

## Dear parents

Our Blueprint Newsletter has not been published for some time, so we felt that it was time that we brought you up to date with a number of things which have been happening in school over the past few months.

As you are probably aware, we have had builders on site for an extended period. Over February half term, we completed a significant extension to our creative arts facilities. We



have built on top of our existing Art block, alongside refurbishing our existing Art rooms and completely re-structuring our Music facilities. This has provided a brand new Art room, with floor to ceiling windows to provide the best light possible, better facilities for our instrumental music teaching as well as an increased number of practice rooms for groups of students during practical music lessons, an extended music computer room and a new corridor connection from the main entrance directly through to the top floor of the Newchurch wing, which has eased congestion on the corridors.



← Art room

Music Technology Room



As this project was completed, work was starting on another extension which will significantly increase the size of both our sixth form centre and the main dining room. This will also allow us to restructure serving facilities to further improve the dining experience on offer to both the lower school and sixth form students. The governors are also continuing their investment in the on-going refurbishment of the school buildings, with plans for a complete makeover of the sixth form centre over the summer holidays ready for the new term in September. This should all be achievable without significant disruption during term time.



There will soon be scaffolding on the front of the building as well, as we have also been successful in our application for a grant to repair the roof of the main building. We have suffered from some time from leaks through the roof leading to water damage in the Science department, and we are looking forward to having a watertight building! This will mean that the top half of the car park and the front of the school building will be closed off during the second half of the summer term, and there will be some disruption to the use of the Science labs as the work is completed. Once this work is completed, we will be able to develop plans for the refurbishment and further improvement of our Science facilities.

## **Sixth form update**

### **Year 12 Higher Education Convention**

On 5th March, all of our year 12 students attended the UCAS Higher Education Convention in Manchester. This was an important part of our Next Steps programme in year 12. Students were able to visit stands from most of the Higher Education Institutions in the UK, along with representatives from major employers and higher-level apprenticeship providers. In the summer term students will be guided through the process for applying for higher level apprenticeships or university courses.

### **Sixth Form Informal Interviews**

Students in year 11 from BRGS and other local high schools who have applied to join the sixth form have all been interviewed now as part of our application process into year 12 for September. It has been great meeting a variety of students with a range of career ideas, extra-curricular activities and interests outside of school. Most students from our own year 11 continue into the sixth form and are joined by students from other schools who comprise approximately 1/3 of the sixth form. After their GCSE exams, the sixth form applicants will be invited to a Preview Day on 26th June where they will have the opportunity to try up to 5 different subject sessions to help them finalise their subject choices for September.

## Pastoral Update

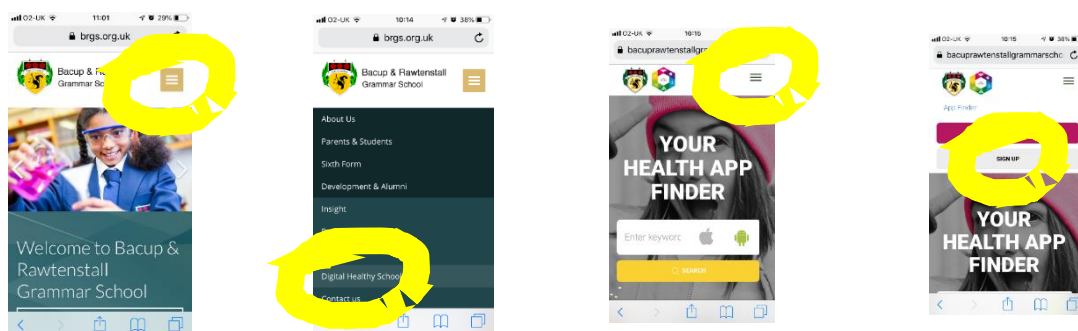
### Digitally Healthy Schools (DHS)

This is an initiative being rolled out by Lancashire working with the NHS and an organisation called ORCHA to assist them in getting as much self-help “out there” as possible. The self-help is by making use of the hundreds of thousands of mobile phone health apps that are available. Many of these apps are there just to grab money, or data; some are also clinically unsafe. So the NHS has commissioned ORCHA to “vet” these apps and rank them so medics have a rating scale such that they can recommend up to date and safe apps to patients.

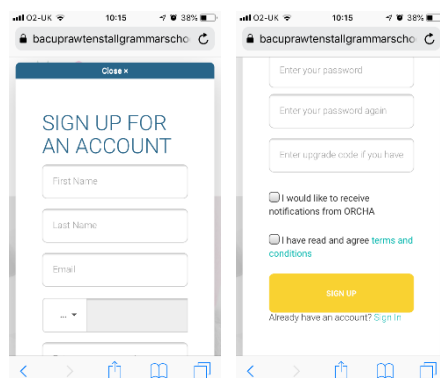
This Lancashire roll-out applies the system to schools, so that pastoral staff can recommend safe apps to students to help them to self-manage the conditions they face. However, they’re not just health apps – they include apps for developing healthy lifestyles, giving up smoking, helping family members who are suffering with dementia etc. We are in the process of rolling this out to students – and the opportunity to make use of the system is also available to parents.

The following indicates how to register and access our health hub. The images are all based on mobile phone access – you’d follow a similar process of you were accessing the health hub on a desktop computer.

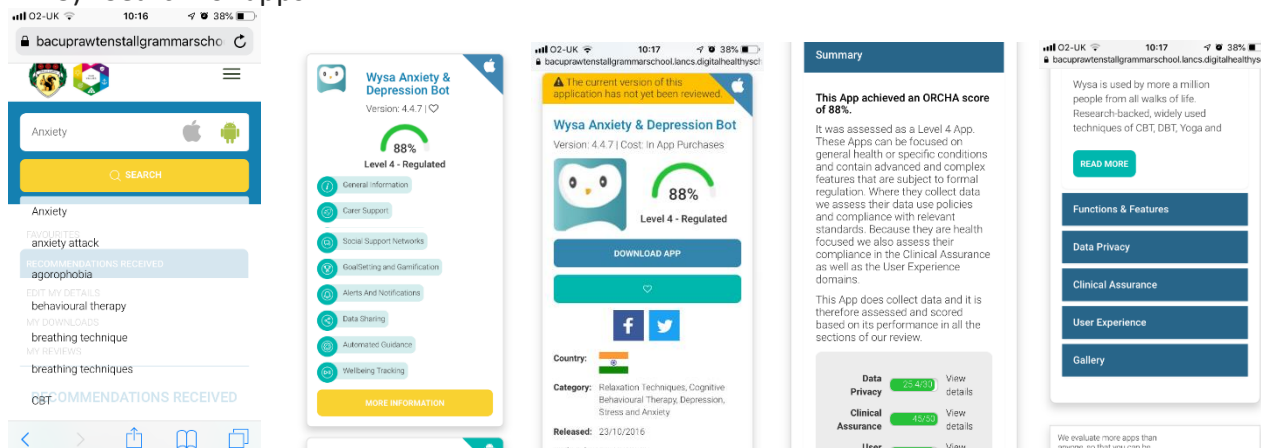
- 1) Access the health hub via the BRGS web-site.



- 2) Register - your name and an e-mail address (this will be your username). You have the option of putting in your mobile phone number, but don't have to. Create a password for yourself and accept the terms and conditions. You don't need to fill in an “upgrade code” or tick to get notifications.



### 3) Search for apps.



For each app there is a description then a range of further information including a rating. The closer to 100, the “better” the app. Clicking “download” on an Apple app will take you to the iTunes store, where you can download the app. A similar approach for an Android app will take you to Google play. If you are on a computer a QR code will appear on the lower left hand side of the screen. Grabbing that will bring you to the equivalent page on your phone, where you can then download the app.

The link below is to a short video about the hub.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vFI54ckALU8>

## Fortnite

Please see the attached parental information guide regarding Fortnite.

## Curriculum Update

**Careers:** National Apprenticeship Week was promoted to Years 7-11 with assemblies led by our Careers Coordinator, Miss Grenaghan. Students watched a clip featuring former BRGS student Amy Rylance who progressed to a degree apprenticeship at Deloitte. To watch the clip, please click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R7T6MIGCLgs>

## Effective learning habits – ‘5 Top tips for parents’

Effective learners regularly review their learning to ensure that key knowledge and skills are firmly embedded and easily accessible from long-term memory.

### How can you best support your child to become an effective learner?

- **Tip 1 – Ensure your child reviews their notes using active rather than passive study techniques.**
- **Tip 2 - When it comes to learning, reviewing information is not enough. Ensure your child is testing themselves regularly.**
- **Tip 3 – After testing themselves, ensure your child checks their notes for accuracy.**
- **Tip 4 - Space out learning over time – do not cram!**
- **Tip 5 – Help your child stay healthy and happy.**

All students have had a study skills session on each of the above strategies and should now be putting these into practice in their weekly routine and in preparation for exams. If you

would like further guidance on how you can support your child in the lead up to the summer exams, please visit '*Effective Learning Habits*' in the '*Parents and Students*' section of the school website using the following link.

<https://www.brgs.org.uk/parents-and-students/effective-learning-habits>

## Spring Term Activities

### Duke of Edinburgh Award

Last weekend over 130 of our Year 10 students, an all-time record number, were out on the hills around Rossendale completing their Bronze Award practice expedition – thankfully, the weather was reasonably kind to us! They will soon begin their preparations for the qualifying expedition, in the Peak District, in July. This weekend it is the turn of our 43 Gold Award participants, who are completing a four-day walking and canoeing expedition in the wilds of Snowdonia.



### Learning Resource Centre (LRC) update

Life in the LRC has been busy over the Spring Term with our inaugural Harry Potter night, author visits and a 'Whose Shelfie?' competition for World Book Day featuring photos of book shelves of a huge array of staff.



Harry Potter night tickets were sold rapidly with students



enjoying a themed night of wizardry in the Great Hall. The Sorting Hat made a star appearance and students competed in a number of challenges testing their Potter expertise.

### Charity Challenge

Year 9 Philanthropy Challenge: after some moving and powerful presentations by Year 9 students, judges were left with a difficult decision as to which charity would be selected the winner in the Year 9 Philanthropy Charity Competition.

The team representing Rossendale Rays won the first prize of £1500 towards their charity and a second prize of £500 was awarded to the East Lancashire Down's Syndrome Support Group.

Rossendale Rays is a special needs swimming and sports organisation and the East Lancashire Down's Syndrome Support Group provides support to new parents and gives them opportunity to meet other families living with Down's Syndrome.

Congratulations to Conner, Christopher, Honey and Tahmina, the BRGS students who represented Rossendale Rays in their presentation and also to the second placed team of Lily, Sam, Dan and Megan who spoke about the East Lancashire Down's Syndrome Support Group.



Thank you also to the Mayor of Rossendale for supporting the event and the many charity representatives who so kindly spared their time.

### German Exchange:

Our annual German exchange took place in the February sunshine with 24 BRGS students spending a week in German families and experiencing school life at our partner school the Kaiserin Friedrich Gymnasium in Bad Homburg near Frankfurt.



### Student & Alumni Achievements

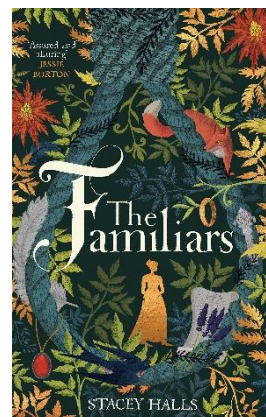
**Daisy Oldfield has qualified to compete in the British Ice Dance Championships 2019 at Junior Level (under 19 category)** after being placed second in the Bradford Ice Dance Competition on the 19th March. She will also be representing Great Britain at the Copenhagen Dance Cup in April and is on the GB Development Squad for Ice Dance. We wish her continued success!





**Former student Katie Mason is now an Air Traffic Controller at RAF Wittering and Executive Secretary of the Guild of Air Traffic Control Officers.** Read her interview for International Women's Day at <https://www.raf.mod.uk/our-organisation/stations/raf-wittering/news/an-interview-with-flight-sergeant-katie-mason-for-international-womens-day-2019/>

**Former student Stacey Halls née Bartlett has released her first novel, *The Familiars*, based on the Pendle witch story.** She is Deputy Chief Sub Editor at *Fabulous* magazine.



**BRGS students Ella Tomlinson and Tiegan Alexander have been selected to represent Great Britain in the Ladies U19 category in the underwater hockey World Championships in August.**

Ella is Vice Captain of the Lancashire Ladies Team which came top of their league in the Ladies' Nationals in Leeds at the end of February. Both Ella and Tiegan have been selected to represent Great Britain when the championship takes place in Sheffield later in the year. Their team will be competing against the likes of teams from New Zealand, France, Italy, Netherlands, Turkey and Canada, to name just a few.



**BRGS student, Thomas, represented English and his home team of Rossendale Golf Club in the prestigious Home Nations Golf International Final at Mogardo, Portugal competing against teams from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.** Thomas has recently been selected to play with Lancashire U14s - a fantastic achievement.

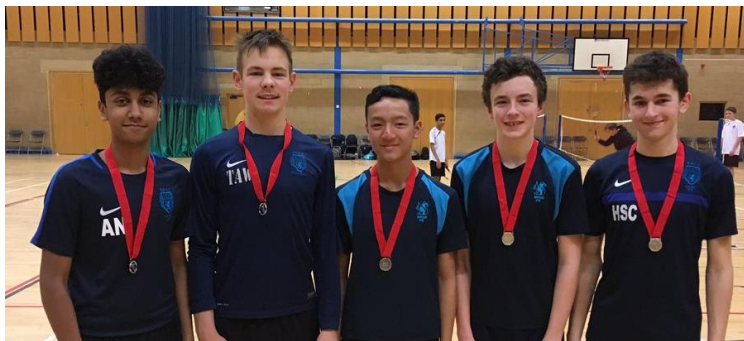


**Congratulations to Emily on becoming the Lancashire Cross-Country Champion** for the second year in a row! Max came 3<sup>rd</sup> in his category and Isabelle was 4<sup>th</sup>.



**Years 7 & 8 win Rossendale Indoor Athletics Competition & Year 7 Boys' win Rossendale 7-a-side football.** Y7 Girls' Athletics Team went on to come 3<sup>rd</sup> in Lancashire.

**U16 Boys' Badminton team runners-up in Lancashire/Manchester round of Badminton England national event.**



**Plenty of trampolining success stories to share** with Hannah and Abigail coming 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively in the silver category and Isabella, Mia and Sophie coming 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively in the bronze category.

**Year 8 Rossendale Basketball Champions & Girls' U16 Lancashire Basketball Champions**



## Broadway

On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March, we enjoyed a night at the musicals, with a host of student soloists joining a live band and 50-strong school and community choir to bring us well-known songs from a range of musicals, including Cabaret, Les Misérables and Oliver.

## Upcoming events

If you have a child in Year 5 and you are considering BRGS for their next step, please register for our entrance examination from the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019. Registrations close at 12 noon on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June with the entrance examination on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

### Currently in Year 5?



### Considering BRGS for Secondary Education?



**Register for our entrance  
examination from April 23  
2019.**

**Registrations close at 12 noon on Tuesday 25th  
June 2019.**

**Entrance examination: Saturday 14th  
September 2019.**

On Saturday 12th October 2019 BRGS is hosting a reunion providing an opportunity for all former students of any age to return to BRGS. If you are a former student or know of any alumni then please do share this date. Further details will be posted on the BRGS website and on BRGS Facebook and Twitter nearer the time.