIGENCE could never replace real human thoughts or feelings. It could never paint or draw or do anything meaningful. It wasn't real life. But they had money and riches and power, and I ran for my life. And down here, in

this soulless, unearthly hell, I am dehumanised. I am hiding as they search for me - because they know I have the chip. It's hidden in my belt.

Today is when it all changes. Sarah is waiting as I climb the metal ladder and dislodge the drain cover, forcing it open. We're in the street behind the blue glass skyscraper where The Collective eat and drink, on the 23rd floor, celebrating their success and laughing at the poor, cold and starving humans below. In this building is the nerve centre of their power – the control hub I must disarm to destroy their hold on humanity. Quickly and quietly, we crawl through the broken bars of the basement windows and into the lift shaft, clambering up the cat ladder, stopping when we hear voices in the corridors behind the lift doors. We reach the 23rd floor and there is silence. Sarah keys in the code-buster and as the door slides smoothly open, we slip through into the marble corridor, glancing around to see if we've been spotted. No ...we're safe for now.

We tiptoe as fast as we can to the control room. We're in, and still no sign of anyone. It's late on a Friday afternoon and soon the whisky glasses will be coming out. We listen, and sure enough, we can just hear the clinking of crystal and the faint sound of revolting laughter as the young traders toast each other. It sends chills up my spine, and spurs me on. But they're distracted so we have a chance. I loosen the chip and remove it from my belt, as Sarah stares at it. This tiny piece of micro-technology that had so much potential to do good, has almost destroyed our very existence. This miniscule source of power in the wrong hands has nearly destroyed us.

Trembling, I press the chip into the data hub and key in the password. The reverse programming will be instant. So we wait...



# A STRANGE DAY

*Inès (I),*

*Winner of the de Bernières-Smart Poetry Prize*

It was a strange day.

The sun had been sequestered  
Behind a gang of billowing clouds,  
Stifling the landscape in a  
Monotonous gloom.

Yet everything was bizarrely bathed  
In an anachronistic sepia-tinted light.  
As if our scene had been captured in a  
Nineteenth Century photograph.

The amber hue secreted an ominous sense  
Of impending doom.  
The disarming calm  
Before the wild and bellicose storm.

Wind that would normally sweep in from the West  
Had been quelled to impotency.  
Even the rain, which washed away and  
Destroyed so much in the past month had been  
Quenched of its ire.

In its place,  
Silence and stillness haunted the  
Claustrophobic air.  
A field of souls.

I sat across the rock carved with their name.  
Being gifted no replies to my endless speaking.  
Only days ago, they would reply.  
Only days ago, a rock wasn't the form of their physical  
Remembrance.

But the rock will wither and grow old.  
Just as the mental remembrance of them will.  
I drop the flowers by the rock and walk away  
From the field of souls and this strange day.

# UNTITLED

*Scarlett (K)*

*Highly Commended - de Bernières-Smart Poetry Prize*

I love you,

So, if you were the sun  
I would be the moon,  
Just so I could chase you day and night,  
So I could bask in your light  
Even If it means I shall not be seen,  
Because I love you

If you choose to become the moon  
I shall become the tides,  
For I would dance around you,  
I would turn the silver seas at night  
And I would let you pull me far and close,  
Simply because I love you

For if you were paper, I shall become ink,  
As I would drain myself to write on your pages,  
I would write sweet phrases  
I would bleed onto your pages to give them beauty  
Just because I love you.

If you desired to be war  
For I would be death,  
Because our meeting would be inevitable,  
Simply because we are inseparable  
No matter how bittersweet our meetings are,  
I would choose to become death  
All because I love you.

So I shall dance around you,  
For it doesn't matter if you bring life  
Such as the sun,  
Or if you leave with taking someone's breath  
Such as war,  
Because I love you.



# BRADFIELDIANS HEAD TO TOP UNIVERSITIES FOLLOWING OUTSTANDING EXAMINATION RESULTS

With Bradfieldians from the Class of 2023 heading off to impressive university destinations such as Imperial, UCL, Durham, Newcastle, Stanford, Bocconi and McGill to study a range of courses from Politics, Classics, International Relations and Psychology to Electronic and Information Engineering, Biomedical Science and Computing, the College could not be more proud of the examination results achieved by our A Level and IB Diploma pupils this past summer as well as those of their GCSE counterparts.

Indeed, 75% of UCAS applicants secured places at their first-choice university and 21% took up their insurance offers with pupils also gaining places through clearing or planning to make applications during their GAP years.

Those studying the increasingly-popular IB Diploma continue to deliver as all of our candidates achieved the full IB Diploma and three of our pupils achieved the coveted Bilingual Diploma. In line with other exam boards, the IB had widely communicated an ambition to bring grade distributions back in line with pre-pandemic levels and the global average has dropped accordingly. However, we are delighted to note that this adjustment has been much less pronounced than we expected and our impressive 36-point average, compared to 30.2 globally and 34.7 nationally, is testament to the energy and resilience of our pupils and staff.

Over a quarter of our pupils achieved 40 points or more, widely considered to be the gold standard worldwide and above almost any university requirements. One pupil scored the maximum 45 points putting them in the top 1% of all candidates globally. In years gone by, we might have highlighted the 60% of our pupils who have achieved over 34 points, since that was the typical entry level for most Russell Group universities. However, the long-term credibility of the IB qualification is such that many such institutions are now accepting scores in the region of 32 points, a score 74% of our pupils achieved or exceeded.

Our IBDP pupils have a breadth of interest which reflects the values of the College itself and we wish them well in further studies in Politics, Economics, Classics, Business, International Relations, Sports Science, Biomedical Science, Engineering, Languages, History, Psychology and Mathematics, at top universities across the UK, Europe and the United States. Destinations include competitive courses at UCL, Durham, Nottingham, Newcastle, Exeter, Birmingham and Northeastern University.

Fellow Sixth Formers sitting A Level public examinations without modification for the first time since 2019 returned

equally outstanding results. 11.3% of grades were A\*, 40% A\*/A, and 73% A\* – B; a great achievement in the context of grading nationally dropping back to pre-pandemic levels.

Five pupils secured 3 A\*s or higher (AS level in parentheses) including Darryl (F) who returned A\*A\*A\*(A\*) and headed to Imperial to read Electronic and Information Engineering and Gabriel (D) who returned A\*A\*A\*(A\*) and also joined Imperial to read Computing. Although most pupils will take up places in the UK, it is very much an international arena with a significant group headed overseas, to the US, Canada and Europe such as Stanford (USA), Bocconi (Italy) and McGill (Canada).

Perhaps even more important than the grade levels and university destinations, these results are testament to a group of young people who have thrived, having worked incredibly hard in some of the most trying circumstances.

“The 2023 leavers worked stoically through years of COVID disruption and sat public exams for the first time in their final term”, said Dr Christopher Stevens, Headmaster. “Their success is a fitting reward for their diligence and their many talents. I salute their achievements and the great efforts of their teachers.”

“We are incredibly proud of this year group who have shown determination and calm resilience over the last two years to produce these excellent results”, added Elizabeth Wells, Deputy Head (Academic). “These results are testament to the diligence of our pupils and the skill of their teachers and support staff.”

Following the excellent Sixth Form results the College was pleased to see their GCSE counterparts also achieved very strong results. Over a third of all grades were scored 9/8/A\*, and 56% were scored 9-7 (A\*/A). In the context of grades nationally dropping to 2019 standards, this level of achievement is impressive and is just reward for a talented group of Bradfieldians who have shown resilience and adaptability throughout their time at the College.

12 candidates secured six or more Grade 9s (A\*s) and there are many truly exceptional individual performances including Katharina (K) (9999999999A), Grace (K) (9999999997), Luka (C) (9999999987A) and Tony (E) (999999987A)

This year group began their time at Bradfield in 2020 when the pandemic dealt all pupils a cruel blow, in particular to their foundation year at the College. “Learning is a social, emotional experience made harder by remote and socially distanced teaching”, commented Elizabeth Wells. “This year’s GCSE grades are therefore testament to the maturity and perseverance of the pupils and the commitment of an expert team of teachers and tutors.”

# TAKE BRADFIELD WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO

“ BEING PART OF BRADFIELD, THE SENSE OF BELONGING AND PROTECTION, IT WILL NOT STOP AFTER LEAVING, IT REMAINS WITHIN US. WE HAVE LEARNED THE TENACITY, POWER AND RESILIENCE TO COPE WITH WHATEVER COMES OUR WAY.

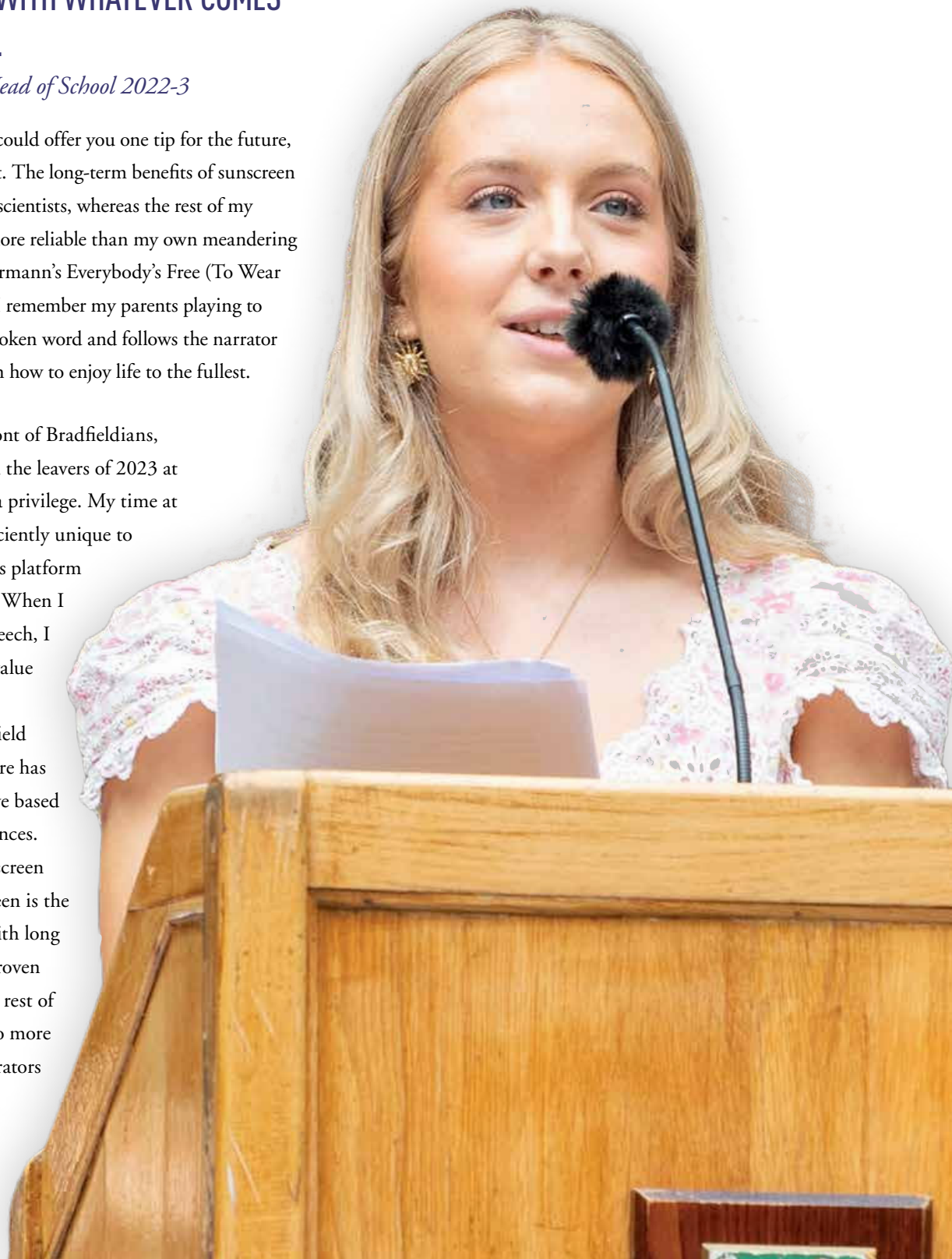
*Rosie (I), Head of School 2022-3*

Wear sunscreen. If I could offer you one tip for the future, sunscreen would be it. The long-term benefits of sunscreen have been proved by scientists, whereas the rest of my advice has no basis more reliable than my own meandering experiences. Baz Luhrmann's Everybody's Free (To Wear Sunscreen) is a song I remember my parents playing to me. The song is in spoken word and follows the narrator distributing advice on how to enjoy life to the fullest.

To be standing in front of Bradfieldians, teachers, parents and the leavers of 2023 at Commemoration is a privilege. My time at Bradfield is not sufficiently unique to have afforded me this platform today, yet here I am. When I began writing my speech, I wondered what the value was in me giving my perspective on Bradfield when each person here has a different perspective based on their own experiences. However, as the sunscreen song decrees, sunscreen is the only certain thing with long term, scientifically proven benefits, whereas the rest of the advice given is no more reliable than the narrators own meandering experience. So, for

now, my own meandering experience through Bradfield provides the most reliable advice I have to offer. If you and I can accept that, then I think we are safe to continue.

My favourite line from sunscreen which many of you would have heard is: "Don't worry about the future, it is as effective as trying to solve an algebra equation by chewing bubble gum." It sounds bizarre, doesn't it? But the sentiment is





a true one. The teenage years are no easy ride for anyone involved. For us, these trying years were made even harder by the unprecedented external factors which have impacted us all. Today's leavers are the last year group to have been affected by the change in external examinations. Having just staggered from the trenches of IB and A Level exams I think it is clear to see that despite our worries about the new and somewhat unwelcome experience of sitting exams, we simply got on with it and I'm really proud of the tenacity we showed in doing that. Even with no bubble gum allowed.

Over the last few years, we have witnessed a war in Ukraine impacting many within our own community, Human Rights protests around the world and we have all endured three Prime Ministers within a year. Whilst we are somewhat protected from the impact of this by the support network and community here at Bradfield, we have nonetheless experienced uncertainty and worry. Our privilege here at Bradfield should not be taken for granted by any of us, yet it is right to acknowledge how that protection and privilege has allowed us to develop the resilience we will need as we move away from our comfortable lives here at the College. So, we are able to take the advice: "Don't worry about the future", because we know that we have learned the tenacity, power and resilience to cope with whatever comes our way. Being part of Bradfield, the sense of belonging and protection, it will not stop after leaving, it remains within us. It is part of who we are and who we will become. The people who supported, encouraged and genuinely wanted the very best for us remain our strongest allies. So, to worry about the future is to doubt ourselves and, worse than that, it is to doubt their faith in us.

It is easy to imagine that when looking back, Bradfield will seem just a chapter in your story. For the leavers that chapter

is ending and for current Bradfieldians your chapter is still very much open. As much as taking advice from songs about sunscreen might help you, nothing can really prepare you for navigating your school chapter. The time you spent at school, be it good or

maybe not so good, is a universally remembered experience. I'm looking to reflect on what has made my Bradfield experience such a good one and, whilst I've only experienced three and a half years in this incredible place with only two of those not affected by the pandemic, I feel able to sum up the incredible experience I've had by referring to my favourite film, *About Time*. In the film, the protagonist is able to time travel and after exploring his ability to travel in time, he decides to live each day twice. The first time with all the tensions and the worries that distract you from noticing the small pockets of joy and sweetness in each day. The second time he lives the day he notices those small moments and he appreciates them. After a while, he learns to live each day only once, but as if he has deliberately returned to that day to enjoy it as if it was the final full day of his extraordinary, ordinary life.

For me, this epitomises how one experiences Bradfield. As whilst the singular achievements in sport, dance, music and academics are, and should be, celebrated and remembered, it is the little moments; the pockets of laughter scattered throughout the day. Time by the river in summer, winters in House, ping pong matches, conversations with friends, conversations with teachers, conversations with strangers, football, hockey, cricket, netball, lacrosse, drama, performing, dancing, laughing, the wait by the exam room, getting a good test result, getting a bad test result, queuing for lunch, queuing for breakfast, Herbie's Pizza, Friday night treats, talking after lights out, unpacking, repacking, saying hello to everyone after the summer, saying goodbye after term and now, saying goodbye to this chapter. All of these moments fill our days and they are easily dismissed as meaningless, repetitive or annoying. However, it is within these moments that we thrive and if it is true that advice is merely nostalgia, then we are all well equipped to hand out buckets full of it.

There is no secret formula for happiness at school. But as the school year comes to a close and new chapters begin, I urge everyone who is part of this extraordinary, ordinary place to hold on to the little, insignificant but joyous moments of every day. Appreciate the safety of our school, but to also understand the ultimate power it has given us all. Not the power of time travel, but the ability to bounce back. To flourish in troubling circumstances and to take Bradfield with us wherever we go. Oh, and apply sunscreen everyone.





# PUPILS SCOOP AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS WITH ACADEMIC FILMS

As the subject celebrates its twentieth year of being part of the Bradfield curriculum, Film Studies pupils continue to achieve national recognition for their academic work with three more Bradfieldians either winning or being nominated for awards.

2022 leaver Max (G 17-22) was awarded the Best College Production for his film *Syncopation* at the Aldridge UTC Film Festival. The short film festival, which champions the work of student filmmakers, was held for the second year running in Media City UK and Max made the trip to Salford to collect his award in July.

Max created a narrative which established and developed a single character for his A Level short film and took inspiration from films such as *La Jetée* (Marker, France, 1962) and *Night Fishing* (Park, South Korea, 2011) as well as Wes Anderson's *Moonrise Kingdom* (2012). Reflecting on creating his film Max commented: "My aim for 'Syncopation' was to create a world ruled by an industrial beat, where one person disrupts the repetitive routine finding freedom in disorder." While developing the film's narrative Max established the rules of symmetry and the importance of order and control which would go on to be broken or disrupted during the climax.

"The simplest rule is that drawing must begin at 12:00. To emphasise this, I intercut images of a clock regularly to punctuate the narrative, indicating when the protagonist starts and re-starts his tedious activity." The experimental nature of the film enabled audiences to take away different messages and create their own meanings, something which was a somewhat happy accident for Max who recalled one viewer saying they thought the time depicted the industrial processes in some countries where people are ruled by the clock.

Two of our 2023 cohort received nominations for national film awards. Lola (I 18-23) was shortlisted in the Shorts and Extracts category of the MediaMagazine Production Competition for her film *Do You Feel Guilty Yet, Rosie?*

Having received three times as many entries as the previous year, competition judges had their work cut out to whittle down all the entries to the various shortlists. The judges stated the competition's final showreel "reflects the variety, skill and imagination of the productions, with many films which represent caring and thoughtful responses to living in a difficult world."

Lola's short follows a non-linear narrative structure depicting the theme of revenge. Her protagonist shares an unsolicited image of her friend and is forced to relive past moments in the film's conclusion. One of her aims was to explore the use of colour in order to reflect the emotions of the characters. Explaining her techniques Lola said: "The use of colour gave the film a very experimental look and feel. I used three-point lighting, with translucent red gels on the key light and the back light as red is a colour synonymous with anger and resentment. This accentuated the message of retaliation which I wanted to signify in certain scenes."

Fellow classmate Charlie (F 18-23) has seen his academic film shortlisted for a Cinemagic Young Filmmaker Award. His film *Always Connection* is an innovative exploration of relationships and connection and was screened at the film festival in Belfast in late October.

Charlie's film follows the online relationship between two friends which ends with a sad and unexpected twist. He created a sense of sadness and nostalgia using film techniques such as handheld cameras, medium shots and close-ups.

Heavily inspired by Benjamin Cleary's approach to character building in *Stutterer* (2015, UK), Charlie wrote one of his protagonists, who struggles to cope with the absence of his friend causing him to isolate himself from other people, to have contrasting online and offline personas. Breaking down his narrative and filming choices Charlie commented: "The character's internet persona as he interacts with his friend, in his memories, starkly contrasts with his mannerisms and mood in the present day. I intended to use a different aspect ratio and colour palette in the present-day scenes to portray the resulting lack of energy and flat mood, without his friend there."

Congratulations to the three Bradfieldians for the well-deserved recognition of their academic work.





# DofE PROVIDES NEW EXPERIENCES AMIDST SPECTACULAR SCENERY

With 24 complete Gold Awards in the Upper Sixth, 29 complete Gold Expeditions in the Lower Sixth, eighty Shell pupils completing their 30km Bronze Expeditions and the launch of a new Silver fast-track programme for Fifth Formers, it has undoubtedly been an exciting and busy year for our Duke of Edinburgh participants.

Our Upper Sixth pupils have balanced their exams with chasing some final sign-offs in their Gold Award and the College was delighted to celebrate the total of 24 fully completed Gold Awards on Commemoration Day. This is an outstanding achievement and in due course those pupils will receive an invitation to attend a special event at Buckingham Palace.

Meanwhile, our Lower Sixth pupils have been pursuing their own Gold adventures with 29 pupils successfully completing their Expedition Section during the Summer Term. This was a task of two halves. The practice expedition in Brecon saw participants

come up against arduous weather conditions of high winds and sustained periods of heavy rain. Equipment and skills were fully tested over the three-day training course, where pupils learned the key skills of navigation and group management in mountainous country. Thankfully pupils were rewarded with fabulous conditions across a challenging four-day self-sufficient qualifying expedition in Eryri National Park a few weeks later. The views were spectacular and the wild camps provided a really special wilderness experience.

Year 10 Bronze participants have also been working towards their awards. The big Bronze Expedition took place over the Coronation weekend with eighty pupils completing a 30km course over two days in the Pang Valley area, enjoying a stay at either Rushall Farm or Thirtover Place

campsites. These pupils now move on to complete their skill and physical sections, with a view to getting their Volunteering Section completed through their Monday afternoon CSP/CCF options by the end of this year.

2023 has also seen the launch of a Silver fast-track programme for pupils in Year 11 who complete their full Bronze Award by Christmas in the Fifth Form. A small group of seven girls entered the programme and completed their Silver practice expedition in Dorset during the final week of the Summer Term. The introduction of Silver DofE completes the DofE portfolio at Bradfield, filling a gap in Year 11 where GCSE commitments mean fewer opportunities for outdoor expeditions. The experience also offers the opportunity to explore some of Britain's spectacular coastal scenery and we look forward to seeing the programme grow over the coming years.





CELEBRATE ALL THE JOURNEYS THAT ARE GOING ON  
AROUND YOU.

“ WE CELEBRATE DIFFERENCE,  
WE LEARN FROM EACH OTHER  
AND WE LEARN HOW TO GIVE  
BACK. WE ARE YOUNG PEOPLE  
WHO HAVE THE ABILITY TO  
AFFECT OTHERS' LIVES FOR  
THE BETTER.

*Hugo (H), Head of School 2022-23*





I would never have imagined, even last year, that I would be addressing everyone at Commemoration as Head of School. The only reason I am is because of the unwavering belief that everyone here puts into you which allows you to grow as a person.

Bradfield is a school built around the people and for the people, and that has become more evident in my role as one of the Heads of School. Something just as evident is the power that pupils have to enable change. This has been apparent with the number of pupil initiatives that have been set up and continued this year. These include a pupil-led tutoring scheme, Talks Inspiring Bradfieldians, The Golden Egg, the new House sustainability competition, and one I'm sure many will have heard about: Bradfield pyjamas. These are just a few examples of the many things that pupils have helped to change and it is this pupil focus that allows not just the best development of the school but more importantly the development of the pupils throughout their time here whether that starts in Faulkner's, Sixth Form or at any other point.

One of the main reasons behind the strength of the pupil voice here

are my fellow Prefects and Heads of Houses who have been the conduit and engine for these ideas, supported me throughout the whole year and have been incredible people to be with. They have been my foundation this year.

At Bradfield you will either discover your passion or continue your passion with like-minded people whether that be in music, drama, sport, art or academics. This is because everyone here works with you and has your best interests at heart. This gives you the ability to thrive in the areas you are passionate about which in turn gives you the skills required to excel in every area of school life and beyond Bradfield due to the 'Education for Life' which the College provides.

These support bubbles at the school are seen most in your difficult moments. Whether it be the pastoral staff, the friends you make along the way or your teachers, everyone here is looking out for you and although you may not recognise that support during your high times it is impossible to miss it during the low points. These are inevitable during not just school life but life in general. It is these low points that make the high points so great and it is the advice you get from these support bubbles which will serve you for the rest of your life to ensure that you never feel alone in your lowest of lows.

On to the person by my side, my fellow Head of School Rosie (I). I had not even had a conversation with her before we found ourselves in the Headmaster's office being asked to be Heads of School in May last year. But in the year that I have known her she has been the epitome of what a Head of School should be. She puts everyone's interests before her own and it is this humility which has allowed her to lead not only

our year but the school. Although we may not have spoken to each other at all beforehand I can now safely say I have made a great friend. I think this quote from Michelle Obama describes Rosie best: "People who are truly strong lift others up. People who are truly powerful bring others together." I must also mention our Deputy Heads of School, Lola and Archie, whose support, friendship and humour have been invaluable.

To say my year group has been transformed over the last five years would be an understatement as we have gone from shall we say a very tricky year group to a group that I take inspiration from every day. These are young people who I know will go on to do great things in the areas of life they are passionate about.

I think this perfectly shows what Bradfield is all about as, no matter where you start, the people here will be with you every step of your journey no matter how different it may be from the person before or after you. This is because we celebrate difference, we learn from each other and we learn how to give back. We are so much more than names on a register or a set of exam grades. We are young people who have the ability to effect others' lives for the better. This is Bradfield's greatest strength and one we must never take for granted. So, to those of you who are leaving with me, I know you will be successful wherever your journey takes you next and to those of you who still have time left in this beautiful place, make sure you take time to enjoy and celebrate all the other journeys that are going on around you. I wish you every success in the rest of your Bradfield journey.







# OEDIPUS

## THE KING





# HUNDREDS WITNESS THE RETURN OF OEDIPUS THE KING AS PUPILS SUCCESSFULLY FORGE NEW GREEK PLAY TRADITIONS

Long, loud and richly deserved applause rang out as the final notes of the original score sounded, the pupils took their bows and the lights, both artificial and natural, went down on Grecker following the final performance of the 41st Bradfield Greek Play.

Over 1700 people attended the four performances of *Oedipus The King* and witnessed the forging of a new tradition; the first hybrid production in which the Chorus sung and chanted in the traditional Classical Greek language while the principal cast spoke their lines in modern English.

It is fair to say there was some trepidation moving into the new hybrid format. As one would expect, this decision was made after hours of discussion and consideration with all number of parties, but ultimately it was felt that to keep the Greek Play at the heart of Bradfield Drama and to have relevance to our current pupils, it was a move worth making.

From the very beginning of each performance as the smell of incense and sounds of the specially composed score greeted the audience, to the very end as the blinded Oedipus exited and Creon spared one final look back towards the theatre, the production was a roaring success.

The pupils were excellent. Harry (A), combined the extremes of human achievement and degradation to disastrous effect and commanded the stage as the confident King yet drew gasps from the audience as he stumbled around the Orchestra, blinded and blood-soaked in the final act. Sophia (M) as Queen Jocasta and Jackson (A) as Creon excelled in support. Luca (H) put in a powerful performance as the blind prophet Tiresias as did both Ginny (M) and Amelie (LM) who shared the part of the Theban Messenger, emotionally delivering the news of the Queen's demise and the King's self-inflicted wounds. Delivering moments of comedy and sincerity in equal measure were Josh (D) as the Priest, Theo (G) as the Corinthian Messenger and George (G) and Tom (H) as the Shepherd.

It is not easy performing a play of this scale in your native tongue and to perform lines in an entirely new language is no mean feat. The twenty-strong chorus spent numerous hours learning Ancient Greek and, what felt like an insurmountable task at times for many of them, was realised with aplomb. They were superb.

The Don Taylor translation, which was used for the non-sung sections of the 2023 performance, was selected by the Director, Nic Saunders, who, having taught Taylor's celebrated Royal National Theatre translation of *Antigone* for many years, felt it achieved the delicate balance of remaining faithful to the spirit and poetry of the original text whilst also being accessible for modern audiences. As with the text, in striving to stay faithful to the spirit of the historic production many of the traditions of the Bradfield Greek Play remained: the costuming, set design and the familiar triumvirate of playwrights of Euripides-Sophocles-Aeschylus. With *The Persians* of Aeschylus performed in 2017, followed by Euripides' *Alceste* two years later, the choice cycled back to Sophocles and was the fourth iteration of *Oedipus The King*. Our pupils followed in the footsteps of the casts of 1937, 1979 and 1997, and members of the casts of the latter two productions were in attendance to enjoy the new tradition. It was wonderful to see them conversing with their successors following each performance, reminiscing about their experiences while praising the current pupils' approach and delivery of the characters.

In 1928 John Masfield, who would go on to become Poet Laureate, wrote: "The only sad thing about the Bradfield Play is that when watching one, one knows it will be three years before one can see anything so good anywhere in England." His hyperbolic sentiment is unequivocally untrue, nevertheless the Bradfield community is excited by what is to come in 2026 when it will be time for the 42nd Bradfield Greek Play.

# GREEK PLAY CAST ENJOY UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE PERFORMING OEDIPUS IN ATHENS

With the positive response to four well-received performances still ringing in their ears, the cast and crew of *Oedipus The King* left Bradfield for Athens for two final performances of the 41st Bradfield Greek Play.

Despite a four-hour delay at Heathrow Terminal 5, spirits remained high as the group boarded the plane. However, the audience would have to wait a little longer for Harry (A), Sophia (M), Jackson (A), Luca (H) et al to set foot on an Athenian stage as the first two days of the tour had been set aside for visits to the locations mentioned in, or significant to, the play and Greek Tragedy.

Day One saw the expectant troupe of players brave the unrelenting summer heat to ascend the Acropolis to admire the magnificent temple of Athena, better known as The Parthenon, and the Theatre of Dionysus, the birthplace

of Drama and modern theatre as we know it today. After time spent in the Parthenon Museum and in the surrounding narrow streets perusing potential souvenir purchases, it was time to return to base camp to reflect on the fact that the 2023 cast had just stood metres away from where the original cast of the play had performed it for the first time over two and a half thousand years earlier. Even Sophocles wouldn't argue with the sentiment that contemplation is always better when accompanied by a milkshake!

Day Two saw an excursion to the ancient city of Thebes where the cast had a chance to walk in the footsteps of the characters whose stories they had been telling. Whilst difficult to single out any artefact of greater significance, highlights of the newly built museum at Thebes were undoubtedly a pair of hairpins Ginny (M) and Amelie (LM)

so evocatively describe in their role as the Queen's Handmaidens when telling the audience that Oedipus has gouged out his own eyes.

Equally memorable was the chance to see objects used by everyday Thebans as they went about their lives in the city, including many associated with funeral rites of the type that would have been prolific at the time of the play as the plague Oedipus is tasked with preventing, decimated the population. A small clay figurine of The Sphinx, a monstrous perversion of woman, lion and bird as described by Josh's (D) Priest, was also a standout and further reminded them all that the events of the play, whilst dramatized so memorably by Sophocles, have their roots in historical fact. This was further emphasized by a visit to the 'Fountain of Oedipus' which is built at the spring where locals believe Oedipus washed





the blood off his hands after murdering his father, or the Temple of Apollo at Delphi, home to the mystical Oracle referred to many times throughout the play, and a place of enormous significance in our understanding and appreciation of antiquity.

With two exhausting days spent putting the play into its social, historical and theatrical context and deepening everyone's appreciation of what they were about to do, the third day was spent in the tranquil surroundings of the Mary Aroni Theatre making the necessary changes to allow it to play successfully in its unfamiliar, temporary new home. In their uniform black and red tour shirts, the cast worked hard and fast under the direction of twin tyrants Mr Saunders and Mr Quinn and at 20.30 on Thursday 6 July, Mr Price's evocative score began and, to the familiar smell of incense, the 41st Bradfield Greek Play cast walked out to a crowd of two hundred people.

Ninety minutes later and the first performance was over. To everyone's surprise and delight, the bow was followed by an impromptu photo call with the local Mayor and an entourage of local cultural emissaries, to award everyone with the 'Medal of Thucydides' for their outstanding contribution to the cultural life of Alimos, the district of Athens where the theatre is situated.

Day Four saw a break from rehearsals and performance and, after travelling the long and winding road through the beautiful Parnassus mountains, pupils were treated to a full day trip to the Corinth Canal and the breath-taking Theatre of Epidaurus; the largest remaining Greek Theatre which still hosts theatre productions. This historic location is the model upon which our



own Grecker is modelled. Various cast members took the opportunity to recite a line of dialogue or chant a moment from the Parados in this awe-inspiring venue before the distant call of milkshakes beckoned and they returned home.

The fifth day brought the second, and final, performance of *Oedipus The King* and after some Herculean efforts by Mr Price to incorporate microphones into the performance to combat the local noise that had taken us a little by surprise on the first night, the curtain finally fell on the 2023 Bradfield Greek play. After a bloodied Harry led his fellow castmates in singing 'Happy Birthday' to Mr Saunders, the dressing room door was locked and the cast returned home victorious with each of them very aware of quite how special the experience had been. They have

all made a valued contribution to the legacy of the Bradfield Greek Play.

With no more rehearsals, performances or trips planned, the final day was spent relaxing on sun loungers and swimming in the crystal-clear blue waters of the Aegean, recharging batteries and getting ready for the inevitable return trip.

In the programme notes for the play at Bradfield, Mr Saunders had observed that Greek Theatre had literally changed his life and whilst this tour may not be able to lay claim to anything so dramatic for each cast and crew member, it was an unforgettable experience and will live long in the memory of all involved. A fitting way to bring down the curtain on the year-long 41st Bradfield Greek Play project in spectacular style.





## THE PIANO: AN INSPIRATIONAL TOOL FOR IMPROVISATION AND COMPOSITION

*In the Spring of 2019 Bradfield took delivery of 12 upright and four Grand pianos from the prestigious piano makers Steinway & Sons, becoming an All-Steinway School. That means our Year 13s who will leave in the summer of 2024 will be the first year group to have benefitted from this partnership throughout their time in the Music Department. Therefore, it seems an appropriate year to celebrate the instrument and the*

*impact this partnership has had on the College's musicians.*

*Having left the College as a member of the Class of 2023, Toby (F), despite being best known for his bassoon playing, enjoyed four years of access to the Steinway Pianos. Here Toby reveals how access to some of the best instruments in the world helped him to discover a passion to improve and inspire in equal measure.*



## “ YOU DISCOVER WHAT YOU ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT AND I AM LUCKY TO HAVE FOUND MUSIC.

Looking back, I cannot remember a time when I was not involved with music. Whether it was hearing my brother playing the recorder in the dining room at home or playing in College music concerts, it has always been an integral part of my life.

When I was six years old, I started learning the recorder following on from my brother. After a few years, and having completed several grades, I decided to pick up something completely different, the violin. The instrument is deceptively difficult, it always looks so easy when you watch professionals, but, speaking from experience, it is near impossible to play at the beginning. For me I still find it difficult and it has not always been my favourite instrument to play, but I persevered and achieved Grade 8 Distinction in December of 2022, one of the hardest exams I have ever done.

In College, I was probably best known for my bassoon playing. I was awarded a Distinction in the ARSM Diploma in bassoon in 2022; a long-term goal of mine since starting to play the instrument in 2016. Since then, I have been awarded a second diploma for playing in a group ensemble, also at Distinction grade.

## “ A TOOL FOR IMPROVISATION AND COMPOSITION.

However, there was one instrument that has always been with me growing up and has never lost its place in my heart: the piano. No matter what was going on in my life, whether I was stressed, upset, frustrated or happy, I would always have the piano to express myself. It's the one instrument which I disliked doing grades for: I much preferred using it as a tool for improvisation and composition. This led to the creation of my YouTube channel which currently has amassed over 1000 subscribers and will hopefully continue to grow to inspire more like-minded people to pursue music.

The channel TDunc Piano is where I post videos of my progress of learning songs and the compositions I am currently working on. It always makes my day when I get comments from people watching my content and telling me that they have started playing piano again and how it's going.

This keeps me motivated to persevere and inspire more and more people. I started posting two years ago, however, I had to take a six month break due to my A Levels and have only just started up again. The channel has 200,000 views now and has reached 930,000 people and my goal has always been to create a community of people who enjoy music just as much as me who I hope to inspire to continue playing or start their own musical journey.

## “ I REMEMBER THE FIRST DAY I GOT TO USE THEM, I RUSHED OVER TO MUSIC SCHOOL TO PLAY AND I WAS NOT DISAPPOINTED.

While at Bradfield, I was fortunate enough to access the many Steinway pianos in Music School either in the Concert Hall or the practice rooms. I remember the first day I got to use them, I rushed over to Music School to play and I was not disappointed. The difference in quality was very noticeable and helped with learning more difficult pieces which had a massive impact on my channel.

Recently, I have begun playing arrangements of popular theme songs such as How to Train Your Dragon and Overwatch. Both arrangements rely on many relentless semiquaver passages which is where the Steinways really come into their own. While at Bradfield, the Steinways really helped with inspiration for my A Level compositions and I got much better at writing for piano because of them. It was a privilege having access to the grand pianos whenever I needed them, something that I am sure will not be as easy in the future.

I was so lucky to have the chance to play alongside many talented people at Bradfield, whether that be in an ensemble or playing Zadok the Priest in the College orchestra! I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the College and I will never forget the many fond memories I made over my five year journey.

I am ever grateful for all the times my teachers encouraged me to do things which I initially thought I would never do. It is during those times that you discover what you are passionate about and I am lucky to have found music.

Watch Toby's piano videos: [www.youtube.com/TDunc\\_Piano](https://www.youtube.com/TDunc_Piano)



# EVOLVING PARTNERSHIP AND CHARITY CONCERT PROVIDES COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR MUSICIANS



The Music Department continues to develop its strong partnership with Berkshire Maestros and this past summer saw the two organisations come together for a joint show in Reading Town Hall.

Collaborations with the local Music Hub began small with discussions of how specific instrumental faculties might work together to make a quantifiable difference to pupils from both institutions. The College hosted a number of Maestros events, they benefitted from the use of our facilities, whilst our pupils benefitted through participation. This included a Berkshire Maestros piano masterclass, at which a number of our pupils performed, and we hosted the semi-finals of their Young Musician of the Year competition. A number of Bradfield pupils made it through to this stage and the experience of competing against pupils from beyond Bradfield has a significant educational value. David Quinn, our Director of Music, joined the adjudicating panel for the singing competition, sitting alongside two choral and vocal experts from Maestros, and together they began to plan for the joint concert between Berkshire Youth Choir and our Chapel Choir.

As well as singing a solo set, the show saw the choirs combine for performances of Handel's *Zadok the Priest* and Rutter's *Gloria*. David played the organ for the event and following the concert commented: "I cannot overstate the power of being sat at the console when the first Zadok rang out. If it was moving for me as an audience member, so too was it an enriching experience for our performers. I am delighted that all 150 young singers from across the region had the opportunity to sing in a Choral Society scale ensemble."

We look forward to what the future brings as the Music Department continue working in partnership with Berkshire Maestros to deliver more of these experiences for the young people in our community and beyond.

The generosity of the wider Bradfield community was evident as the 16th annual Jazz on a Summer's Evening charity concert where £8,000 was raised for The Amber Trust. The charity, which provides blind and partially sighted children, including those with additional disabilities, with the best possible chance to meet their musical needs and aspirations, was chosen by Sixth Form pupil Arion (G). He has been in touch with The Amber Trust as part of his Extended Project Qualification research into visual impairment in music. During the show there was a very special performance of George Gershwin's *I Got Rhythm* by the supremely talented Amber student Ashleigh, a multi-instrumentalist at Grade 8 level who was born at 23 weeks and is blind, autistic and hearing-impaired.

Hundreds gathered in the Greek Theatre for the show as the College's musicians performed an eclectic mix of jazz, blues and soul, from Luiz Bonfá and Tower of Power to Celeste and Beyoncé and much in between. For some of our musicians this was the final opportunity for them to perform in the Greek Theatre before leaving the College and throughout the show Mark Etherington, Head of Music Events, thanked them individually for their contributions to the department during their time at Bradfield.





# MUSICIANS GAIN VALUABLE EXPERIENCES PERFORMING BEYOND BRADFIELD

The Summer Term is a mixed blessing in the Music Department. The College community enjoys some of the best quality musical performance our pupils have to offer, while also saying farewell to pupils who have had a significant impact on the Department over the previous five years. Their contributions to the musical life of Bradfield were on display at the two showcase concerts which started the term. An enthusiastic audience was treated to an evening of the very best Classical Music the College has to offer, surrounded by the elegant setting of the Long Gallery at Englefield House.

The Chapel Consort opened the concert and included a work by the English composer William Byrd in this his 400th anniversary year. The concert continued with solos by some of our Sixth Form leavers. Liam (A), Tallulah (K), Sasha (H) and Toby (F) treated the audience to some fantastic performances. Arion (G) also brought us his joint-winning performance from this year's Solo Instrumental Competition. The second half was given

entirely to a performance of Mendelssohn's *Piano Trio in D minor*, performed by Liam, Tallulah and outgoing Head of Keyboard Yulia Chaplina. The standing ovation attested to the triumph of this most musical performance.

Less than a week later it was the turn of our pop and jazz musicians to showcase their talent at the renowned Pizza Express Live venue in Holborn. Spotlight sessions for leavers Lottie (I) and Jack (E) sat alongside performances by groups IV and So What as well as Arion, Herbie (F), Purdey (I), Drew (A) and fellow leaver Rosie (I). Featuring prominently on the drums was Upper Sixth pupil Archie (A) and the performances were enabled by Jessie (M), Archie (G), Jayme (H), Oscar (F) and Jack (D). Providing these unique external experiences for our pupils is a privilege and pupils can gain a lot from performing at professional venues. The quality of musicianship on display was high in what must surely have been one of the highlights of the academic year.



# NEW GRIT+ FRAMEWORK HELPS CRICKETERS FLOURISH DURING ANOTHER SEASON OF SUCCESS

Cricket at Bradfield continues to thrive and grow. On the back of a supremely successful 2022 the College was able to field up to 18 teams for weekend fixtures. This has steadily risen from 11 teams during those distant pre-COVID years, which is testament to the excellence of the coaching team on top of the pupils' commitment to the sport. The largest growth has been in girls' cricket where victory in the 2022 National U18 T20 competition has clearly inspired the next generation of stars to play.

Rob Ferley's arrival as Head of Cricket Performance has brought a real focus on the values that Bradfield Cricket promotes. This year has seen the introduction of the GRIT+ framework which helps players develop in a healthy way, flourishing as a result of being part of an enjoyable environment. Gratitude, Responsibility, Intelligent decisions, Teamwork and (+) Winning are the values for pupils to display as they are encouraged to show bravery, courage and determination, despite difficulty in pursuit of a goal. Following each game, awards are made recognising GRIT+ with contributions and behaviours displayed in the field regarded as being of equal importance as scoring a century or taking five wickets.

This focus on how pupils play the Bradfield brand of cricket has only served to enhance performances. Indeed, 2023 turned out to be one of the most successful seasons for many years.

The girls made it through to the quarter finals of the National Cups in three age groups: U18, U17 and U15. The U17 Development Squad excelled with strong performance throughout the season, particularly in the T20 Cup quarter final at home to Brighton College which saw the girls bowl the opposition out for just 87. There were wickets for Jess (M), Jemima (M), Poppy (M) and Emma (K) and an incredible over from Issy (I) who took the final four Brighton wickets for six runs. The Bradfield girls quickly chased down the target inside 15 overs thanks to a run-a-ball 35 from Poppy as well as strong batting from Bella (I) and Eliza (K).

The win earned the team a trip to Arundel Castle for Finals Day in the last week of the Summer Term. Despite a strong start by Poppy, 46 runs from 43 balls, and Kat (LM), 42 from 43 balls, the semi-final ended up becoming a reduced overs game and their opponents managed to chase down the total with an over to spare.





Progress in the girls' game continues to be prolific and clearly reflects the growth of the game in the Prep Schools. Pupils have been inspired by the achievements of their heroes in the professional game and Old Bradfieldian Lauren Bell (J 17-19) has shown them that it is now possible to make a career in cricket through new and exciting developments in the women's game. 1stXI Co-Captain Poppy is taking the first steps on that route; her unbeaten 136 for Berkshire Women against Oxfordshire demonstrates the impact she can have in adult cricket and we look forward to seeing what she can achieve in the months and years ahead.

The boys' 1stXI are learning to make intelligent decisions and take responsibility for their performances; on their day they have played fantastic cricket with a number of great wins. This included an excellent 149 run win in a 50-over match against Clifton College. After winning the toss and electing to bat the boys scored an assured 255 runs thanks to a 113-run third wicket partnership between Crofton (C), 61 runs off 54 balls, and Andrew (A), who went on to score 95 runs off 85 balls. The performances with the ball were just as strong as the Bradfield boys bowled the opposition out for just 106 inside 25 overs. Having toiled away as Clifton reached 70-2, an excellent display of bowling meant the remaining eight wickets were taken for just 36 runs. Ben (D) took 4 wickets for 19 runs from his five overs while Nick (C) took 3 wickets for 28 runs from his seven overs. The first

team also came to within a victory from earning a place in their National T20 Cup Finals Day.

The leading boys side were the U15As who won all of their John Harvey Cup fixtures and also came within one victory of a place in their National T20 competition Finals Day. Their T20 run featured some excellent victories including a tense win over Stowe which went down to the final ball. Heading into bat first, Bradfield set a target of 131 for victory thanks to an outstanding 62 runs from 43 balls from wicket-keeper Charlie (A). James' (D) excellent 3 wickets for 16 runs from his four overs helped restrict the opposition, helping Bradfield close out victory with the last ball of the game. They then fell just short against King's College, Taunton in the final regional round. A quickfire 38 from Louis (G) helped Bradfield set a total of 135 but it was chased down for the loss of just two wickets.

However, the boys can be proud of their achievement and this has been remarkable progress from a group of boys who struggled in their first year. A pre-season tour to Dubai in March completed a busy winter of training which also included weekly 100 ball fixtures on the hockey pitches where temperatures in February got down to -3°C. The boys have worked extremely hard with the team of coaches to develop their individual and team skills and have a bright future ahead.





# TROPHIES, FINALS AND SCHOLARSHIPS EARNED AS TENNIS PLAYERS CONSISTENTLY ACHIEVE

Having brought the 2022 season to an end in the perfect way by winning the Youll Cup for the first time in the College's history, 2023 saw the continuation of success for both our girls' and boys' teams with trophies won, and nearly won, progression for players in all year groups and scholarships to celebrate.

The popular pre-season tour to Vale do Lobo, Algarve, Portugal saw the College run back-to-back tours for the first time, one for Junior and one for Senior pupils. Over 45 pupils enjoyed two training sessions each day as well as opportunities to hone their technique during Padel competitions. There were also friendly fixtures against Epsom College and Tudor Hall as well as matches against others outside of our usual catchment area

such as Truro and The Leys School. The experiences gained on tour set our tennis players up in the right way for their season ahead and what a season it was.

The girls' 1stVI were unlucky not to repeat last year's 100% record with a narrow 4-5 loss to Stowe, however the Independent Schools Girls Tennis League team, which is made up of players representing every year group, enjoyed a superb tournament, winning the competition and gaining revenge over last year's winners, Epsom College, in the final. It is the second time that Bradfield have won the ISGTL trophy since its introduction five years ago. The Junior girls continue to impress and reached the County finals in the Year 9-10 LTA Schools competition.

The Senior boys' 1stVI enjoyed an unbeaten regular fixture season with the closest match being against Eton College, a match which saw Bradfield win by 5-4. Arguably their finest achievement, however, was once again reaching the final of the Youll Cup. Seeking to defend their title, our boys came through deciding one-set doubles games in each of their fixtures, overcoming challenges from Leicester Grammar School, Radley, Repton and Ewell Castle to reach the final. They went down 2/0 to a strong Reeds team who didn't drop a match all tournament, but the boys can be proud to have performed so consistently over the last few seasons as they continue to reach this stage of the biggest tournaments.





The boys' Glanville Cup team won a high-quality regional final against Sir William Borlase's Grammar School to reach the National Finals which were held in Nottingham at the end of June, another superb achievement. Our Junior boys also finished runners-up in the 16-team Eton Pairs tournament. Outstanding performances throughout his Bradfield career earned outgoing 1stVI Captain Tom (D) the opportunity to join Gonzaga University, Washington, USA to play Division 1 tennis. Tom played a key role in Bradfield's success over the past five years and was also selected to represent the ISTA representative team in their fixture against the All-England Club at SW19 for the second season in a row. We wish him all the best as he enters the next phase of his academic and sporting journey.

The College Performance Tennis programme continues to provide pupils who compete in County and Regional level LTA events an expansive ten-hour weekly programme combined with two Strength and Conditioning sessions. This programme is invaluable as it not only provides for the current cohort but also attracts newer tennis playing pupils to the College. Our Classic Match series returned with the annual fixture against the International Club of Great Britain in which our girls lost 3-1 and the boys went down 4-5 in a closely contested match.

Co-Curricular tennis has proven extremely popular with pupils across all year groups outside of competitive fixtures with teams playing once or twice a week. Tennis continues to grow in popularity across the College and is a sport for all, not just for those who compete.

Looking back at the end of another year of achievement Damian Fuller, Director of Tennis, commented: "It is wonderful to see the vast number of pupils who practice, train and compete each week and we couldn't provide these opportunities without the College staff who travel with the teams and work alongside my Bradfield Tennis Club coaching team. My thanks also go out to the OB Tennis community. It has been an honour and a privilege to put Bradfield on the map as a top tennis school and to follow up on all of the hard work that went before. Finally, a big thank you to my excellent coaching team who deliver outstanding training sessions, team training, co-curricular and one-to-one lessons. I know how much the pupils enjoy their sessions."





# TARGET RIFLE SHOOTERS DISPLAY QUALITIES DURING STELLAR SEASON

Having been set a very high bar by the team of 2022 our target rifle shooters were keen to focus on improving their skills rather than on the rewards and arguably that led them to emulate their predecessor's successes.

At the beginning of the year team captain Keisha (I) steered the team to successive Cup match victories at Marlborough and RGS Guildford which was followed by success in the English Schools Long Range Challenge. Maya (J) was Individual Champion and the Bradfield IV won the Team Trophy.

There was to be more individual success to champion as the selection committee for the UKCRT (GBU17) and BCRT Athelings teams (GBU18) selected Will (H) and Amelie (M) to join Ex Maple Taste, the selection weekend for the UKCRT which they were ultimately successful at, while Maya and Bella (M) were selected for the Athelings squad and toured Canada this past summer. Steve Bates, our Master in Charge of Shooting, was also named as Commandant of the Athelings and joined the team on the tour.

The sustained success over several years has led to a growing and engaged Bradfield shooting community with a number of OBs continuing to represent the College. Due to an injury to Steve, which was more serious than expected, that community came to the fore as Annabel Morriss (J 16-21), a former team captain and GBU19 shot herself, agreed to fill the void and keep the team ticking along and she did a fine job.

The summer competition season began with the Berkshire heat of the Astor Trophy where the College finished with the same score as the two Senior teams competing and were narrowly beaten into 2nd by a V count. Next came the Berkshire Championships and the Bradfield A team, dubbed 'The Falcons', earned victories in both the short and long range matches while Rory (G) was also crowned College and Berkshire Schools Champion for 2023.

June's Hampshire Open Championships saw more strong performances from all the College shots with Keisha





finishing second overall with an outstanding 196 & 22vs. She won countless trophies and medals as a Tyro and U25. Rory (G) was just a point behind with 195&25vs and as it was in his home county, he also won the Hampshire Closed Championships. 'The Falcons' again won both the short and long range team matches.

Having won the Ashburton Shield at the Schools Meeting in 2022 the team's goal was to relax and enjoy the meeting, aiming for another strong finish. Nine of the 11 Cadets featured in the Top 100 with Roanna (M) placing eighth. Despite improving on their 2022 score the team finished third, winning bronze medals. Amelie (M) shot the top score on Ashburton day and was awarded the Simon Dixon Memorial Tankard.

The Imperial Meeting immediately followed and for the first time the College fielded nine shots. Four Tyros made their debut as the team accumulated valuable experience and a Grand Aggregate score that would hopefully allow for an application for UKCRT or BCRT or GBU19 in 2024. There were outstanding performers with Rory and Keisha shooting in the winning team for the Gary Jones trophy alongside Will and Maya. Individually, Keisha won numerous trophies and medals including the

notable Young Rifleman's Aggregate which saw her win a fullbore shell shooting jacket as well. Rory made the final of the St George's and the HM The Kings Prize. In poor weather conditions, he rose to the challenge finishing 15th overall and winning the Top Cadet Trophy as well as a trophy from the North London Rifle Club, of which Bradfield shots are all members, as a top finishing U25 member. Rory has now received a call up for GBU21 to go to South Africa and Keisha has been given a place on the England Lions for 2023/24.

Maya, Bella and Steve departed for Canada in August to shoot in the Dominion of Canada RA Championships. Later that month Will and Amelie travelled to Jersey to shoot in the JRA Open and in the annual match against the Channel Island Cadets. Maya was in a team of four that won the 1000 yard match on the final day of the Ontario Open. Bella was one of the coaches in the first ever BCRT to compete in the Commonwealth match, doing a sterling job. Amelie and Will both shot well and the UKCRT were victorious in the match vs the CI.

The final run out for the team was in the Quadrangular match at Bisley at the end of the summer. The College team's 388&36vs ex 400 was enough to secure victory while the OBs shot the same score but with 42vs, a fitting way for Bradfield shooting community to finish the 2023 season.





# HORIZONS

## INTERVIEW PRACTICE AND CREATIVES PANEL HELP PUPILS PREPARE FOR THEIR FUTURES

Horizons' intensive morning of workshops during the Summer Term challenged pupils to think about their futures while providing them with the tools to sell themselves on paper and in person. The workshops covered a self-awareness exercise drawing on an individuals' interests, skills and preferred subjects. This was followed by a session on CV writing, interview techniques, the importance of a compelling 'elevator pitch', networking and work experience.

Having taken part in the workshop, pupils were asked to write a first draft of their CV to submit to the Horizons team for reviewing. Pupils were then allocated a one-to-one interview slot

with a professional from a sector in which they had expressed an interest. The Horizons team were delighted to welcome forty OBs, business professionals and parents to support two interview practice evenings. During the competency-based interview, pupils were challenged to give examples of occasions when they had demonstrated soft/employability skills such as collaboration and complex problem solving. Pupils received feedback directly after the interview and further feedback on their responses to questions and their CVs post event.

Horizons also hosted a Creatives Panel for pupils in the Fifth and Sixth Form interested in working in creative

industries such as film, journalism, music, marketing, design, theatre and fashion. Two OBs Amy Parker (I 13-16), who works in film, and Craig Haynes (H 01-03), who works in marketing, joined us, as well as parents from theatre, opera and film, fashion journalism and the music industry.

The Horizons team is always incredibly grateful for the support of parents, Old Bradfieldians, business professionals and friends of Bradfield at these events. If you'd like to be involved with Horizons and inspire the next generation of Bradfieldians you can find out more here: <https://www.bradfieldcollege.org.uk/article/be-involved-with-horizons/>



# BROADEN YOUR HORIZONS CAREERS FAIR AND MARKETING ONESELF

The College welcomed over seventy exhibitors to the annual Higher Education, University and Careers Fair at the end of the Summer Term. The Horizons team were delighted with the number of businesses that attended to offer a breadth of alternatives to university through some excellent degree apprenticeship schemes as well as school leaver programmes. Also in attendance were several gap year organisations, overseas universities and advisors as well as the usual mix of UK universities.

Invitations to our local state and independent partner schools, Theale Green, The Downs, Little Heath and Pangbourne College, brought in a further 300 pupils which helps to draw in a larger offering of university and company

exhibitors. The pupils were very engaged, the feedback from attendees was very positive and all the exhibitors are interested in coming again next year.

Earlier in the term Lower Sixth pupils attended a carousel of workshops relating to employability. The workshops covered topics including the importance of identifying your own employability and communication skills and personal brand, all of which emphasised the importance of selling oneself in-person. The workshops, which were delivered by the Chartered Insurance Institute, also covered personal finance, including loans and mortgages, and managing own finances, as our pupils move on from school.



## FAULKNER'S TALK FUTURES WHILE SIXTH FORM PUPILS LEARN TO TALK ABOUT THEMSELVES

Faulkner's pupils joined the Horizons team for a day to focus on their futures. There was time for self-reflection and an opportunity to explore what they enjoy, what they are good at and what they might look for in a future career. Our youngest pupils explored the future of work using a research platform called Unifrog, exploring the skills required for various roles as well as looking at what job opportunities might arise in the future. They conducted research in groups before presenting to their peers.

Jane Marshall, ex. Admissions at Imperial, talked to our Senior pupils about how to write a strong personal statement. She highlighted both the good and the bad in personal statement writing before emphasising the importance of choosing the right course. Pupils were encouraged to make a start on a first draft based on a university course they have chosen following the talk and were given further helpful hints, guidance and resources on how to structure a Personal Statement by the Horizons team.



# THE CONFIDENCE TO TAKE TO THE SKIES

Joanne Segebarth (I 93-95)



“ ‘I’m certainly no glass ceiling smasher’, reflects Commercial Airline Pilot Jo Segebarth (née Tait), referencing the fact that there have been female pilots on British Airways flightdecks since the late 1980s, two decades before she first entered a commercial cockpit. “It’s just sadly there aren’t many of us, so you do tend to stand out a bit. I remember walking through the Departure Lounge at Terminal 5 and a little girl turned to her mother and said, ‘look Mum there’s the pilot!’ It was so sweet and such a cool moment to break those stereotypes, to not be seen as a female pilot.”

Only 9% of commercial pilots are females and Jo has been one of them for almost twenty years since entering the cockpit with BMed in 2005. She joins me for a coffee and a walk down memory lane in sunny Hungerford, just a short countryside drive away from the school in which she spent her Sixth Form years. Warm, funny and incredibly personable, the Old Bradfieldian is still full of enthusiasm for her former stomping ground. “I had some of my happiest times at Bradfield. Even now when I drive through the village I get a nice warm feeling,”



Joining the College in 1993 from an all-girls school, Jo relays how lucky she felt to attend for two years which would fly by in the blink of an eye. Despite some early trepidation knowing that she would walk into rooms already filled with pupils who had forged friendships and alliances, she quickly found that Bradfield was the kind of school where being embraced as a new pupil was made so easy because the opportunities were endless. “It felt like a friendly, gentle school and it wasn’t like you had to go looking for things to do; those opportunities were everywhere!”

“ IT GIVES YOU THE  
CONFIDENCE TO  
APPLY YOURSELF  
AND MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE.

Her love of music led her to join the Chamber Choir while she threw herself into most sports including netball, tennis, lacrosse and even squash. “Before I knew it, I was nose deep in mud with a rifle”, laughs Jo as she recalls stories from her time in the Combined Cadet Force.

She also thrived academically, studying Chemistry, Biology and English, and

she waxes lyrical about her inspirational teachers including Hailz-Emily Osborne who she was delighted to hear had returned to watch this summer’s Greek Play. All of these experiences instilled a skillset in Jo which she still leans on in life to this day. “What I took from Bradfield, in a humble way, was this reassuring internal confidence. It helps you contribute as part of a team and gives you the confidence to apply yourself when necessary and make a difference. It helped me to understand humility and to have the patience to let something play out while being part of the bigger picture.”

I’m curious as to whether a career in flying had entered her mind by this point; her father, after all, was a commercial pilot. It wasn’t completely off her radar, excuse the pun, but she had other aspirations with one eye on a potential career in Medicine. So, combining her academic subjects with her sporting passions, she headed off to the University of Bristol to study Anatomy and Physiology. It wasn’t long before the opportunity to fly arose for Jo.

“If you asked me where I spent my happiest times at university it would be flying”, she says explaining she’d noticed a stall for the University Air Squadron



while representing the netball team at a Freshers Fair. The RAF affiliated programme gave her access to 100 flying hours, essentially the elementary flying training syllabus for becoming a pilot within either the Royal Navy or the RAF. “I always had the idea that if I was going to fly, I’d rather take people on holiday than drop bombs”, she says as I ask if she’d considered a career in the military before she adds: “I’m also not good at ironing so I don’t think I’d have made it.”

**“ IT WAS QUITE A BIZARRE PLACE TO FIND MYSELF IN.**

That career in flying would have to wait a little longer thanks to some advice from her Dad who told her she should go and explore the world. She soon landed a job in the City working for a full service advertising agency, where Jo, rather modestly, states she was “basically Head of Photocopying”, a job she thinks she was terrible at. However, utilising her Bradfield skillset, Jo networked her way around several faculties within the agency including media, artwork and design

before being invited to go client side, eventually joining investment bank Cantor Fitzgerald. “It was quite a bizarre place to find myself in. We had a huge marketing budget, sponsoring Grand Prix balls and placing big adverts in the Financial Times. It was a great feeling seeing all this artwork knowing I had been a part of it.”

Career-wise, the turning point was 9/11, an event which had a massive impact on so many people, not least those at her company.

Cantor Fitzgerald had offices on multiple floors of the North Tower and Jo’s office was just off the London trading floor. “It still haunts me to this day”, Jo says as she becomes visibly emotional at the memory. “We heard the employees over there shouting through the phones asking what was happening because the floors were hot and they were standing on their desks.”

It fell to Jo’s department to set up the centre for elements of the business to call and find out if they had any information about who was in the Twin Towers building at the time. For Jo it was a really pivotal moment and her outlook on life changed that day. “It sounds counter intuitive because after that who would want to get in a plane but part of me felt it was my duty.”

**“ SOME OF THE MOST FUN FLYING I’VE EVER DONE.**

She packed everything she owned into her little Renault Clio and drove up the M40 to embark upon a training course at Oxford Aviation. In 2005 she earned her first jet job flying out of Heathrow

with BMed. Looking back now she says it was “some of the most fun flying I’ve ever done.” At the time the airline flew small Airbus planes to places to which you wouldn’t normally go on your holidays; destinations like Damascus, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Beirut, Aleppo, some quite incredible places, but after a couple of years the company went bust and were bought by BMI. Suddenly she found herself piloting four flights a day to Dublin and, looking to do more long-haul flights than those on offer, she jumped at the chance to join British Airways in 2011 where she still works today, flying 777s and following in her Dad’s footsteps.

“It’s a fantastic job. I’m in the right-hand seat of a 777, I’ve got the flexibility having worked my way up and I would recommend it to anyone. You just have to have a passion and a drive to learn but you are rewarded with a job in which no two days at work are the same. Every time you fly you have different people, different passengers, different flight crews, different weather, different destinations. It is truly wonderful.”





# CLASS OF 2012 REUNITE

The reunion for the Class of 2012 was a roaring success with over fifty alumni coming together in March to celebrate the 10th anniversary of leaving Bradfield.

Emma Cole (M 07-12) and Georgia Lewis (M 07-12) hosted their peers at The Bay and Bracket, Victoria, supported by The Bradfield Society.



There was a jovial atmosphere throughout the evening as friends reconnected and shared stories of their

journeys since moving on from the school. It was a pleasure to see so many OBs from the same year group under

one roof. "We'll have to get planning for the next one!", Emma commented afterwards.

## DECEMBER DATE FOR CLASS OF 2013 REUNION

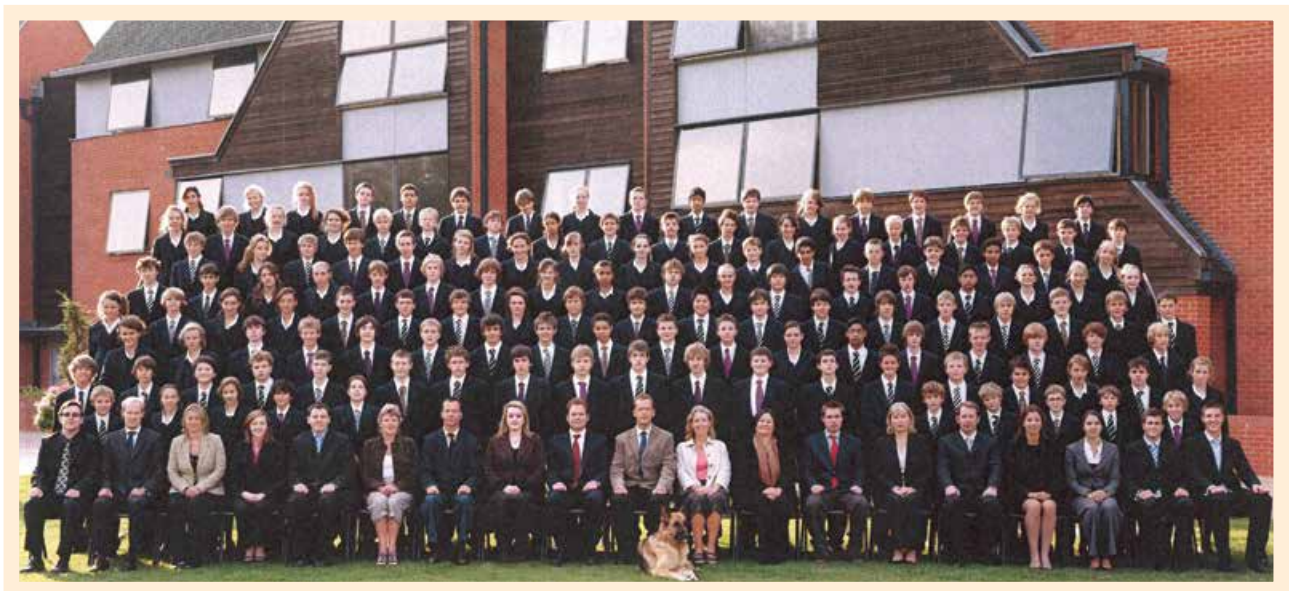
Now it is the turn of the Class of 2013 who are ready to celebrate 10 years since leaving Bradfield.

Isobel Gallagher (J 11-13) and Jonny Denton (D 08-13) are helping to organise the year group event which will take place on Friday 1 December 2023 from 7pm at the People's

Park Tavern, Victoria Park, London, E9 7BT.

To sign up for the event and to find out more head to The Bradfield Society website – [www.bradfieldsociety.org.uk/events](http://www.bradfieldsociety.org.uk/events)

The first drink is on The Bradfield Society so sign up and we'll see you in December!





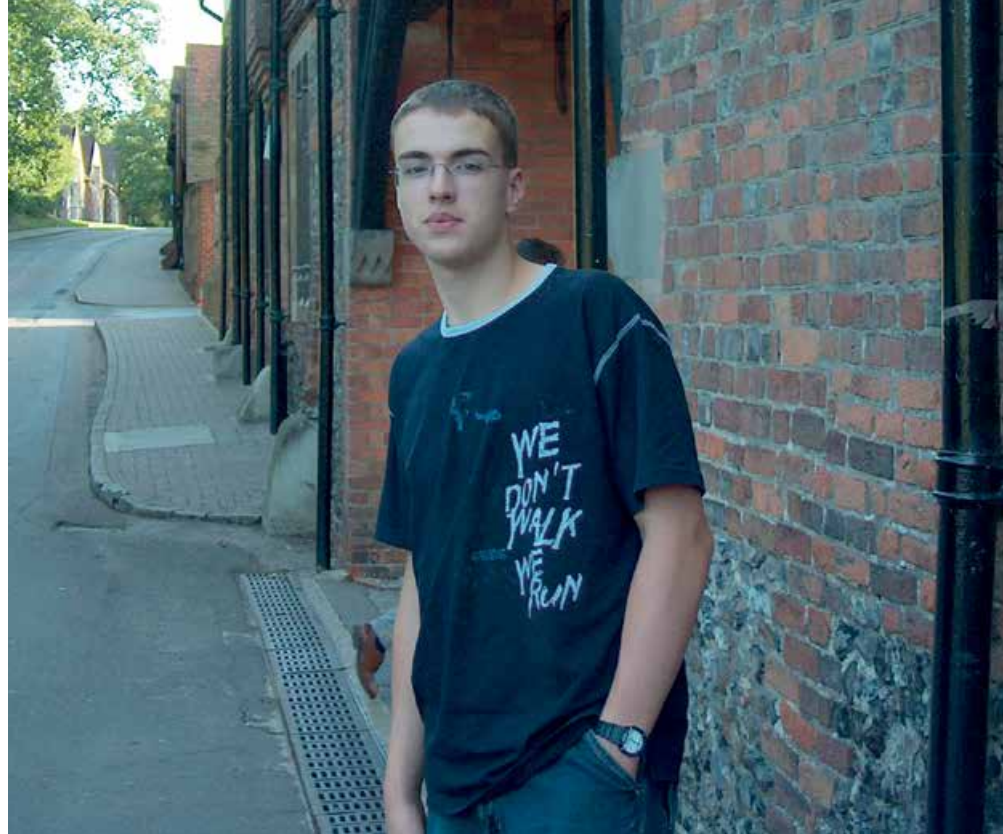
# POWER ON OUR SIDE

Hannes Otto (F 04-06)



*In spite of headline-grabbing commentary about wavering commitments to net zero targets, we all know that sustainable energy is the future; a massive growth area within our economies and the source of many of the jobs for future leavers. One of the people to lead the trend with a career in sustainable energy was Hannes Otto (F 04-06), Managing Director of NOTUS energy, who spoke with Katie Green-Armytage, from The Bradfield Society, about his time at Bradfield and his journey into a career in sustainable energy.*

At just 28-years-old, Hannes earned a promotion to Operations Managing Director of NOTUS, a successful medium-sized sustainable energy firm based in Germany. His progression to MD at such a young age was a big step for him. While feeling that he might not be ready, it was not the first time he had pushed out of his comfort zone. Joining Bradfield in the Sixth Form proved to be a steep learning curve and an experience that gave him confidence in his abilities and a willingness not to shy away from a challenge.



Hannes was a very proactive pupil, keen to embrace the opportunities offered. He remembers being commended by Mrs Atkinson, his careers teacher, for being the first person in the year to enquire about opportunities beyond Bradfield. He admits, however, that he didn't quite get off to the flying start he would have hoped for.

**“ THE THINGS I LEARNED AT BRADFIELD HAVE REALLY STUCK WITH ME, IT WAS A GREAT FOUNDATION FOR LATER LEARNING.**

He chose academic subjects for which he held a natural curiosity and ability; A Levels in Maths, Physics, Economics and German, the latter of which was compulsory for German pupils. Back in Germany, he had been top of his Maths class but he struggled to keep up in his early lessons, hindered by

his lack of fluency in English, and being asked to write a 1000-word essay on the English economy for his first Economics prep made him thoroughly question his motivation. All this while he was adapting to the rigours of boarding school life where he missed friends and family. It was tough, yet Hannes was determined to persevere. “I worked hard because I knew that a Bradfield education was expensive and I wanted to show my parents that I appreciated their investment in me.”

Hannes sought help for those areas in which he struggled and found a wealth of support. In ‘Maths Surgery’, Dr Beeson identified that the German system for working out quadratic equations was different and taught him how to solve them the English way, a secret he shared with his brother, Piet, before his arrival; his Housemaster, Mr Backhouse, helped explain the English terminology and micro-economic concepts in more detail. “The things I learned at Bradfield have really stuck with me, it was a great foundation for later learning.”

After Bradfield, Hannes decided to continue his experiences in the British education system, going on to read Aerospace Engineering at the University of Southampton where he would also participate in the ERASMUS scheme, spending a year at Stuttgart University, studying modules on wind turbines. This experience inspired his thesis which he wrote on rotor blades before a Master's thesis about potential improvements to blade dynamics.

Despite his degree topic, Hannes was not dead set on a career in sustainable energy, but in the end, it was something that made good sense. Upon finishing his UK studies Hannes took some time out to assist his mother in recovering from medical treatment. Sensing that he needed to start on his career, his father suggested that Hannes take a temporary role at NOTUS, the company he founded.

## NOTUS ENERGY FACTS

**NOTUS energy was established in 2001 by Heiner Roger as one of the first sustainable energy companies in Germany. It is a medium-sized company and has a portfolio that generates 376MW, sufficient to power circa 345,000 homes per annum. NOTUS employs 339 people in 15 countries so whilst being a national business it has global reach.**

In his first few years at NOTUS Hannes had the opportunity to work for a partner company, gaining experience in financing projects and sales. Upon his return, he implemented this knowledge and

earned the responsibility for project planning which saw him manage post-acquisition phase activities, including contract preparation. When the business was re-structured in 2016, Hannes was endorsed by senior colleagues to assume the role of Operations Managing Director and he took on responsibility for the commercial and technical functions as well as asset management.

Whilst the sustainable energy industry in German is big business and ever expanding, initiating a sustainable energy project is not as easy as you would think – something that we can relate to in the UK. Certainly, the project initiation phase can be intensely bureaucratic and lengthy, with projects taking anywhere from one year to more than a decade to come to fruition. However, NOTUS is well placed in Germany's sustainable energy market, agile enough to take advantage of opportunities whilst also being sufficiently well-resourced to cope with the risk and long lead times associated with project initiation.

Regulatory changes are also the source of many of the challenges faced by Hannes' team, but he praises the dynamism of his co-workers, perhaps leaning on those experiences during his early Bradfield days. "Our approach is very collaborative and we work well together, which honestly makes even the tricky stuff fun."

“ **SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PROVIDES MANY INTERESTING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES.**

Sustainable energy is not all about the cold topics of science and business – site permissions require the buy-in of the local populations which often comes down to the aesthetics of a proposal. However, in Germany there is less of the NIMBYism that prevents UK sustainable projects going ahead. It is however that very interplay of aesthetics and technology that motivated Hannes' father to set up NOTUS energy in the first place and continues to motivate him now. "The better we rebuild the forces of nature, the more efficient and beautiful the result." His understanding of aesthetics has remained his guiding principle. In Heiner's view, the fate of individuals and society is determined by the laws of nature and using climate-friendly renewable energies will help us to achieve the required and sustainable balance.

Heiner and Hannes would therefore wholeheartedly support sustainability being a more prominent focus for Bradfieldians thinking of their future careers. "I would happily recommend a career in sustainable energy to any Bradfield leaver. It is a growth area that provides many interesting career opportunities. In addition to the normal business functions of finance, marketing, sales and so forth, sustainable energy companies require many different types of engineers to develop and maintain the wind farms and solar fields." Civil engineers are required for construction, mechanical engineers for gearbox and bearings, electrical engineers for power generation, aerospace engineers for blade design and systems engineers to ensure the successful running of the site. Specialists are also needed with expertise in geography or geology as well as nature and ecology experts who can advise on the wildlife movement



during the initial acquisition process and optimise sites for the local flora and fauna to minimise impact.

Additionally, Hannes attributes learning English as a key contributor to his workplace success and conversely would encourage English speakers to learn other languages. Whilst the culture of international companies might dictate that English would be the principal language, NOTUS's national offices operate in German and a working knowledge of German is essential to workplace competence but also enjoyment of life outside of work and so it would be for other national companies.

## THE DESIRE TO GIVE BACK...

Hannes felt that Bradfield offered him a very holistic educational experience, far broader than he might have

experienced had he remained within the German education system and he has remained well disposed towards the College since leaving, keeping up to date by reading the *The Bradfieldian* online. As such, when he heard about the plan to transform the church that he remembered from start of year services into an inspirational new working environment, his interest was piqued. "As someone who prefers to 'go to work' as opposed to 'working from home', the plan to transform the former church into a facility offering study spaces outside of the House seems like a fantastic opportunity to me."

He's also an advocate of the different working methodologies that the space will enable and how it is geared towards the way people interact in the workplace where collaboration is a crucial practice. "I wish the project

every success. It is definitely a place that I would have taken advantage of had it existed when I was at Bradfield."

*Having shared the details of the project with his brother, and Head of Real Estate Department at NOTUS, Piet Otto (F 06-08), the pair decided to club together to make a gift to the St Andrew's Project; as a College we are incredibly grateful to them for their support.*

*Owing to the importance of sustainability to our future and future careers we would like to establish a Sustainability Networking group for the benefit of Bradfieldians – current pupils, alumni, and parents. If you are interested in joining our Sustainability Networking group please email [bradfieldsociety@bradfieldcollege.org.uk](mailto:bradfieldsociety@bradfieldcollege.org.uk) with the title 'sustainability networking group'.*





# ST ANDREW'S PROJECT GATHERS PACE

Much of the work on the external elements of the ground-breaking St Andrew's Project is nearing completion with just a few months remaining until the College's dynamic teaching and learning space officially opens its doors. The latter half of 2023 has seen a shift towards the creation of the different internal zones within the building and their transformation into the individual and collaborative learning spaces.

The removal of the scaffold exoskeleton from the building has finally exposed the full glory of the restored tower and its weathervane. Returning the cockerel to his rightful perch on the tower has been a moment to celebrate.

A major piece of construction work over the Summer has seen the creation of the Gray School link section, which is fully formed and doors will soon be fitted to allow access through the Economics and Business Studies Departments building.

The re-roofing will also soon be completed with the final section over the porch of the original entrance taking shape. Skilled artisan work has also been taking place with the external flint work being re-rendered and the Rose Window carefully returned to its place within the stone framework. The contractors have also now installed the link-building glass panels and will soon be applying the Zinc cladding to the concrete structure which will serve as the main entrance way to St Andrew's.



The individual internal zones are beginning to take shape and demonstrating signs of their future character. The South Transept steps are all in place so the flow from the link building through the reception area to the main part of the building can now be visualised. Construction in the South Aisle continues and the contractors are working on the split section of the lower level reading room and higher level mezzanine with seminar room. The central pole is now in place for the spiral staircase which will take visitors up to the mezzanine 'boardroom'.

Contractors have fixed the steps in place, installing them one by one before adding the glass banister. The central collaborative space of the nave is now being defined with glass panels separating it from the other work spaces while the presentation suite underneath the North Aisle Mezzanine is taking shape.

*The learn more about the project or to make a gift in support of St Andrew's please contact our Philanthropy Lead, Kirsty Perkinson, via email [development@bradfieldcollege.org.uk](mailto:development@bradfieldcollege.org.uk) or call 0118 964 4846.*



# LARGE DEMAND LEADS TO ENJOYMENT AT ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Such has been the growth in popularity of golf at Bradfield that bumper interest and turnout for this year's Family Foursomes Golf saw the creation of a waiting list to compete in the annual fun event. 16 pairs took to the Bradfield College Golf Course and it was lovely to welcome a number of parent and pupil pairings alongside two Old Bradfieldian families; Michael Tyrrell (G 85-90) playing with his mother Jill, a dedicated member of the Bradfield College Golf Club, and Francesca Gillespie-Walker (I 08-10) playing with her father.

The pairs enjoyed sunny conditions on the course and all said how much they enjoyed the round of nine holes. Sixth Form pupil Tom (E) won the 'nearest to the pin' prize with an outstanding ninth hole shot that hit the green and rolled to within a metre of the flag. He and his father Richard had the 'Best Stableford as a Pair' points score of the day of 41. Runners up for that prize were

James and Teddy (E) with 38 points. Tom and Teddy shared the prize for 'Best Individual Stableford Score' as they both scored 22 points over the nine holes played.

After the play everyone enjoyed match tea with sandwiches and cakes in the Golf Clubhouse while conversing over how much they had enjoyed their rounds. The Bradfield Society would like to thank Mike Goodwin from the College Golf staff for organising the play and scorecards for the afternoon.

With the increase in demand to be one of the 16 pairs to compete we would advise booking early for next year's event. Keep your eyes on our regularly updated Bradfield Society Events webpage on the online network for the latest information: [www.bradfieldsociety.org.uk/events](http://www.bradfieldsociety.org.uk/events)





# CHARITY TENNIS TOURNAMENT BRINGS TOGETHER RANGE OF BRADFIELD SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES

A move from the traditional April slot to a summer date in June proved the perfect tonic for the annual Bradfield Society Mixed Doubles Tennis Tournament in support of the charity Give It Your Max with increased participation on the sun-soaked courts.

The clay courts looked splendid and the new marquee on the mound between the two sets of courts provided welcome shade and shelter as the sun beamed down on Bradfield. This year twenty pairs competed as the Society welcomed current parents and pupils, prospective parents and pupils and, with the help of Kirsty Richardson (K 97-99), many players from fellow Bradfield Group school St Andrew's Prep where Kirsty is now a parent. It was a pleasure to welcome back several Old Bradfieldians including Anna Moss-Gibbons (I 95-97) who came along with her son, Annie Stratford (J 95-97), Aidan Meynell (D 88-93), Christian Ward (F 15-17) and former member of staff Nickie Moss-Gibbons who joined to watch the morning's play.

As usual it was a fun and friendly tournament with each pair playing a series of 18-minute matches in four ability-graded groups. Winners of the groups proceeded to the knock-out semi-finals and the competition was eventually won by Henry Beddard and his daughter. The runners up were the Cowan family who are Friends of Bradfield and work with the charity.

The Bradfield Society would like to thank everyone who took part and the generosity shown in raising £660 for Give It Your Max. There was also plenty of support for the raffle later in the day which raised further funds for the charity.

The event couldn't have taken place without the help of Give It Your Max's Lorna Cowan, the Bradfield Tennis Club for the use of the courts and donation of tennis balls, and also Freddie (C 93-98) and Mike Stotesbury (E 56-60) who brought many friendly faces along with the former competing in the tournament too.

If you would like to be a part of the event in 2024, keep up to date with all the upcoming Bradfield Society events via the online network: [www.bradfieldsociety.org.uk/events](http://www.bradfieldsociety.org.uk/events)





# BRADFIELDIANS CELEBRATE THIRTY YEARS OF TENNIS INNOVATION

To mark the recent successes for both tennis pupils and the LTA affiliated Bradfield Tennis Club, The Bradfield Society held a celebration event at the College. It was the perfect opportunity to recognise donors, Bradfieldians and Friends of Bradfield, including former and current parents, who have all helped to lay the foundations for these successes which include a first ever Youll Cup victory and LTA recognition with the Tennis Club shortlisted for National Club of the Year 2023 and officiator and coach Selena Coburn shortlisted for National Official of the Year 2023.

Old Bradfieldian Tony Billington (H 59-63) was guest of honour, recognising the integral part he played in getting the funding for the Indoor Tennis Centre project which began thirty years ago and was opened by his nephew Tim Henman in May 2000. Tony and others, including Chris Gorringe (E 59-64), former Chief Executive of the All England Club, were also instrumental in helping the clay courts project come to fruition; the courts were opened by 22-time Wheelchair Tennis Doubles Grand Slam Champion, Gordon Reid MBE, in June 2017.

The celebration began with Reception drinks in the Headmaster's garden at Crossways. There the Headmaster and Tony reflected on the key individuals and sequence of events which brought about the building of the Indoor Tennis Centre.

Looking back, the school had been encouraged by Tony's vision to pre-empt a scheme to build an indoor tennis facility as a Centre of Excellence for Berkshire at a neighbouring school and applied to the National Lottery Fund for a grant. At the time this was not an urgent priority, but the College's tennis facilities were not sufficient to cater for the increasing number of pupils. Tony gave credit to Brigadier Michael Lord, then Bursar, who took the plans forward following further investigation which revealed that the Lottery Fund would provide a sizeable proportion of the funding and the LTA would also provide an interest free loan. There looked to be an initial funding gap, estimated to be £50,000, however that quickly grew five-fold as planning requirements increased. A dinner at White's club in London in July 2000 led to a quick 'whip round' of the Trustees attending and the gap was closed. The auctioneering skills of Anthony 'Jumbo' Fuller (H 51-56), who had taken on the mantle of Chairman of the Bradfield Foundation in January 1999 from Michael Stone, were clearly in evidence on that occasion and the Society was thrilled that Jumbo was able to attend the celebratory event this summer.

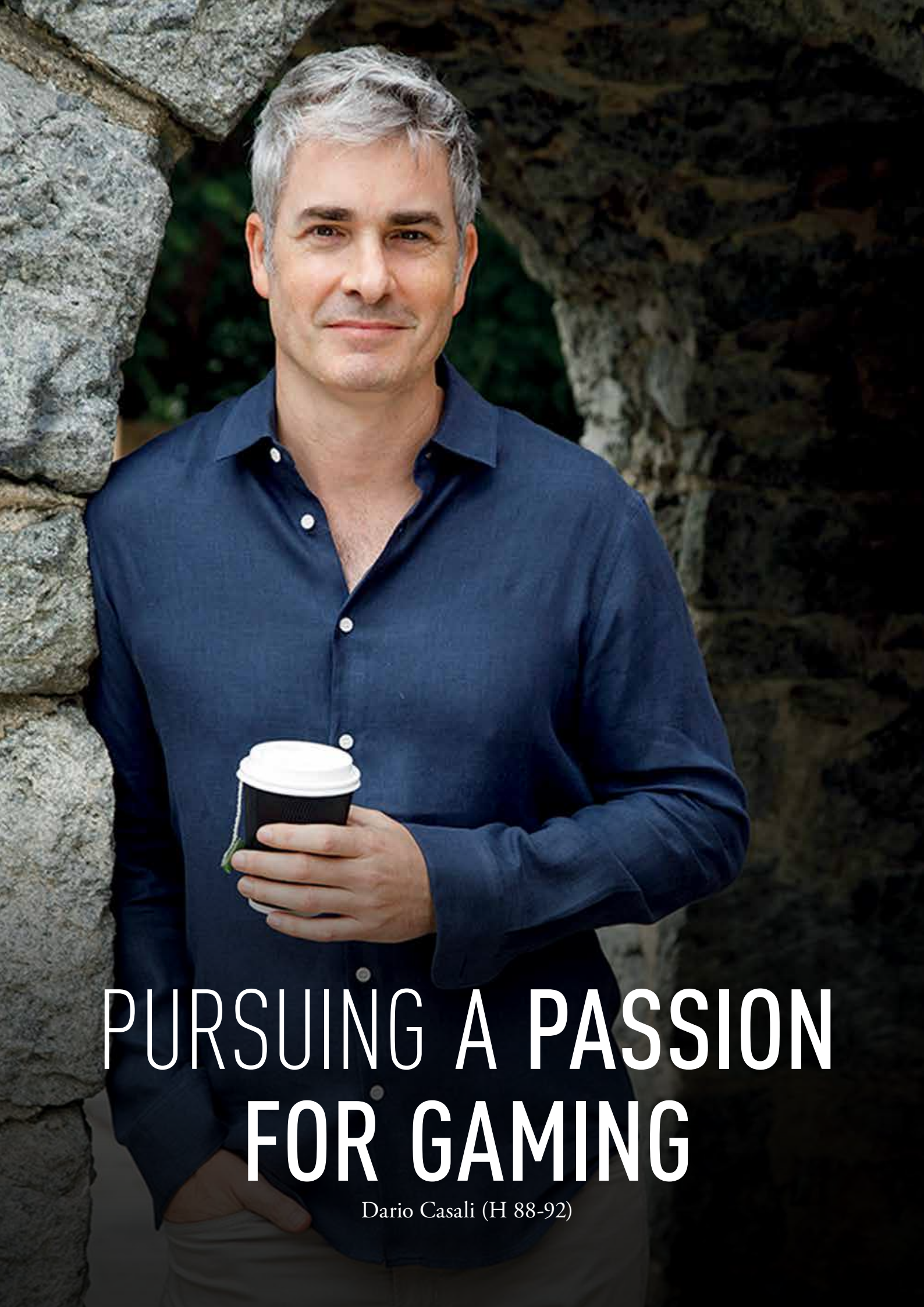
The Headmaster spoke of Tony being the "lightning rod" for the project while Tony credited four outstanding

Headmasters, Peter Smith, Peter Roberts, Simon Henderson and Chris Stevens, for their part in the growth of Bradfield tennis, as well as the Masters in Charge of Tennis from Basil Johnson, Paul Murtagh and Andrew Hunter, who remembers Tony's "commitment, inspiration and example", to the current Director of Tennis Damian Fuller and his team of eight coaches. Tony said the project had been all about people and he complimented Chris Stevens and James Wyatt (G 58-63) who was Director of Development at the College at the time. It is Tony's belief that the more recent introduction of the College's clay facilities really stretch the most talented pupils and have given the school players the edge in competitions, evidenced by the Senior Boys' victory in the Independent Schools Tennis Association Youll Cup in 2022.

That trophy, along with a host of others won in recent years, was on display at the Indoor Tennis Centre's new terrace where a plaque was also unveiled by Tony which reads: "This plaque recognises those alumni, parents and other donors who contributed to the construction of this building, in particular Tony Billington (OB) whose leadership enabled the successful completion of the Indoor Tennis Centre and Clay Court facilities." There was an opportunity in the afternoon to watch a College fixture on the clay while enjoying afternoon tea.







# PURSUING A PASSION FOR GAMING

Dario Casali (H 88-92)



“*t was so simple but very compelling”, explains Old Bradfieldian and professional game designer Dario Casali as he plumbs the depths of his memories for his first experience of playing video games.*

It was the late 1980s and the game was *Sim City*, the first title in the long running city-building franchise. “I was constructing on a blank canvas which was really cool. It definitely stimulated the imagination.”

The late 80s was a time of entertainment revolution as arcade style games made their way into the living room thanks to home consoles built by Atari, Nintendo and Sega. They created a world in which Dario and his brother, fellow OB Milo (H 90-95), found much joy despite regular reminders from their mother they might be enjoying it a little too much.

“We definitely had the clichéd moments of her saying ‘you’re playing too many computer games’ but ultimately, I think seeing us involved in this very creative pursuit really resonated with her as she was a creative person too. Perhaps it felt like a good fit for the family.” Little did they know that Dario would go on to play a pivotal role in creating some of the most successful video games in history.

“**I HAD EVERYTHING I LIKED HERE, AND I WAS HAPPY.**

Shortly after his first experience of gaming, a young Dario arrived at Bradfield but games, or even capable computers, weren’t something to which he had much access. He remembers only using BBC Micros with the green and black screens on which you could type a basic command like ‘Hello World’, hit execute, and it would print that line out. As an international pupil joining in the Shell, he admits it took him a year or so to really find his feet. “Everybody already knew each other. Residing in Sydney for four years meant I brought the Australian accent, so I felt like an outsider but, once I found my place, I had a really great time.”

He achieved this by getting involved in as much as he could, meeting new people through numerous sports including badminton, swimming, volleyball, tennis and weight-training in the gym, and bonding with his teachers and tutors in the Biology labs and Economics Department. “The more I



*Dario in his Fifth Form bedsit in The Close*

participated, the more I felt the acceptance of my peers and that meant the world to me. I ended Bradfield at the Summer Ball thinking I didn’t want to leave. I had my friends and routines here, I had everything I liked here, and I was happy.”

Fostered throughout his Bradfield journey, his fondness for Economics led him to enrol for a business degree at the University of Oxford. It was here his passion for gaming came into focus, admittedly spending “way too much” of his downtime playing PC games. By the end of his course, he and his brother were already producing content for games that they would go on to sell professionally.

“**WE FOUND AN OUTLET FOR OUR PASSION, CURIOSITY AND IMAGINATION.**

It began with *Doom*, one of the original first-person shooter games and one which enabled cooperative play through connected PCs. Dario and his younger brother could not get enough and were amazed by its potential. “We played it so much that the content got a bit stale. One day we picked up a magazine which had a level editor disk attached to it and suddenly we could make our own game. We found an outlet for our passion, curiosity and imagination and that was pivotal for us.”

The pair got an inclination they had the intrinsic qualities to succeed in game development once they started interacting with the wider gaming community via the wonders of higher-speed dial-up internet connectivity (remember that?!). “You don’t know how good your work is until you start comparing it with the work of others”, says Dario as he reflects on those early development days. “A lot of what we

saw didn't feel as polished or as detailed as our work and we got great feedback from the online community."

Bundling up a carefully crafted selection of their best original work, Dario utilised this community to present their work to the software team at iD, the developers behind the Doom titles. Their material was a hit and the Casalis were tasked with delivering a full game on an almost impossibly short timescale of four months. Sometimes spending up to 18 hours a day building, the pair forced themselves to be innovative and creative. "We had a tremendous amount of pride in what we were doing. Knowing this would be going into a box on the store shelf alongside all of these games that we love and play was an honour, and motivated us to work into the small hours day after day for months."

*The Plutonia Experiment* was a 32-level game which made up half of *Final Doom* with Dario and Milo delivering an experience which was more challenging for gamers who were looking for a higher degree of excitement and difficulty. What is truly incredible is that thirty years on, Dario has returned to it, regularly playing through levels and commentating on his experiences via his YouTube channel for a vast community of avid followers. "There's a lot of nostalgia and it has been fun reconnecting with the community. Developers are still finding innovative and interesting ways to play with the same thirty-year-old game mechanics."

Four months after graduating from university, he packed two suitcases and jetted off for another adventure in a new country, this time heading to America after landing a job at up-and-coming developer Valve. Over the next two decades he would work on some of the biggest game releases, starting with *Half-Life* in 1998 which arguably defined the first-person shooting genre, which sold tens of millions of copies worldwide and was the fastest selling game of its time.

The industry continues to push the boundaries of what is possible for living room gaming and Dario has continuously been at the forefront of that, most recently going full circle to work on Valve's Virtual Reality return to the series with *Half-Life: Alyx*. VR is a revolutionary frontier and in over twenty years of testing games, the response to the new title is unlike anything Dario has ever seen. "The technology and the experience is incredible. People were having full-body emotional responses to this game. There were, and still are, a ton of challenges for the medium, but I think we showed that VR is a viable gaming platform."



*The original Valve content team, taken in early 1997, including Dario (second left back row)*

## “ DON'T BE IN TOO MUCH OF A HURRY TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS.

Spending 26 years at the same company is a fine achievement in any industry. It's quite clear from talking about his upbringing and his Bradfield experiences that Dario values being part of a family and achieving things as part of a collective. It is in this exact environment that he has thrived as a designer. "The non-hierarchical culture at Valve made the team feel like a family. We hired people who were at the absolute top of their game, creating an environment where peers were respectful of everybody's abilities and would be inspired by each other's work. Being equally responsible for the success of the product gave everyone on the team a sense of ownership and motivated them to do their absolute best."

After an incredible career Dario has now retired, moved to Los Angeles and started building his dream home. Perhaps now is the perfect time to provide some sage career advice for the next generation of Bradfieldians heading out into the world. For Dario, it comes down to three key things: passion, pride and people.

"Ultimately you want to find something that doesn't feel like work. Something you love doing which makes you stop and think 'this feels exciting to me'. It'll probably take a lot of work to succeed in what you're doing, and the more you enjoy it, the less difficult it'll be to motivate yourself to work that hard. Don't be in too much of a hurry to achieve success. I have found it's better to be driven by the work and take pride in creation rather than chasing the reward. Finally, surround yourself with smart people who are just as passionate and motivated as you are. That combination can change pursuing a passion into finding a really great career."



# JAY KEMPE (F 67-70) BATTLES BRUTAL WEATHER TO ACHIEVE FASTNET 2023 PODIUM FINISH

Experienced sailor Jay, whose successes include representing Bermuda in the Tornado Class at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992 alongside his brother Reid (F 67-69), served in the dual role as sail trimmer and helmsman aboard the Clipper 68 yacht *Ambitious* in this year's Rolex Fastnet Race. Jay had participated in two legs totalling 10,000 miles of the Clipper Round the World Race 2012/13 and re-joined Clipper again for the 2023 Fastnet Race.

First raced in 1925, Fastnet is the world's largest offshore sailing race, and this year was the 50th edition of a race which sees sailors take on a challenging course around Fastnet Rock off the SW coast of Ireland. This year's course started off at the Royal Yacht Squadron at Cowes and finished at Cherbourg-en-Cotentin, France.

The crew of the *Ambitious* went on to receive third place in their class, a fantastic achievement, especially given the horrendous weather conditions that forced 142 of the record

fleet of 430 to retire while also having to start dead last and two hours late due to engine difficulties.

"At the start, we had a few wind gusts of fifty plus knots and the waves were big but very, very steep and we could barely make headway or tack", said Jay reflecting on the race. "Somehow, we managed to get through the narrow channel at The Needles. Rounding Fastnet Rock at night in dense mist and reduced visibility was very eerie but a triumphant moment. The run back to Cherbourg was quicker and easier but still produced some challenging off-wind sailing at times. All in all, many high and low moments but an epic adventure including a fulfilling sense of accomplishment."

Having competed in numerous Newport to Bermuda Races, The Sydney Hobart Race and The Middle Sea Race, Jay is thrilled to have fulfilled his dream to compete in The Fastnet Race, the most prestigious of ocean races.





## OEDIPUS CASTS REUNITE AT 2023 SHOW AND SHARE EXPERIENCES

We were thrilled to welcome back a number of former cast members from previous performances of the Greek Play *Oedipus Tyrannus* with OBs attending each of the four shows of the 2023 production. Many had stayed on from The Bradfield Society Reunion to watch *Oedipus The King* on Saturday 24 June, 26 years on from the last performance. Those who were able to return loved stepping into Grecker once again.

Patrick Wilson (G 75-80), who played Oedipus in 1979, was able to join us and commented on the poster of him from the production with what looked like bloodied sugar puffs on his face for his gouged-out eyes! Having played

the lead role, Patrick still has deep recollections of his time as Oedipus. “I learnt my 680 lines of Ancient Greek in Crossways, where I was a guest of Headmaster Anthony Quick and his wife Jean, together with my friend in G House, Graeme Lunn. They couldn’t have been more hospitable.”

One of the highlights of that summer was taking the production on tour to Cyprus where it was performed at St Barnabus School for the Blind, Nicosia and in the ancient Theatre of Curium, Limassol. It almost didn’t happen for Patrick who recalls: “My Housemaster, Chris Saunders, feared I had taken on too much, and that it would affect me hitherto. How right

he was. Luckily, by the time I went to perform on tour in August at Curium Theatre, the doctors and my mother had nursed me back to health.”

Although he was unable to make it to the 2023 show, Charles Flindt (B 75-80), who played the ‘Messenger from Corinth’ in the 1979 production, has a mountain of memories too, far beyond the first five or ten lines, which he can still recite. “I remember Charlie Lepper shouting: “Can’t hear you, Corinthian Messenger!” during the endless rehearsals. I also remember the rain sending a performance from Grecker to the Gym which I think was a first, despite Lepper’s lucky tie!”



The performances in Cyprus were also memorable for Charles. “During the performance in Curium, having dropped my bombshell news to Oedipus and done my bit, I ran to the top of the theatre to watch a blood-spattered Paddy Wilson emerge, eyes stabbed out, lamenting the inescapable cruelty of the gods. Behind him, the Mediterranean sun set over Episkopi Bay. Even I, as a Science student, knew that it doesn’t get much better than that.”

Nigel Campbell (B 75-79), Tiresias in 1979, also remembered Lepper’s directorial note prior to the public dress rehearsal: “Remember the four Ps gentlemen: Pitch, Pace, Pause and Power. We need variety in all of those.” Wise words that he has passed on when running seminars on public speaking.

From the 1997 cast George Masters (E 94-99), Tom Dingle (C 83-98), Claire Pilkington (I 95-97), Isabella Calthorpe (K 96-98), Hannah Knapp (I 96-98) and Nick Collett (H 93-98) all watched the opening night performance.

Hannah Knapp described it as “so special to see some of the old faces” again as the group stayed in Greeker long after the final curtain in the pitch-dark reminiscing about their experiences and conversing with the current pupils. “It feels like it all happened last year not 26 years ago!” she added.

Having arrived at Bradfield in the Lower Sixth, Hannah remembers finding herself swept up in Greek Play fever. She was thrilled to be cast as a member of the Chorus, rehearsing every evening after Prep in the Greek Theatre.

“I loved every second of it. There was no place else I’d rather have been and it changed my life. My love and inspiration for my career in the Arts stems back to that 17-year-old girl giving it all her heart in Greeker in the pouring rain but not feeling a single drop.”

Taking part in Bradfield’s historic Greek Play shaped Hannah’s life as she chose to pursue a career in the Arts, training as an actress in Classical Acting at Central School of Speech of Drama after graduating from St. Andrews University. She has worked on many more theatre productions and is currently in TV drama development.

Having read the pre-show article in the previous edition of *the Bradfieldian*, 1997 Chorus leader Isabella Calthorpe remembered her experience as one of the most rewarding years of her





life. “We poured our hearts and souls into the play and the feeling of community that we built was extraordinary as was the shared purpose.”

Inspired by her experience she went on to study Classical Studies at Edinburgh and then on to train at LAMDA to become an actress. “In my acting career I performed in West End shows and at The National Theatre but my experience in the Greek Theatre was of a professional production standard and stands out to me as one of the most fulfilling experiences.”



Claire Pilkington, who played Jocasta in the 1997 production, shared her fond memories of the long summer evenings rehearsing in Greeker as well taking the show on tour to Greece in the Summer. “The tour was a fantastic experience. We would parade around the streets in our costumes handing out fliers for the play. It took us a year to learn the Ancient Greek script and put it together, so the cast and crew became like a second family.”

While unable to make the Saturday reunion, Tristan Daws (E 95-00), former member of College staff and Oedipus Director Hailz-Emily Osborne and Matt Barber (E 96-01) enjoyed the evening performances the following week.

For Hailz, director of the 1997 production, the heart of Greek drama has always been the Chorus. She stated in her programme notes that the cast were committed to the idea of an Ancient Greek Chorus, one that must dance and sing as well as act. She went on to note: “It is, of course, the boys and girls of the Chorus who are the real heroes of the Greek Play”, and it is those pupils who she remembers fondly to this day. “What I chiefly remember is working with amazing young women and men. The first all-girl chorus was The Bacchae (1991) followed by another for Troades (Trojan Women, 1994). Oedipus (1997) was the first with music written for a chorus of mixed male and female voices.”

“It’s wonderful timing to return to Bradfield to see the play that first introduced me to Greek Theatre!”, said Tristan



Daws who played the role of Ismene. He is now a secondary school teacher himself and next year is directing *Antigone* as the senior play at Wimbledon High School.

In the 1997 Bradfield College Chronicle review Helen Holtom (I 96-98) received rave reviews for meeting the challenges of the second longest speech of the play. "A mature and powerfully nuanced performance that won her praise in the national press. The reviewer went on to say: "For many, Holtom's performance was the most dazzling and most gripping in the production."

Sending in her memories as she was unable to attend Helen said: "I remember well taking part as the nurse to Jocasta in Hailz-Emily Osborne's production in 1997. Lots of fun and fantastic to be transported back to all the drama of Greek tragedy."

"I remember Oedipus as if it were yesterday!" says Matt Barber (E 96-01) who, after leaving Bradfield, starred as an actor in *Downton Abbey* and the *Dracula* TV series. Matt played *Antigone* and one of Tiresias' crows in Osborne's production. "You've got to start somewhere!" he says of his role as a crow. "I was in the Fourth Form when I auditioned and was quite short when the academic year began. By the time the play went on stage I was taller than James who was playing Oedipus and I was supposed to be a little princess. It was a bit ridiculous."

In a previous interview with *The Bradfieldian*, Matt said the experience of being in a Greek Play stays with Bradfieldians



long after they have left the College. "As one of the first experiences of acting on stage there is a kind of magic about it. For me there is a rugged, simple charm about the Greek Theatre that doesn't exist anywhere else."

Matt would go on to play the lead in *Hippolytus* three years later and being in the Greek Play will always be one of his fondest memories. "I came to Bradfield because of the Greek Play. I wanted nothing more than to be in it and even running on at the end of the show was such a big deal to me; especially because it meant I got to hang out with a load of older pupils which I thought was just the coolest thing (although I'm pretty sure they found me really annoying). Being in Oedipus was one of the first catalysts to me becoming a professional actor. It is fair to say that I wouldn't be doing what I do today if it weren't for Greker."





# IAN KENYON (F 75-79) RECOGNISED IN KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST

“ THE FOUNDATION I RECEIVED AT BRADFELD HAS UNDERPINNED MY CAREER; IT HELPED SHAPE MY VALUES.

Many congratulations to Old Bradfieldian Ian Kenyon who has been selected for the Commander of the British Empire (CBE) in the 2023 King's Birthday Honours list.

Ian found out about the nomination months in advance of the June announcement but had to keep it private until the King had officially approved the list. There is no date set for when he will be called forward to receive the award but is looking forward to finding out soon.

Ian believes that he was nominated for the award following his work on the funding and delivery of the country's nuclear deterrent which included the AUKUS trilateral

security pact. This will see cooperation between the United States, United Kingdom and Australia on a range of technology and manufacturing areas with a key deliverable being the supply of nuclear-powered submarine capabilities to Australia.

His career however, started a long way away from international security and the public sector. Indeed, Ian read Civil Engineering at the University of Nottingham, a degree course that he really enjoyed, but was swayed into



accountancy following some interesting holiday internships during his time in higher education.

“An engineering degree develops a very grounded, logical and solution-oriented way of thinking”, says Ian looking back on what he gained from his university experience. “I also learnt a great deal about management, working with the different trades on site.”

It is perhaps to the detriment of engineering industries that qualifications help to develop the skills that are incredibly valuable for a variety of careers. Having left engineering and qualified as an accountant with Price Waterhouse, Ian worked largely in the retail sector for almost three decades, holding senior roles in a range of businesses including the Kingfisher Group, Carpetright, Sainsburys Plc and Carphone Warehouse.

“I’ve been able to help organisations adapt to changing environments, introduce new operational and financial planning and I’ve particularly enjoyed developing teams and nurturing the next generation of future leaders.”

When hired by HMV, his brief was to put the company into administration and he was given the opportunity to re-assess his priorities and he moved into an entirely different sector.

Since 2013, Ian has been working in the not-for-profit and public sectors. His first role was transforming the financial planning and reporting within Cancer Research UK, one of the country’s largest charities. After four years as Chief Financial Officer

there he joined and established UK Research & Innovation, first as CFO and then as Deputy CEO. The organisation brought together multiple different strands of research commissioned and funded by the state into a single entity.

Once working within the state-funded environment he moved to serve in the Home Office before his most recent position within the Ministry of Defence as Director of Finance and Programmes for the Defence Nuclear Organisation, supporting the UK’s nuclear deterrent and the AUKUS pact.

Whilst busy with his main occupation, Ian still found time to support a wide range of charities, serving as Treasurer of the University of Nottingham, Guildford Cathedral, the Worshipful Company of Glovers of London and in his home parish at Christ Church, Guildford. Sadly, following a recent cancer diagnosis, Ian has had to step down from his fascinating role at the Ministry of Defence, as well as his many volunteering positions, including serving as an Occasional Preacher.

Ian is truly thrilled to have been awarded the CBE yet also very humbled. “I believe that I was nominated primarily for services to the Defence Nuclear Organisation and for volunteering. I’m an accountant and for almost forty years I’ve been helping businesses run effectively and have supported national, regional and local charities with their finances, often serving them as Treasurer.”

He cites his Bradfield education as the

reason for having the ability to achieve so much and the teachers who inspired him to work hard and to continue to learn. Ian credits his former Housemaster, Morgan Laimbeer, as having the most significant influence. “His laid-back approach provided the freedom to experiment but you knew when you had crossed the line and letting him down was the biggest reprimand that you could have.”

He also acknowledges Jack Good and Nick Barton in Chemistry, Colin Burgess in Maths and his Tutor Crispin Read-Wilson as positive figures in his Bradfield experience. “The foundation I received at Bradfield has underpinned my career; it helped shape my values. The College’s culture supports volunteering and taught me to balance work and non-work activity.”

Ian has also retained his connection with the College as a member of the OB Running Club, where until recently he supported their running fixtures. We look forward to hearing news of his visit to the Palace to receive the award.







## SUMMER BRADFIELD DAY

After three years without a face-to-face summer reunion, it was quite special to be able to invite The Bradfield Society community back to the College for Summer Bradfield Day.

The College and its gardens always look their best in midsummer providing spectacular scenery for our guests while there was also the added incentive of attending the opening performance of the 41st Bradfield College Greek Play, *Oedipus The King*, in Greeker.

In a first for Society reunions, those returning to the College were offered the chance to join a series of lectures, tours and workshops to gain a deeper insight into Bradfield in action. There were opportunities to get back into the classroom with an engaging science lesson in the Blackburn Science Centre and a journey through the Commemoration Exhibition in the Art Schools. Our technology specialists provided a sneak peek at their exciting Virtual Reality project *CampusXR*, and the College's golf professional showcased the power of Trackman Golf at the Indoor Golf Performance Centre, inviting guests to pick up their clubs and gain instant statistical feedback on their swing.

There were also two tours on offer. Roger Keeley led guests on a walk through Bradfield history while discussing the evolution of the College from a church and a manor house to the educational establishment it is today. The ongoing St Andrew's Project provided a further opportunity for those attending to witness the evolution of the College up close and personal with Capital Projects Manager, Julia Bond,

leading tours through St Andrew's Church which is being transformed into a learning resource centre.

It was wonderful to converse with the many returning OBs who gave such lovely feedback.

Micky Denehy (E 73-78) said afterwards: "Such a fun day and a great historic tour by Roger - I learned more new old things about the school in an hour than I did in five years as a pupil!"

Roger Vincent Silk (B 54-57) also said: "I found my return visit to Bradfield a very emotional occasion; just walking around, admiring those beautiful grounds below The Hall and renewing my memories as I walked down by the Pang."

Robert Bacon (G 73-78) commented on the excellent programme for Summer Bradfield Day and added: "It was a pleasure to be back and to see the College looking in such very fine shape, and as enchanting as ever."

Following the lectures and tours guests enjoyed a High Tea buffet prepared by the College caterers in the Marquee and a welcome from the Headmaster before heading over to the Greek Theatre as the light faded to watch the College's current pupils take part in the century old tradition of performing in the Greek Play. A fitting end to a successful day.



# 1850 SOCIETY GATHERS TO CELEBRATE BRADFIELD DEVELOPMENTS

The College had the pleasure of hosting 24 members of the 1850 Society, their spouses and guests at the College for their annual gathering during the Summer Term. The event started with an invitation from the Headmaster to lunch at Crossways. Courtesy of the clement weather the Society were treated to al-fresco dining and a welcome gentle breeze in the Crossways garden.

Lunch began with a welcome by Al MacEwen, Director of the Bradfield Society and Development Office, who handed over to Richard Butler (G 52-56), current President of the 1850 Society. Richard reviewed his Presidency, remembering with a shudder the attempt at an online 1850 Society gathering, but also speaking with passion on the importance of the Society to the development of a stronger Bradfield.

He then introduced the new President, David Wright (E 48-53), who responded by stating his gratitude for his Bradfield education and what it has allowed him to achieve, and his preparedness to undertake the role, stating that it's not often one has the opportunity to start a new job in their late 80s, but it was one to which he was committed.

The lunch menu of salmon 'three ways' followed by English strawberries and cream received widespread

approval and was perfectly topped with a speech from the Headmaster on the current health of the school.

Following lunch, the Society moved down to the main College for a brief on the St Andrew's Project, the transformational venture to turn the historical Church building into a teaching and learning centre at the heart of Bradfield. This was followed by a tour of the church led by Julia Bond, Capital Projects Manager; which started with a briefing in the temporarily created St Andrew's Project exhibition space in Gray School, prior to progressing onto a choice of a 'steps' or a 'no steps' project tour. There was a lot of interest and positive murmuring about the project amongst the attendees.

Following a second exhibition from a choice of a History of Bradfield tour, practical experiments in the Science Centre, an insight into Trackman at the Golf course, a tour of the Art Schools and an insight into Virtual Reality, 1850 Society members then retired for Afternoon Tea in the marquee alongside the other attendees of Summer Bradfield Day.

A wonderful way to spend a Summer's Day.

If you are interested in learning more about the 1850 Society and leaving a gift to the College in your will visit the dedicated Leave a Legacy webpage and contact Katie Green-Armytage on [kgreenarmytage@bradfieldcollege.org.uk](mailto:kgreenarmytage@bradfieldcollege.org.uk) or call 0118 964 4840.







# THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE BRADFIELD MISSION CLUB IN PECKHAM

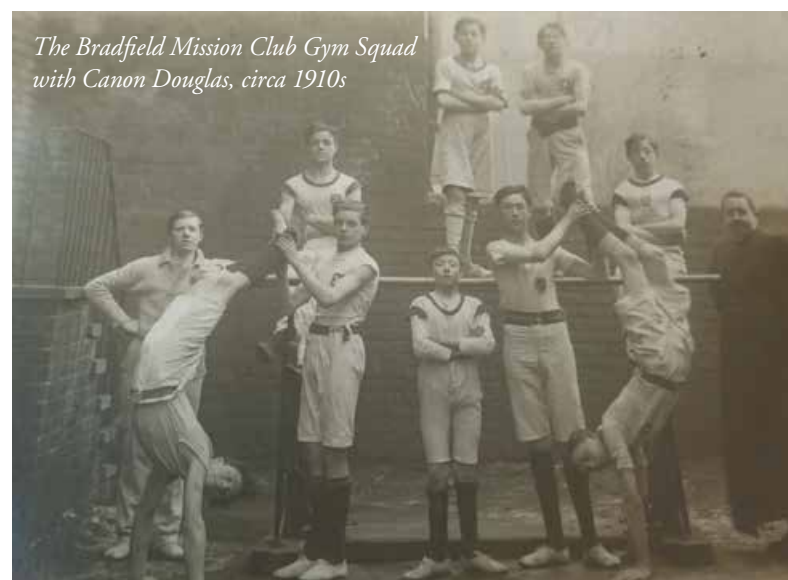
A longer version of this article forms part of a recently published book,  
*Bright the Vision: Public School Missions from the Victorian Age*, ed. Malcolm Tozer, 2023.

As part of a wider movement among nineteenth-century British public schools to alleviate the plight of the urban poor and spread Christianity, in 1894 Bradfield founded a Home Mission in London. Initially it was based in the parish of St Chrysostom, Peckham. By 1912, under Headmaster Harold Costley-White, the school wished “to take a more active and personal part in the work” and adopted St Luke’s Working Lads’ Club, which became the Bradfield Mission Club. It still thrives today as The Bradfield Club with the support of the school among other partners.

The original club had been founded in 1906 by Richard Hayward, an officer in the Royal Naval Reserve, who carried on as Manager of the Bradfield Club. St Luke’s was a working-class parish with a population of approximately 13,000 and Hayward came to know it well: “You will find there model homes, and you will find others, membership of which alone is a bad start in life. And yet, as all lads are, the lads with the worst of homes are loveable and full of infinite possibilities.” The club provided a haven for boys of school age who “usually only have the streets to play in” and older boys and young men who had left school after the legal age of 14 to work, many as ‘van boys’ on horse-drawn vehicles or

in neighbouring factories. Hayward reflected how “firmness tempered with kindness” and a “spirit of give and take” were essential to win their trust and respect.

The club’s principal sources of income were offertories from Bradfield, subscriptions and donations from Old Bradfieldians, and small contributions from the boys. It was based in two small semi-detached houses, the East Surrey Villas, 7 and 9 Commercial Road. The club rooms were “bright with pictures of Bradfield or photographs of the boys’ own summer camps.” A temporary corrugated iron building in the rear provided a gymnasium.



*The Bradfield Mission Club Gym Squad  
with Canon Douglas, circa 1910s*



In achieving its aims of inspiring boys to become good Christians and responsible citizens, the Club's first Warden, St Luke's Vicar John Douglas, emphasised "the educative work of recreation – which is, perhaps, the greatest in its effects of comradeship, altruism and *esprit de corps* – the greatest of all social dynamics." By learning to play games in the spirit of true sportsmanship, boys developed the important virtues of "courage, endurance, unselfishness, self-control and generosity." By becoming involved in all these spheres, the staff, pupils and alumni of Bradfield played the role of exemplars.

There was no religious test for joining the club, but during its early years, it was closely associated with the Anglican Church and most of its staff were committed members. Club membership averaged between 200 and 400 with boys and young men divided in sections according to age which ran from ten to twenty years. Its activities took place on weekday evenings and on weekends. In the club rooms the boys played billiards, chess, draughts, dominoes or other games and a lending library was established to encourage reading. There was support for formal education and instruction in practical skills such as boot repairing and First Aid. Recreational classes were offered in painting, drawing, singing and simple country dances "which were enormously popular with the kiddies, who would otherwise have to play in dreary, dirty streets."

Gymnastics, boxing and wrestling took place in the gymnasium which was also the venue for drama, concerts and entertainments such as lantern-slide displays. Cricket and football were made possible by the hiring of sports grounds and swimming took place in nearby public baths. Scouting thrived and the 42nd South London (Bradfield) Troop enjoyed a week each summer camping in the school fields. The club's annual camps, held at several country venues, fostered its ethos of comradeship, moral development and character building. To help the young men to make their way in life, the club assisted in finding employment. It ran a jobs bureau and encouraged subscribers to connect club members with good office or factory situations.

The outbreak of the First World War dramatically affected the club. Reflecting the powerful influence of nationalism in contemporary Europe, a strong patriotic spirit had infused all its activities. This was encouraged by two of the club's most charismatic leaders: Hayward and its gymnastics instructor



*The Bradfield Mission Club Gym Squad, Queen Mary's Visit, 1927*

Edward Clarke. Hayward was commissioned in the 22nd Battalion of the County of London Regiment (Territorial Army) in 1912 and served in its machine gun section. He encouraged club members to enlist and by 4 August 1914 "all the machine-gunners in my Battalion, except the NCOs were lads from the Bradfield Boys' Club." Clarke also joined the regiment, serving as its gymnastics instructor.

With the onset of war, Clarke and the club boys volunteered for overseas service with the 22nd Battalion and were deployed to Givenchy in April 1915. Almost immediately they raised a board above their trench inscribed 'Play up Brads'. This expression of *esprit de corps* and courage was later adopted as a club motto. Other members of staff volunteered and more than 400 boys served in various branches of the armed forces during the conflict. Tragically, one of the first fatalities was Clarke, killed in May 1915 by an exploding shell while assisting a stretcher party. One of his former gym squad wrote that characteristically: "He died like a hero, helping the wounded." At the end of the war, the club's known fatalities numbered 74, although Douglas believed that the true figure was nearly 100.

In early 1915, Headmaster Robert Beloe wished to move the club to a location closer to Bradfield. After considering the possibility of maintaining two clubs, Beloe withdrew from Peckham and established a Boys' Club at Bradfield, whose members initially were the Budgeons, the boys who cleaned the boots and served in Hall. The Peckham club carried on independently of the school, however, with the support of Old Bradfieldians, with an eventual change of name to the Old Bradfield Boys' Mission Club in 1922.



*New Gymnasium Interior, 1935*

The post-war years were challenging as the club struggled financially following separation from the school. It launched an appeal in 1926 to liquidate its debt and finance essential repairs to buildings. Several major events were organised in 1927 including a visit by Queen Mary who witnessed demonstrations of gymnastics and boxing. Several extremely generous donations helped the club to restore its finances, including one by the solicitor Edward Herbert, who was the father of five and grandfather of four Bradfieldians. In 1928 Herbert purchased 5 Commercial Road and presented it to the club as a memorial to his son Ronald, Old Bradfieldians and club members who had died during the First World War.

The most significant event of the post-war years was the renewal of a direct link with Bradfield following the departure of Beloe in 1928. The new Headmaster, Eric Whitworth, took on the club's presidency, and it opened an exciting new chapter of life as the Bradfield Mission Club. Whitworth's motives for re-establishing formal ties are unclear. There was speculation that he was concerned about the consequences of his predecessor's plans for social work in the school's neighbourhood, which would bring Bradfield's boys in direct contact with local girls.

Whitworth's determination to foster meaningful exchange between club and school was signalled by the resumption of regular visits. The first since 1915 occurred on 15 June 1929 when a party of thirty club boys spent a day at Bradfield. They were given a tour of the school by pupils, swam in the outdoor pool and had lunch in the Hall. There were two cricket matches in the afternoon, then tea, followed by a display by the club's gymnastics squad. From this time onwards, there was always at least one annual visit from the club to Bradfield and often more. In 1932, a party of Bradfield boys visited the club to attend its annual gymnastic and boxing display.

The club's finances were bolstered by its renewed connection to the school. A new gymnasium opened in 1935, nicknamed Bradfield Hall by its neighbours because of its impressive size. It offered a great stimulus to boxing, gymnastics and scouting. Teachers, pupils and Old Bradfieldians assisted at the annual camps and cricket and football matches were organised between Old Bradfieldians and the club. There were constant appeals for help with running club activities to those "who by their birth and education have so much to give and not a little to gain."

The flourishing club celebrated its Silver Jubilee in 1937. Close connections between staff and boys had been great sources of strength and stability. That the many opportunities offered by the club had positively touched the lives of Peckham's boys and young men is suggested by its Old Boys who came forward during the 1930s to mentor the next generation. Four former club boys became coaches of gymnastics and boxing. An Old Brads Association, composed of members from the First World War era, was formed to renew old friendships and support the current club. It met weekly and hosted reunion dinners and fund-raising drives.

The club survived another period of struggle during the Second World War, when St Luke's Church was destroyed in the Blitz and its battered gymnasium became the site of parish services. Once restored, however, the club's link with Bradfield College would never be broken. Since 1937 it has grown and adapted with the changing needs of the school and of Southwark. As The Bradfield Club today it helps Southwark's young people to develop into healthy, wise, happy adults who become constructive forces in their communities.



*New Gymnasium, Pentridge Street, 1935*



# RECOLLECTIONS OF PHILIP STIBBE

*Teacher, Headmaster and Author of book 'Return via Rangoon'*

It was a casual remark by Giles Alington, the Dean of University College Oxford, who had heard that John Hills, Headmaster at Bradfield, was looking for a form-master, that brought Philip Stibbe to Bradfield. At the time Philip was finishing his studies at Merton College, Oxford. These had been curtailed by his war service after Dunkirk. Philip arrived at Bradfield at the same time as Clive Gimson from Clare College, Cambridge, both welcomed to the Senior Common Room for Michaelmas Term 1948. Clive and Philip unknowingly were brought up within a hundred yards of each other in Leicester and had been interviewed for the same post; John Hills with his instinct for the discovery of school-masters who would fit in, snapped them both up.

During his early years at Bradfield, Philip worked as Stage Director for the 1949 Greek Play Agamemnon. This was the first Greek Play for 12 years post-war and austerity. The BBC took interest in it, putting it in their Television News. The music was consciously modern and for the first time a charge was made for guests, with the exception of parents and private guests. All these innovations had their critics, but they were swamped in the volume of praise and congratulations. Among the many distinguished visitors were The Duke of Wellington, Viscount Montgomery and Miss Agatha Christie.

It was Philip's time as a resident House Tutor in Army House which gave him what Tim Potts described as: "The introduction to the mingled pleasure and pain of House mastering." This led Philip to what became a twenty-year labour of love as Housemaster in A House from 1953 to 1966 and The Close from 1966 to 1974.

Tim Potts went on to comment: "Generations of boys have reason to be grateful for his determination to run his Houses in his own way; treating each member as a whole person, seeing them in the round, concerned always to develop the standards inherent within and not to impose them from without. Nourished and supported by a philosophy combining lack of worry, in the last resort, with confidence in the order and good sense at the roots of human nature, which was forged during his two years as a guest of the Japanese in the Central Prison, Rangoon."

In Summer 1975 the Bradfield Chronicle congratulated Philip on being appointed to the Headmastership of Norwich School. Philip and Joy were close friends of Pauline Ingan-Jones, the In-College matron. He was nursed by his wife Joy at the end of his life through Parkinson's Disease, which was the direct result of his two years as a Japanese Prisoner of War, and the very limited diet he was given during that time. He died in Norfolk on 17 January 1997 and a Thanksgiving Service for his life was held on Friday 25 April 1997 at Norwich Cathedral.

Bradfieldian Alasdair Johnston (A 55-60) became a close friend of the family after being Head of A House during Philip's time at Bradfield and godfather to Mark Stibbe. Alasdair remembers Philip as a wonderful kind gentleman and well-respected teacher. He first read Philip's book *Return via Rangoon* when he was 14 years of age and said: "To me it was a great adventure. There were plenty of War reminiscences about at that time. Now, having re-read it, I realise how much I missed about the extraordinary experiences, hardships and tenacity that had been experienced by this 21-year-old and his fellow Chindits."



*Return via Rangoon* has been re-published by Pen & Sword to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the first Chindit expedition. The book's title was used by Brigadier Orde Wingate in the address to his men before they set out when he said: "The only way out of Burma is via Rangoon." This is exactly how Philip returned. The book is a key recollection to understanding Philip through his Army experiences as a platoon commander fighting in Burma's jungle before his capture by the Japanese and life in Rangoon Jail for two years.

On the cover of Philip's book, The Right Hon The Lord Owen (A 52-56) wrote: "Bravery, in a nutshell, is what the word 'Chindit' has come to signify. Orde Wingate and Bernard Fergusson are two of the best-known characters, well-captured in *Return via Rangoon*. But Philip Stibbe captures something much more – the inner strength of the Chindits which lay in its extraordinary combination of ordinary people, be it the Liverpudlian or Burmese rifleman in the jungle or in prison. The real heroes are unsung, their contribution cumulative, their record that of the whole, their platoon, regiment or brigade."

# LEXIE DAVIES (M 17-22) ON VOLUNTEERING IN SCHOOLS IN BALI

Thanks to the Robert Hicks Travel Award I was fortunate enough to travel around Southeast Asia to spend a month volunteering in Tabanan, Bali. I had the most amazing experience working in a number of primary schools in the local area as well as day care groups. Tabanan is a small village an hour out of Canggu and, while it is one of Bali's infamous tourist areas, the village maintains its traditional local culture and scenery.

As part of a group I was able to volunteer weekdays and spend the weekends exploring the idyllic landscape of Bali; we climbed Mount Batur, visited several waterfalls, marvelled over the expanses of rice fields and immersed ourselves in the cultural elements too. The group I volunteered with was run by a family which made us feel more connected to the village community. This family element was one of the main reasons why I chose to volunteer here as it proposed an experience of full immersion into a totally new sphere of life. Many people from the village shared their stories with us, taught us Balinese traditions and led us to the hidden gems which surround Tabanan.

I had previously worked in various types of childcare but working so close to the children at the school was such an eye-opening experience. The aim of the programme was to

help them learn English. Tourism is responsible for up to 70% of Bali's job market, therefore learning English is a hugely beneficial skill to have. It was so inspiring and rewarding knowing that we were a part of the children's education, helping to lay some foundations for their futures.

An even more rewarding and emotional experience was the day care. This was run by a lady in the town to help orphans and single parents and we were really thrown in the deep end on the first day. We walked through the gates into the outdoor space where we were met with twenty children and five babies on a mattress on the corner. The youngest child there was just a month old and I was put in charge of him on my first day. I certainly developed an even greater appreciation for my parents who had dealt with me and my three siblings and for all the facilities and support I had growing up.

After an incredible month, I not only became close with other volunteers but the teaching staff and children. Seeing some of them all day, three days a week for a month, helped me form bonds and I often think of them now. I'll never forget the rather emotional goodbye where the children all gave us drawings and sang for us!

I did manage to make it through my trip without Bali belly... but I have to admit, I've caught the travelling bug and will definitely be going back, hopefully to visit the school and volunteer family. It was of course a trip to remember, as everyone says after travelling, but I am truly grateful for receiving the Robert Hicks Award. Without it, I don't think I would have volunteered this year.

To anyone reading this, specifically those thinking about travelling, I highly recommend volunteering as I feel it offers a more profound and intriguing experience and helps you to appreciate the country far more than just being a tourist.

*Leavers and Young Alumni have the opportunity to apply for The Bradfield Society Travel Awards each May. If you left Bradfield in the last couple of years and are planning to do some adventure travel or to work for a charity whilst travelling abroad put the date in your diary and get in touch with the Bradfield Society with your proposed travel plans on [bradfieldsociety@bradfieldcollege.org.uk](mailto:bradfieldsociety@bradfieldcollege.org.uk) or call 0118 964 4840.*







# WEDDINGS

On Saturday 26 August 2023, **Conor Haynes (A 05-10)** and his bride Steph Dunn tied the knot in Bradfield College Chapel surrounded by their family and a host of Bradfieldian friends. Being a local Berkshire boy and having seen another Bradfieldian wedding in the Bradfieldian magazine, Conor decided that the College was right for them for their big day and their wedding breakfast in Dining Hall.

Bradfieldians in attendance included Ben Blacker (A 06-10), Ed Elder (H 05-10), Max Curran (E 05-08), Ben Flockart (D 05-08), Joe McIlwee (C 05-10), Harry Halls (C 05-08), Jack Phillips (F 05-10), Tolu Osibodu

(A 05-10), Ollie Noakes (H 05-10), Ushers Chris Bowker (A 05-10) Fede Bentley (A 05-10) and Joseph Regan (H 05-10), Marcus Edgworth (H 06-10) Josh Billingham (H 05-08) and Paris Williams (D 05-10).



**James Grant (G 80-85)** married Georgina Wilton in St. Luke's Church, Battersea on Saturday 20 May.

A number of OBs were in attendance including the best man Charlie Kitson (G 80-85). Other Bradfieldians attending the reception included Andy Goodsir (C 80-85), Toby Smith (C 80-85), Oliver Spark (D 80-85), Mark Tremlett (A 81-85), Andy Gent (F 80-85), Owen Slot (A 80-85), Jamie Keaney (E 81-85).



We are thrilled to share the news that **Melissa Blake (I 13-15)** and **Liam McGee (H 10-15)**, who met at Bradfield, got married this summer. The wedding took place on Saturday 5 August at Villa Cortine Palace Hotel in Sirmione on Lake Garda.

Melissa's Maid of Honour was Elle Burton (J 13-15) while Liam's best man was Luke Davies (H 10-15) along with fellow Bradfieldians Tom Mason (C 10-15) and Dan Hodgkinson (H 10-15) as groomsmen.

Other Bradfieldian guests included Benny Curtis (G 10-15), Klara Fine (M 09-14), Sam Lines (F 10-15), Freddie Parsons (H 10-15), Tom Edwards (G 10-15), Nick Watts (C 10-15), Bella Mackintosh (I 13-15), Charlie Bullman (C 10-15) and Austin Brooks (D 10-13).







## JOHN BODIE (C 44-48) – A FRIEND TO MANY

John Emanuel Bodie OBE was born on 8 August 1930 and passed away peacefully on 30 September 2023 at the age of 93 years.

John attended Bigshotte Prep School before joining Bradfield and he was there alongside many other Bradfieldians. Speaking earlier this year of his time at Prep School John said: “As a feed school for Bradfield, Bigshotte produced many famous OBs

especially in the late 1920s and 30s. Gordon Brierley was Headmaster for 27 years. We all loved our school to the extent we had an old boys’ lunch every year until five years ago when it became too much to organise. I went there at the outbreak of war, my brother followed and many of my family. I have the fondest memories; I could reminisce for hours about it.”

John joined Bradfield in January 1944 and was in Army House where he went on to become a House Prefect. He played in the second XI hockey and cricket teams in 1948, was part of the athletics team and also a Lance Corporal in the Junior Training Corps, which later would be known as the Combined Cadet Force. His brother Anthony (C 52-56) also became a Bradfieldian. Brian Whalley

(E 44-48) was one of John’s longest serving school friends and remembers him as a classicist who ‘fagged’ for an older boy in his first year and helped the Prefect with his Greek homework, so was relieved of some of his duties as a result. Amusingly he also remembers one particular inter-House cricket match in which John, who was a slogger of a cricket ball, hit the ball as hard as he could towards Bryan on the boundary referring to him as a “dropper” and Bryan on this occasion caught the ball thus depriving John of his runs!

After Bradfield John went to study at the London University College of Estate Management before becoming a Chartered Auctioneer and Estate Agent. He became a Partner at D E & J Levy on Piccadilly in SW1 working



there for nearly sixty years until 2009 when he set up his own business.

John was married to his wife Judy for 60 years and his two children Benjamin (A 85-90) and Grace (J 94-96) also attended Bradfield College. He had two grandchildren Humphrey and Jeanie.

In 1988, as a Council member (1986-2000), John recommended a new approach to College fundraising with the creation of an independent fundraising entity which was founded in April 1990 and known as The Bradfield Foundation. John became a Trustee and worked tirelessly to help fundraise alongside his contemporaries. Major projects included Squash Courts, which bear his name, the 9-hole Golf Course, Blackburn Science Centre and Greek Theatre restoration. He was also behind the suggestion in the late 1990s that a full-time Secretary be appointed for the OB Society, enhancing the two hours per week provided by Basil Johnson. From that suggestion The Bradfield Society was born. As one of life's "doers" he often used his powers of persuasion to improve the College in so many areas, including the conversion of the Masters' Tennis Court below Hall into the Sunken Garden that exists today.

Peter Smith was the Headmaster (1985-2003) during John's entire stint on the Council and said he exemplified the best of Bradfield. "He did a great deal and said little about it. A man of great courtesy and generosity, and beneath it all a very learned man. Most will recognise the businessman and the sportsman, but he was a learned scholar too – in art, architecture, history, calligraphy (what beautiful letters he could craft!) and all things Italian. He wore his learning



lightly. His service to the College he loved is beyond compare."

John was awarded an OBE in the Queen's 2002 Birthday Honours for charitable services, especially to health and education. He was a long-time friend of Margaret Thatcher, who he had worked alongside before, during and after her time as Prime Minister. The photograph of John and Margaret was taken around 1998 when she opened an office building in Golden Square for Dormeuil Freres alongside John.

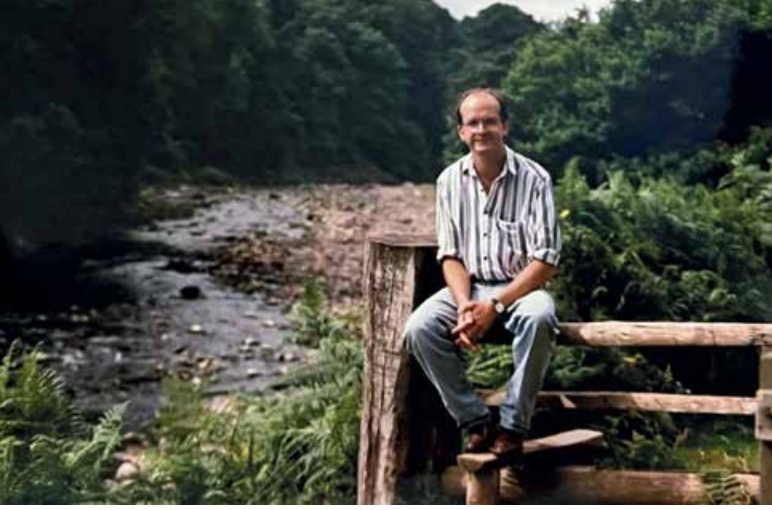
In 2012 John generously donated a 17th Century Verona Marble Wellhead from his garden to Bradfield which is now placed at the side of Big School in Quad surrounded by flower beds and underplanted with roses.

John was a steadfast supporter of Bradfield Waifs cricket and a regular guest at Waifs Week. He played frequently for the Waifs from the year after leaving Bradfield in 1949 right through to 1972. At his peak John made 13 appearances for the team in 1955 and was recorded with a batting average of 17 runs. James Wyatt (G 58-63) noted that it was John who instigated the ordering of Waifs cricket

sweaters in club colours to smarten up the team and remembers him always being immaculately dressed and that his selection for the Sussex Martlets cricket team could have been won on his appearance alone! Bryan Whalley also noted that although John was a very successful man, he was not flamboyant at any time in his life. John's last visit to Waifs Week was in July 2022 with friends 'Jumbo' Fuller (H 51-56) and Bryan. He also enjoyed a trip around the College in a Golf Cart to see his garden in Quad.

The current Headmaster, Dr Christopher Stevens, got to know John well both in College and as one of the guests he generously hosted to lunch at his beloved London clubs. Most recently he met with John in September 2023 and found him as interested in the College as ever, enduringly supportive of Bradfield in his words and deeds, typically wise in his observations, and justifiably proud of an institution very much in his debt. His positive influence on the people and the place will prove a fitting legacy.

*Compiled by Karen Ward,  
The Bradfield Society*



## RUPERT GOODDY (A 70-74)

Rupert Gooddy, a Loyd House pupil from 1970 to 1974, died on July 10 2023, after a short period of illness.

He was brought up in Blackheath, South-East London, the son of John, the clerk to the Governors of St Bartholomew's Hospital, and Barbara, a radiographer. He attended Carn Brea prep school, Bromley, excelling as a sportsman, and was at one stage coached by Derek Underwood, the celebrated England seam bowler.

In Loyd House his sporting progress continued and within two years he had represented Bradfield's cricket 1stXI. He was a batsman of real power and had an excellent eye. One school report said: "Gooddy played a well-judged and entertaining innings." Another described him as "a most dependable opening bat and a fine gully."

Ru's family spent a good deal of time with his maternal grandmother at Byworth, West Sussex, which may be what inspired his love of country pursuits. He fished and shot, pastimes he pursued enthusiastically all his life. As a boy he kept doves in the garden at Blackheath.

While at Bradfield Ru, ever the nonconformist, with his great friend James Sutherland, acquired two ferrets, Blodwyn and Bill, which were kept out of harm's way in his Housemaster's garden, until one morning the Housemaster's wife opened the front door to find Blodwyn tucking into the contents of her milk bottles. Blodwyn and Bill were "asked to leave".

He was also an accomplished footballer, golfer and tennis player, his achievements matched only by his insistent pall of self-effacement, any compliment waved away with a genuine lack of conceit. He was ludicrously modest, as well as kind and caring. While he could be, as he admitted, 'a grumpy sod', he was essentially an engaging mixture of understated, unshowy charm and quietly forceful mischief, an astute listener and a huge enthusiast for merriment and fun.

Ru was a brilliant and generous host; excellent at putting people at their ease. He spoke with great gentleness and warmth, often almost in a whisper. It was part of an easy, engaging charm, but you underrated Ru at your peril; possibly in business sometimes people did and regretted it. He was a doer, softly spoken but a man of action.

Professionally he was a shrewd, hardworking and extremely successful entrepreneur. There had been early signs of this flair. At the age of six, Ru reported very excitedly that his parents were allowing him to use a couple of square yards of space in their garden, for his own devices. He explained: "I want to grow cabbages that I can sell to my mum." Thus, the successful businessman was born.

The interest in horticulture was developed in his time at Writtle Agricultural College, Essex. During that period he spent a year working at Wyevale Nursery in Hereford, where he gained a love of the Wye Valley and Black Mountains, his parents having bought a cottage near Hay-on-Wye, which Ru loved. He went on to work at Northmoor Nurseries and in 1979 he opened his own nursery, Rupert Gooddy Plants Limited, Bampton.

Ru clearly belonged in Oxfordshire, where he lived for over forty years, indulging enthusiasms for motorbikes, fishing and of course cricket. Moving there was absolutely the making of him, and he married his wife Elizabeth in 1990. His son Francis arrived the following year and daughter Mimi a year after that. The marriage lasted for 17 happy years.

One of the people who worked for Ru for many years was Di Newman. She said of him: "He was such a good bloke. Funny, caring and looked after his staff really, really well ... If anyone was in trouble, he'd help them out, he'd go above and beyond... he would always give the young a chance by offering them work and he would always consult his staff before making decisions. He was out in all weathers with us, and never asked anyone to do a job he wouldn't do himself. He was fun-loving and always rewarded well ... Nothing was too much trouble for him. You couldn't fault him. He was a lovely, lovely man ..."

He enjoyed life to the full and was enormously and rightly proud of his son Francis, who followed Ru into the nursery business and helped it go from strength to strength, and daughter Mimi. He had a gentle, all-encompassing love of life. He was generous and loyal, with a wonderful warmth. His distinctive and hugely lovable personality will be enormously missed by all those who knew him.

*James Hanning*



## PETER AVERN (E 39-44)

One of Peter's most significant memories was being at a friend's house in Seaview in September 1939, listening to Nevil Chamberlain's announcement that we were at war with Germany. He was 13 at the time and a few days later went off to begin his first term at Bradfield. As a Senior he'd go into Theale in the afternoons after class to work in an ammunition factory.

When he left Bradfield in April 1944 the war was still on and he immediately joined the RAF, becoming a meteorologist. He did his training in London, in his own words: "Dodging the flying bombs but finding time to go to the Proms most evenings." He was stationed for a time in Brawdy, Wales, and spent the last 18 months of his service in Germany.

He had always assumed that he would join the family firm, a cork business, and when he left the RAF in 1948, he did indeed begin working at Avern and Bucknall, but left after just a few years and, in 1952, became the manager of a sports car racing team called *The Monkey Stable*. They had considerable success and he wrote the foreword to a book that was published about them in 2015.

*The Monkey Stable* broke up in 1954 and Peter went to work at Ambassador Motorcycles in Ascot before moving to Triumph car dealer Puttocks of Guildford, becoming Managing Director after just a few months. He was with Puttocks until 1978 and the following year bought Optima Ltd., makers of picnic hampers. In 1988 he sold the company and retired.

Peter's passion was always classical music, particularly opera, but of all the things that people tell my sisters and I about him, his sense of humour has to be one of the most commonly mentioned. He was married to Susan for more than fifty years and is survived by his children Benjamin (E 84-89), Rebecca (E 88-90) and Victoria. He also has four grandchildren, two of whom, Christina (M 15-20) and Arabella Cuming (M 18-21), are also Old Bradfieldians.

*Ben Avern (E 84-89)*



## DEATHS

**BALLANTINE, Giles (G 64-65) on 06 August 202**

**BARNES, (Patrick) Brinsley (A 42-46) on 5 October 2023**

**CLEZY, Gavin (G 44-48) on 21 June 2023**

**FARR, Robert P (G 52-56) 05 June 2023**

**HOLDER, John C C (C 44-48) on 27 April 2023**

**JONES, Basil S (G 40-45) on 22 September 2022**

**KRZECZUNOWICZ, Alex (D 82-86) on 10 June 2023**

**MYERS, John (E 44-47) in September 2023**

**SMEE, Harry W (B 64-68) on 29 April 2023**

**SNOOK, Nicolas J (D 72-75) on 22 May 2023**

*To submit your births, weddings, obituaries and news visit the Bradfield Society website.*

# WHAT'S ON

10  
NOV

OB Regional Lunch  
in Manchester

The regional lunch for the North West of England will be in Manchester at a new venue - Browns Manchester, 1 York Street

23  
NOV

Horizons Networking Evening

An opportunity for pupils to have their first experience of careers networking.  
Visit  
[bradfieldsociety.org.uk/events](http://bradfieldsociety.org.uk/events) for details

01  
DEC

2013 Leavers  
Reunion Get Together

10 years on from leaving Bradfield for pastures new, Isobel Gallagher (J 11-13), Jonny Denton (D 08-13) and many others are keen to get the Class of 2013 together again

04  
DEC

Parent  
Coffee Morning

Join The Bradfield Society for a Parent Coffee Morning, held after pupil drop off on the first Monday morning of each month during term time

08  
DEC

Michaelmas  
Concert (Night 1)

The College's talented musicians take to the stage for the first of two performances of the annual Michaelmas Concert in the Music Hall

10  
DEC

Winter  
Bradfield Day

Shrug off the winter chill and join us for a fun filled sporting day at the College - including the Huxham X, Haxham V, shooting and hockey

10  
DEC

Michaelmas  
Concert (Night 2)

The College's talented musicians take to the stage for the second of two performances of the annual Michaelmas Concert in the Music Hall

11  
DEC

Carols  
in London

The College Choir will be performing for this Christmas Concert in the glorious surroundings of St Matthew's Church, Bayswater

8  
MAR

OB Regional Lunch  
in Winchester

The first regional lunch in 2024 will be for the South West in Winchester at Brasserie Blanc on Jewry Street

Unless otherwise stated tickets for [LIGHT BLUE COLLEGE EVENTS](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/bradfieldevents) can be booked from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/bradfieldevents](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/bradfieldevents)

You can register for [ORANGE BRADFIELD SOCIETY EVENTS](http://www.bradfieldsociety.org.uk/events) at [www.bradfieldsociety.org.uk/events](http://www.bradfieldsociety.org.uk/events)