



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

LENT 2 2022



Wishing all Bromsgrovians
a Happy Easter

Sports Tour

Over half term, girls from Years 7 and 8 took part in a long awaited overseas hockey and netball sports tour to Northern Ireland. After a very early flight, the girls went straight from the airport onto the netball courts for a friendly tournament. This was followed by a very enjoyable coaching session with Irish International Megan Frazer at the fantastic Olympic Astro turf, at Ulster University.

A busy schedule of matches and trips was organised for the trip and some great netball and hockey play was seen. Fun was had in trips to Belfast for a City tour, including a visit to City Hall, they went see the Titanic Memorial and Titanic Experience and visited a peace wall, learning of its significance. A trip up the coast to see the Giant's Causeway was especially memorable since Storm Eunice was hitting the area, and the force of the wind was evident from the huge waves crashing into the spectacular coast line. Overall this was a memorable and successful trip for everyone involved.



Senior Drama

The Senior House Drama competition, was a veritable cornucopia of delights and a display of performing talent on the very highest scale throughout the entirety of the evening. The choice of plays was impressive with a range of pieces from intimate two-handers to several very large-scale ensemble performances. Witty, wise and entertaining adjudication from actor and screenplay writer Theo Fraser-Steele, completed a superb event.

- Best Actor: Jake Wingfield, School House – *Waiting For Godot*
- Best Director: Polly Dakin, Hazeldene – *Emilia*
- Special Adjudicator's Awards:
Walters – *The Importance of Being Earnest*
Ottillie Hild – *The Handmaid's Tale*
- Performing Arts Award: Polly Dakin
- Best Play: Wendron-Gordon - *Equus*





Evensong

Sixteen members of the Chapel Choir visited Gonville & Caius College, at the University of Cambridge, to sing a service of Choral Vespers with the College Choir, conducted by their Director of Music, Matthew Martin. They sang beautifully, and were commended by the small but appreciative congregation for their musicality and conduct. It is hoped that some of our young singers might continue singing whilst at University in such a choir as this.



National Hockey

Congratulations to the U16 boys' Hockey team who won their semi-final against Oakham to qualify for the England Hockey Tier 2 National Final against Dean Close at Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre.

U13 Netball Champions

The U13 netball team have had an amazing season, they are undefeated County Champions, Regional IAPS Champions, IAPS National Champions, National Champions in Sisters n Sport and runners up in the School Sport Magazine Tournament.

Most recently they were winners of the IAPS National Tournament. At the final of this competition our team dominated the group stage matches, demonstrating their flair and passion for the game right from the first match. This determination saw them win matches right through to the quarter final, where they fought hard and were successful, sending them into the semi-final against Godstowe. Both teams played very well, but Bromsgrove came away victorious, with a place in the final. This was played against a strong and very tall Ardingly side, our girls preformed perfectly as a team and were justly crowned the U13 IAPS National Netball Champions.

Congratulations to the team: Ruby Broadhurst (Capt), Farah Croce, Holly Dunnaker, Xanthe Matthews, Rumer Evans, Samantha Riley, Emily Whitehouse, Gina Obrey, Neave Colley



Eco Work

The Prep School Eco Committee was given a guided tour of the various initiatives, that have been implemented in Senior School to support the School's aim for 'Net Zero'. Pupils saw the electric vehicle, LED lighting in the Humanities building, PV panels on Wendron-Gordon and the air handling unit which heats Routh Hall. They were also shown some of the saplings that have been planted to offset our carbon footprint. Well done to the Committee for asking some very enquiring questions, We are grateful to the Bursar, Mrs Brookes, as well as Mr Farrell and Mr James from the Estates team, for their time.

Thank you to all pupils who volunteered to help to clean up the local area. We were surprised to see so many cans we collected this time, but we are happy to note that face masks seem to be a thing of the past.



Channel Swim

Years 1 and 2 swam the English Channel for charity.

The 20.5mile swim (1320 lengths of the pool) took an hour and a half to complete, and the pupils all showed much determination and enthusiasm as they collectively swam the equivalent distance of the English Channel - the rapturous applause and cheers from staff and children alike when Mr Camden announced the final swimmers having taken us over the line was deafening.

Well done to all those intrepid young swimmers; money raised by the swim will go towards the Sport Relief Charity.

Following on from the success of Year 1 & 2's English Channel swim, Reception also impressed in the pool, swimming an amazing 434 widths during their weekly swim session. This means that they managed to swim the distance from the Pre-Prep to the Senior School swimming pool... and back again.

More Maths

Congratulations to the team of Lower Sixth students who competed in the International MathWorks Math Modelling Challenge. They experienced working as a team to tackle a real-world problem under time and resource constraints, similar to those faced by professional mathematicians working in industry. We look forward to learning the outcome of their submission.

Meanwhile, three teams from the Upper Fourth took part in the Big Maths Quiz at Birmingham University. Congratulations in particular the team of Jess Fleming, Rukhsang Tamang, Charissa Brobbey-Sarpong and Isla Sutherland who finished a very creditable 7th out of 77 teams.



Design Advice

Years 7 & 8 enjoyed an exciting and fascinating talk by Mrs Shim, a car designer and CMF (Colours, Materials and Finish) expert.

The talk was linked to art education, and the need for designers to be able to work to design boundaries whilst remaining as creative with their solutions as they can be. The expert speaker explored the in-depth and purposeful process involved, from drawing ideas to creating cars out of clay, and developing the interior design, all before the actual car is out and being test driven.

A whole host of IT skills, practical and design skill bases were covered, alongside working with a large team all focussed on the delivery of a new, never before-seen vehicle design. We are sure the pupils have been inspired to think creatively and look for ways to work collaboratively in their design work.



Art Awards

A number of Prep students received awards at the Junior Schools' Art Exhibition held at Malvern St James.

Well done to Sophia Moberley - Highly Commended in the Year 8 category and Monty Cooke - Highly Commended in the 3D category.



Scientific Discoveries

Years 3 & 4 enjoyed a very creative Science Day; dressed up as mad scientists they took part in a range of activities including making a model of the digestive system, making toothpaste, making a marble run, building 'spaghetti towers' and enjoying a fun workshop run by Fizz Pop.



UK Tour

Year 1 have been learning about the United Kingdom. They designed their own purses and were able to use their maths skills to buy Scottish shortbread, Welsh cakes, Irish apple cake and of course, very English scones. Wearing their special t-shirts they attended an afternoon tea party.

Recital

The MFL department took part in the British Council's Celebrate Speaking event, with many pupils uploading short clips of themselves talking in French. The judges were so impressed with the authenticity of Aarush Thapa's delivery that he was selected from amongst hundreds of pupils nationwide to record a video of him reciting the poem in person.



Well done to Aarush whose video will be shown as part of a live event showcasing the best entries.



Air Plants

The Prep Eco Committee, with the help of Gardening Club, wanted to find ways to help our School become greener. It has been scientifically proven that house plants improve air quality, therefore, Aaryn K (who is now in the Lower Fourth at the Senior School) had an idea to grow some spider plants for every classroom and office. Mrs Dakin bought some tiny plug plants and the Gardening Club helpers have cared for them. Each class was given a plant to look after.

House Music



There was an outstanding array of talent from all involved in this year's Senior School House Music Competitions. Thank you to the adjudicator Mr Jonathan Soman, Director of Music from RGS Worcester, who gave exceptional feedback to all the performers.

In the Ensemble competition, more than ninety musicians took to the stage. Each House performance impressed

the adjudicator with their variety of musical styles, communicative qualities and arrangements. Overall winner of the Ensemble Competition was Wendron-Gordon House with a rendition of Blur's *Country House*.

The soloists battled it out in two categories: Intermediate and Advanced. Each finalist had progressed from the first round, at which over sixty musicians had auditioned.

The Intermediate winner was singer, Ilerioluwa Odugbesan (Ottillie Hild) who performed a fabulous rendition of *The Lady is a Tramp*.

In the Advanced category, the winner was Joshua Graesser (Lyttelton) who gave an outstanding performance of Liszt's *'Un Sospiro'*.

Nursery Rainbow

Nursery have collaborated to create a rainbow - each room collaged a different section of the rainbow and the children were encouraged to think of kind and caring words. They then thought about how these words would make others feel. The lovely rainbows are on display in the grounds.



London Study

Fifth Form Geographers enjoyed an excellent day conducting a fieldwork enquiry in the Olympic Park in Stratford, London. This was excellent revision for both their exams and practice of fieldwork techniques.



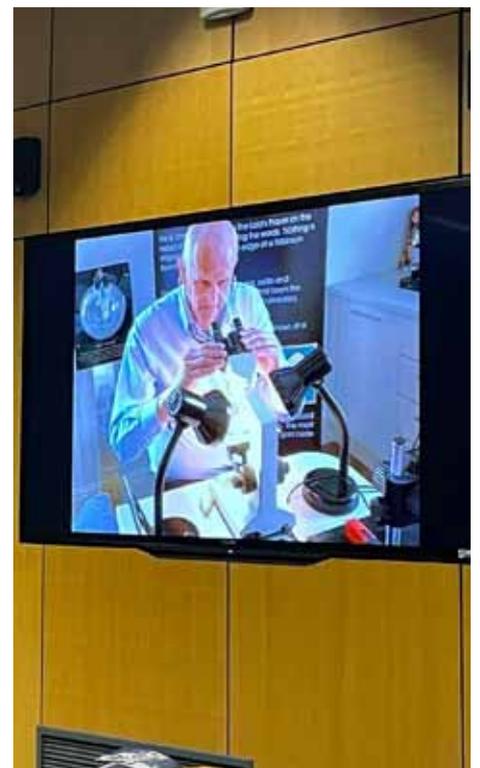
IB Art Expo

Well done to the Upper Sixth IB students whose art was on display in an impressive exhibition. The art work was displayed in the beautiful setting of Old Chapel. Visitors and invited guests enjoyed browsing the range of styles and creativity that was on show.



Art in Minature

Pupils, parents and staff were fascinated by micro artist, Graham Short who delivered an interesting lecture on his work. Graham specialises in miniature engraving, working on the heads of pins. He also produces the embossed writing paper for Her Majesty, The Queen.



1.2 Relays

There was much excitement on the School campus as the annual 1.2 House relays got underway. In this competition the Houses put forward teams which include a pupil from every year group, to run a relay of 1.2 miles around the School grounds. Well done the two fastest competitors: Ella Loftus (girls) and Owen Alekna (boys); overall House winners were Thomas Cookes and Lupton



Sequencing Genes

The Master of Scholars organised a trip to Birmingham University to encourage academic aspirations in students by experiencing learning in a Higher Education environment.

The Head of Biology nominated Upper Fourth students who had impressed with their consistent achievement and engagement. They enjoyed a fascinating use of plasmids in gene sequencing at the School of Biosciences at the University of Birmingham. Ten pupils undertook a laboratory practical, in which they sequenced genes using electrophoresis.

At the same time, Lower Sixth students attended a lecture on the Economics of Happiness with Dr Ceri. This masterclass used data compiled by Sir Angus Deaton FBA, recipient of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences.



World Book Day



World Book Day was celebrated with the usual level of keen enthusiasm at Prep School - Year 4 pupils visited the library, all dressed as their own favourite book characters; Year 5 enjoyed a literacy dance workshop, where they worked on scenes from The Jungle Book using Dance and mime to tell the story.

Children's author and storyteller Cat Weatherill visited the Pre-Prep as part of the World Book Day celebrations. We are delighted that Cat has become regular visitor to our Pre-Prep, and her visits are always keenly anticipated; this year she enthralled each year group with different magical stories and activities, bringing with her some wonderful musical instruments to accompany the stories and bring them alive.



Pop & Jazz



The very popular Pop & Jazz Concert made a welcome this Spring. Demonstrating a terrific array of styles, over a hundred performers took to the stage - testament to the vibrant and diverse musical life at Bromsgrove.

Highlights included the Girls' and Boys' Choirs performing some beautifully blended arrangements of pop hits; Fred Hanson sang Sinatra's sentimental *My Way*; Olivia Garrett captured the latin vibe of Stevie Wonder's *Don't You Worry 'Bout a Thing*; Eleanor Dunn belted out the Bond ballad *Nobody Does It Better*, before Harry Bradley raised the roof to Adele's *Rolling in the Deep*.

Debut performances included the Bromsgrove Service Band singing a heartfelt *Endless Love*. Winterfold's Groove Diggers joined with the Prep Jazz Group in a rousing rendition of *Seven Nation Army* by the White Stripes. Music Soc, a new activity group combining both Prep and Senior pupils, performed renditions of Amy Winehouse's *Valerie* and Elbow's *One Day Like This* and the staff choir, came together to perform in both choral and rock band styles.

Eisteddfod



The Year 3 & 4 Eisteddfod was an absolute joy. Poetry recitals and musical interludes were combined to offer an afternoon of flawless performances. The display of emotional depth demonstrated was testament to the hard work and natural understanding by the pupils of text and music. The atmosphere was tense as the adjudications were delivered by Mr Unterhalter (English teacher, Bromsgrove Senior School) and Mr

Nicklin (Head of Music, Bluecoat School); the winners were announced as Miela Evans (Year 3) for Poetry and Bea Snelling (Year 4) for Music, Nia Roberts for (Year 3 Art) and Phoebe Lloyd for (Year 4) Art.

The Years 7 and 8 Eisteddfod Celebration was a delight to watch, as Poetry reciters and Musicians presented outstanding performances for our guest adjudicator Mr Mitchell (Deputy Head,

Winterfold School). Each performance was a feat of excellent technical ability and emotional connection, and choosing the winners was no easy task. The winners of this year's Eisteddfod were announced as: Ethan Masterson (Year 7) for Poetry Recital, Marcus Ho (Year 8) for Music Recital, Flora Blower (Year 8) for Poetry Writing, Scott Wong (Year 8) for Art Chenmi Rai (Year 7) for Art.



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Golf



Players were lucky to have tremendous weather for the annual pupils vs Old Bromsgrovians, golf match held at Blackwell Golf Club. The School got off to a good start by winning the first match 2 and 1 with Thomas Griffiths and James Humphries defeating OBs David Hope (Gordon 72-77) and Bill Jordan (Gordon 66-72). The next match between Lili-Rose Hunt and Prin Waeruwatorn and OBs Andrew Parffrey (Gordon 68-73) and Ian Powell (Gordon 74-79) was close all the way round, finishing in a tie on the 18th. James Bayliss and James Thomas also tied the third match against OBs Peter Bingham (Gordon 55-58) and Alex Kay (Cokes 67-70). And so, the result came to the last match where OB Sam Bellamy (Lupton 10-15) and Nick Riley (current academic staff) defeated Euan Choi and Aman Azam 4 and 2 to tie the match overall.

Dinner after the match was followed by speeches from Anthony Webb (Hon. Secretary of the Old Bromsgrovians' Golf Society, School 54-59) and School Captain James Humphries. Anthony praised the School team and wished them well in the forthcoming ISGA National Final and HMC semi-finals.

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Foundation Lecture



Thank you to everyone who joined us in London for the Eleventh Annual Foundation Lecture at the Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall.

It was extremely interesting to hear about OB Brigadier Simon Scott's recollections of School life, especially E Club and the "camaraderie in hardship and shared risk" which shaped his career choices.



Bromsgrovian News

Head Reunites



Former Headmaster, Tim Taylor (1986-2004), visited School recently. He joined the Evensong service and was then delighted to be reunited with nine members of the Common Room, all of whom he had appointed during his tenure as Headmaster.



Wedding

James Busby (Ly 02-08) married his bride, Laura in December 2021. James and Laura met at Warwick University, James is now a Financial Adviser, currently working locally at AFH Wealth Management. The wedding held at Eastington Park, near Stroud, finally took place after two failed attempts due to COVID-19. James and Laura enjoyed a memorable day, surrounded by friends and family, including many Old Bromsgrovians. In the picture are newly weds James and Laura with OBs Michael Pearce (Lu), Simon Hodgkinson, Sam Strangward - Best Man (Ws), Ashley Hayden - Best Man (Ly), Richard Gallon (Lu), Edmund Westlake (Lu), Matt Roden (Ly), Sian Davies (TC), Joanne Hayden (TC), Dan Southall (Ly), Ellie McCullagh (née Johns, TC), Peter McCullagh (Lu) and Jonathan Field (Lu).

Bromsgrovian News

Visits



Oxbridge Meet

Students on the Oxford Cambridge Track met six Old Bromsgrovians and toured various Cambridge colleges. It was a pleasure to see Becky Foster, Lauren McClean, Lucia Goodwin, Emily Evans, Nik Gour, and Alex Moskalevski again. They reminisced fondly of their time at school and want to wish everyone at Bromsgrove well.

Aram Andreatsyan (E 13-17) and Matthew Lou (E 12-17) returned to Bromsgrove at the end of the Lent Term for a tour of the School. They especially enjoyed reminiscing in their old House with Mrs Fallows.

Dolly Xu (17-19) returned to Bromsgrove School at the end of the Lent Term and caught up with Miss Leech and Mrs Ashcroft in the the Futures Department. Dolly is currently studying Law at Oxford.

It was lovely to welcome back Tiffanie Tseng (Mary Windsor 13-17) who is currently in the UK for her long-awaited graduation. Tiffanie studied Architecture at UCL, and is now studying for a Masters in Architecture in Singapore.

