



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

SUMMER 2023
ISSUE 1



A Word from the Headmaster

Bromsgrove School, and indeed the world, was very different when the last Coronation took place seventy years ago; however, a variety of events took place across the School recently, to mark this rare but special point in our history. In years to come, pupils will hopefully remember how they celebrated the crowning of King Charles III.

As well as featuring some of the Coronation celebrations, the pages that follow show a sample of the many other opportunities and achievements that have taken place this half term, involving pupils of all ages. Some of those are relatively new initiatives whilst others would be similar to those enjoyed by previous generations of Bromsgrovians.

Just after the Coronation weekend and with a day's notice, three teams from the Independent Schools Inspectorate, carried out an inspection of the Bromsgrove schools. Inspectors met with pupils, staff and Governors, visited lessons and scrutinised pupil work, observed activities for day pupils and boarders and reviewed the large number of responses to the questionnaires which were completed by members of the School community. As we might expect, the teams were made to feel very welcome, and the School worked really hard during the inspection itself. We will share the reports in full as soon as we are able to do so.

Over the next few weeks, School life promises to become even more busy as we approach Commemoration Day. I look forward to continuing to see pupils participating in all that is offered here, further developing their many talents and interests in the process. In the meantime, I hope all Bromsgrove families enjoy a happy half term holiday.

Michael Punt
HEADMASTER

Olympiads

Sixth Form pupils took part in the 2023 Chemistry and Biology Olympiad, with over 10,000 students from across the UK competing in the Chemistry Olympiad and over 13,000 students in 800 UK Schools competed in the British Biology Olympiad.

Congratulations to Serisha Sunner and Casey Wong who both achieved a Silver Award in the Chemistry Olympiad, which places them in the top 20% of the country. What is more impressive is that they are both in the Lower Sixth, whereas the vast majority of entrants are in their final year of Sixth Form.

Well done also to the nine students who received the Bronze Award (top 40%) of the country: Adryan Man, Amelia Baker, Ben Punt, Bowen Cheung, Hamza Suleman, Henry Scott, Clara Lau, Jake Wingfield and Yanbo Dong.

Congratulations again to Casey Wong who achieved Gold in the 2023 British



Biology Olympiad. Only the top 5% of students across the country received this accolade.

Well done to five students who received the Silver Award (top 10%): Sophia Meadows, Katie Murray, Jake Wingfield, Ethan Wong and Marcus Au Yeung.

And to the eight students who received the Bronze award (top 15%): Eleanor Dunn, Charlie Hodgson, James Humphries, Zoe Pang, Henry Scott, Kaitong Sirisukhodom, Suani Tamang and Claudia Tang.

Being Well

With the benefit of blue skies and fresh air, Prep School pupils took part in Mrs Nishabouri's Wellbeing and Art activity.

Week one saw the pupils make the mark-making equipment and during the second week, they painted with their handmade art supplies outside in the sunshine.



Outdoor Learning

Reception children have been busy in the outdoor environment. They have been searching for mini beasts, participating in woodwork, playing parachute games, retelling stories in Forest School and listening to thunder and lightening!

France

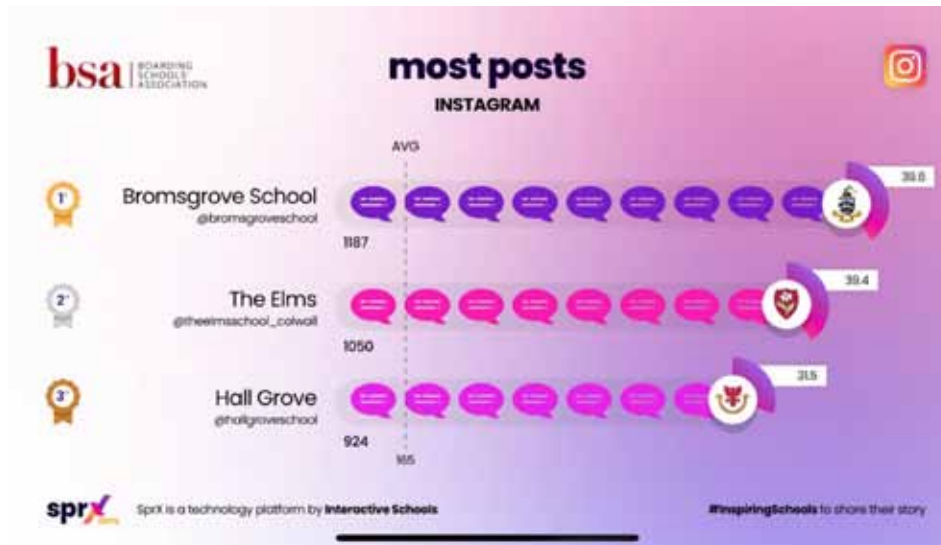
During the Easter holidays twenty-three Upper Fourth pupils and two members of staff set off to Normandy. The pupils had an all rounded experience of fencing, breadmaking, experienced 360 ° cinema on the clifftops of Arromanches, went to the Bayeux Tapestry Museum and the market town of Villedieu-les-Poêles, visited La Saffrie goat farm, Mont Saint-Michel Eco-Museum and plenty more.

At Lycée Emile-Littré in Avranches, students divided into groups to spend some time with French counterparts to discuss various aspects of their lives using French and English. They then had a guided tour of the Fire-Station in Saint-Martin des Champs, and enjoyed their last picnic together in the Jardin des Plantes before travelling to Ouistreham to board the ferry back home.

As ever, the Grand-Ferme provided an excellent programme of activities which enabled our pupils to immerse themselves in the language, culture and history of France and, in particular, the Normandy region. Pupils also appreciated the excellent recreational facilities at the centre, which they could access during their down time. They came back feeling more confident linguists than those who left.







BSA Award

At the Boarding Schools Association (BSA) Conference 2023, in the Social Media Awards Category, Bromsgrove School was announced to be the top 'Most Posts on Instagram' and placed second in the 'Most Posts on Twitter'.

Charity Walk

Year 7 pupil Priya Giles walked with her father from Bromsgrove to West Bromwich football ground and back - a distance of approximately 30 miles. Their walk was to raise money for Cancer Research UK in memory of Priya's Grandmother. Well done to Priya, her fundraising already exceeds £2,000.



Eastern Eats

Year 4 have been enjoying a series of class visits to Little Bangla restaurant to sample Indian and Bangladeshi cuisine as part of their Pathways to the East topic. The children enjoyed a two course meal. They made their own starter of spicy potato and garlic mushroom followed by a delicious main course of chicken balti.



Witch Hunt

The Fourth Form production of 'Witch Hunt' (based on 'The Crucible') was an astounding success. Applauded by all that saw it for the commitment and maturity of the performances of all of the cast. Ms Bradford, the play's director, was overjoyed with the production and has said the praise for the students is well deserved.



Green Power

In April the Design Technology Greenpower F24 race team made the journey to Mallory Park raceway for their first heat of the season.

Practice went well and all of the new drivers managed a couple of laps at the famous motorbike circuit before working on a game plan for the two races.

Race one started well until the car was cut across by another car, having to be recovered to the pits. Race two started excellently, until the car suffered a catastrophic battery failure which ended team Chicken's race. The team was disappointed by this result, but it has given them all something to think about before the next race at Lotus in June.



Well done to the whole team for a great day of testing and teamwork: Jonnie Parker, Rex Cao, George Ascough, Thomas Shaw, Alexis Chiliment, Jack Ryan and Ollie Rodriguez-Harris.

Also a big thank you also to our new sponsors Point S, Washford Finishings and 4QD, without whom we would not be able to run the team.

CCF Dinner

The annual CCF Upper Sixth Cadet leavers' meal was held at the beginning of the Summer Term, cadets were joined by Councillor Sid Khan and his partner as guests of honour. Thanks to the Shirley Pipe Band which provided some fantastic musical entertainment.



Internship

Congratulations to Max Buchel who has gained an internship with the Institute of Economic Affairs.

The IEA is an educational charity and the UK's original free market think tank. Founded in 1955, their mission is to improve understanding of the fundamental institutions of a free society by analysing and expounding the role of markets in solving economic and social problems.



Young Enterprise

Congratulations to Young Enterprise team, Monito, who have qualified for the National Finals of the Company of the Year Competition. They were declared winners at the Area stage, where the judges loved Monito and what the product is about as it is so relevant to the cost-of-living crisis and they felt it has a lot of potential to develop further. The judges commented that the team have created a fantastic brand image and it is a very creative and appealing product range.

Monito is designed to teach children essential financial skills, through the 'saving koala'. It's a reward system, the child inserts colourful tokens into the koala, and after they reach a certain point the parent decides the reward. The students demonstrated their learning and understanding of running the business well through their company report, interview and presentation. Which led them to progress to the County stage, where they were the deserved winners of the Most Creative Team and Overall Area Winners. With tremendous team effort they have now qualified for the national finals. We wish them the best of luck for the finals.



Performing Arts

Congratulations to the Prep School Orchestra who won their class at the Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts. The adjudicator commended the performers for their spirit and energy.

Musical Celebrations

Pupils from across the School celebrated the Coronation in style at a rousing concert with patriotic music ranging from Handel to Duke Ellington.



Concert

There was an appreciative audience at the recent lunchtime concert. A wide variety of musical styles was demonstrated in performances by both Prep and Senior pupils.



Wonderful Bees

Nursery celebrated World Bee Day with a real buzz. One of our parents is a beekeeper and he kindly bought in items to help us understand the essential role that bees play in our lives.

The children looked at a real honeycomb and dressed up in beekeeper suits to demonstrate how to keep safe around bees.

The day ended with some delicious honey on toast.

Germany

During the Easter holidays a group of seventeen Upper Fourth and Lower Sixth pupils set off on a trip to Potsdam and Berlin. This was our first trip back to Germany since the pandemic and the pupils and teachers were delighted to be able to go on such trips again.

The first full day was spent in Potsdam, the state capital of Brandenburg, made famous by Frederick the Great of Prussia. Pupils were able to visit our partner school, Gymnasium

Hermannswerder and have lunch with their partners as well as playing a friendly football match. The Lower Sixth were pleased to see their partners again who had visited Bromsgrove back in September.

Arrived in Berlin, the group activities started with a tour of The Reichstag, Germany's parliament building. The pupils were able to ascend the glass dome built by British architect Lord Norman Foster and experience the

excellent views across Berlin. The pupils sat in a recreation of an East German factory, restaurant and supermarket to get a real understanding of what life must have been like.

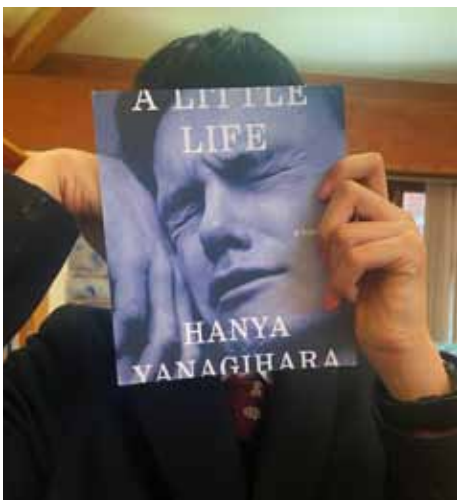
The final treat was a trip to a planetarium where there was a 3D explanation of different planets. Fortunately, there were headsets available with an English translation!



Forest School

Year 3 enjoyed an amazing and action-packed Native American themed Forest School day at Bodenham Arboretum as part of their 'YEE-HA!' topic.





Photography

Prep School photography club have done some spring edits during the first week of the Summer Term.

In Senior School students demonstrated excellent creativity in action.

Art Exhibition

Our talented pupil artists invite you to join them for the Art and Textiles End of Year Exhibition, running from 19th June to 1st July in the ADT Building, with a private view (invitation only) on the 20th June.

For further information, please contact Miss Blakeley, Head of Art - lblakeley@bromsgrove-school.co.uk

Coronation Celebration

Years 3 and 4 received a visit from the composers of the Coronation Song, 'Our King'. Nick and Becky Drake's composition 'Our King', was performed up and down the country for King Charles III's Coronation. During their visit to us, the composers answered questions about how to write music, and helped pupils perform two songs.





Tennis

The first half of the summer term has seen many successes in Tennis.

Congratulations also go to the boys' U16 tennis team who have been crowned County Champions.

Congratulations to the girls' U14 and U16 doubles tennis teams who have been crowned County Champions.

And well done to the U18 girls' team who have won the County competition for their age group.

Football

Well done to Lucas Ashurst who has signed a new two year contact with Wolves Academy for the upcoming 2024 - 2025 season. Lucas undertakes a rigorous training schedule each week and has impressed Wolves with his skill level, application and hugely positive attitude to football. We wish Lucas luck as he continues on his football journey.



Basketball

The U17 Basketball team became the U17 YBL Champions. The boys won their conference which started in September and ran through till March. They were unbeaten which meant they progressed into the play offs where they were successful in reaching the final. In the final they played a strong West Bromwich team who had previously beaten Bromsgrove in the close fought cup final. The boys however, showed good determination to win a close league final.

This is the first year the school has entered the YBL, and this success comes on top of our U16 basketball team reaching the National Cup semi final only to lose to the eventual winners.



Conservation Tour

The Senior and Prep Eco Committees were delighted to be joined by John Checology, a Conservation expert, on a tour of the School grounds. John has worked with the School's grounds team for a number of years helping to develop sustainability around the School.

On their walk, the group saw a wide

variety of habitats and discussed the potential for some new sites around the grounds. The group was even joined by a buzzard who is nesting on Lower Charford.

The 100 acre site at Bromsgrove School is already home to amazing biodiversity and this is largely thanks to the expert work of the grounds team,

led by Mr Hare, who have worked extremely hard to provide us with numerous havens for wildlife.

In the future, the Eco Committee are hoping to have some guided walks around the grounds, with QR code information links to aid learning and appreciation of the amazing resource that we are able to enjoy.



Sunflowers

The Senior Eco-Committee enjoyed planting sunflowers for the Inter-House competition - these Titan seeds have the potential to be record breakers at over 3m high, if they are looked after properly; we look forward to seeing the results.

Hockey

The Boys' 1st team travelled to Lee Valley Hockey Centre for the Tier 3 National Final against Bedford School. The boys started the first half strong, they were one point up before half time which settled their nerves. The second half was brilliantly played, with three goals scored in the first fifteen minutes. With the pressure off, the team played some great free-flowing hockey and managed to score another goal with ten minutes still left on the clock. The final score was 6-1. this tremendous results makes them U18 National Hockey Tier 3 Champions.

This fantastic result rounds off an excellent season for the boys who have a record of 25 games played; 21 wins, 2 draws and 2 losses.



Fencing

Four students from Prep and Senior Schools travelled to the England Institute of Sport in Sheffield to take part in the British Youth Championships National Age Group Finals.

Edward Nuttal fenced in the U12 Boys' Epee, finishing in 25th place. George Ascough and Alvis Luk both competed in the U16 boys Foil, they both went out in the last 64; Alvis finished 52nd and George 54th.

George returned the next day, this time accompanied by Jasper Page, both fencing in the U16 Epee. George, who had had the experience of the previous days' fencing to become more used to the required level, managed two wins in his pool, gained a bye through the last 128 before being narrowly defeated, 15-11, in the last 64, to finish 47th. Jasper fought well to finish 68th.

Well done to all of our fencers on a good weekend of fencing. There was lots of fun, and lots of learning.



Gymnastics

Well done to Evie Ashurst who, after a successful competitive season, two trials and her latest competition, has been selected to represent GB in the Aspire gymnastics squad for 2023/2024.

First Trip

Reception children enjoyed their first school trip to Avoncroft Open Air Museum. They role played and participated in activities based on the story of the Three Little Pigs, which helped them to investigate the different materials and construction techniques of three Avoncroft buildings. The morning ended with a picnic lunch in the glorious sunshine.



Eventing

Well done to Chloe Chan and Monarch Of The Glen who represented Bromsgrove School at the NSEA Eventers Challenge Final at Dallas Burston. They competed in the 1m/105 section, jumping a great clear round, and have now qualified for the championship at Hickstead. Chloe has also made a British Eventing debut with Blennerville Rua in the U18 100 section event. They produced a great dressage test, scoring a good 31.5, which placed them second. This was followed by a double clear, picking up some time faults.

Well done also to Amy Pinfield who took part in the NSEA qualifier for the open prelim dressage. Following the rounds, she qualified on Nipna Jackmanii for the final at Hickstead.





Teach Award

Congratulations to Dr West, Head of CAS (IB), who has been awarded Chartered Status by the Chartered College of Teaching.

As a professional accreditation, Chartered Status recognises the expertise and commitment to evidence-informed, high quality teaching practice, and the wider teaching profession.

Nepal

Over the Easter holidays, five members of staff from the Senior School ventured to Nepal to trek through the Annapurna Sanctuary to Annapurna Base Camp at 4130m. Miss McCanlis (Music) joined Miss Baker, Mrs Hankinson, Mr Coleman and Mr Holdsworth from the Maths department for this ten-day adventure in the Himalayas. A steady acclimatisation process along 'Nepalese flat,' code for relentless undulations up and down numerous valleys, allowed the team to reach base camp without feeling the effects of altitude sickness. Taking a few moments of quiet contemplation whilst surrounded by fantastic views of the Annapurna range to reflect upon the challenging trek, cultural differences and camaraderie of the group was a truly humbling experience; not to mention a far cry from the hustle and bustle of Kathmandu at the beginning of their trip.



Brum Run

The Great Birmingham Run was certainly 'Great' for Team Bromsgrove School - well done to our staff members who took part, and thank you to everyone who has donated. Team Bromsgrove raised £7,000 for Cancer Research UK.

A big thank you also to Mrs Punt for her encouragement and organisation of the team. Due to our success, this looks like becoming an annual event and any new runners will be welcomed.



BIST

We were delighted to welcome two senior members of staff from Bromsgrove International School Thailand for a visit. Howard and Alice Wu, together with their daughter, enjoyed seeing Bromsgrove UK for the first time. We are pleased that their son is studying here at Bromsgrove for a term.



Mission Hills

Dr Wall, Headmaster and Deputy Head, Mr Rajan Chana, visited us from Bromsgrove Mission Hills, China.

They came to see for themselves best practice in a top UK school, meeting with staff and pupils to find out about this from different perspectives.

Amongst the many activities they saw, Dr Wall and Mr Chana attended the Coronation Concert where they enjoyed the celebratory atmosphere and high standard of music.



Bromsgrovian News



Visit

It was lovely to welcome back Old Bromsgrovians from the 1960s - John Moody (Cokes 63-68), Alex Field (S/Wendron 64-69), Paul Reading (E 64-69), Will Carey (son of former Headmaster, Lionel Carey), Tim Vickers (Cokes 63-69), Howard Burton (Gordon 63-69) and Charlie Bowen (S 63-68)

After reminiscing over School photographs and memorabilia in the Heritage Centre, the group enjoyed watching cricket on Lower Charford where a National Cup match was taking place.

Pacific Rowing Race

Captain Chris Bailey (HH 04-09, middle of photograph in yellow) is taking part in 'The Great Pacific Race'. With a distance of 2,400 nautical miles, the race is one of the toughest races on Earth. Teams made up of 3 or 4 crew, all competing in identical boats, will be entirely self-supported and unassisted from the start gun in Monterey Bay until the finishing line in Hawaii.

Chris and his team will be raising money for three charities - Young Minds, Give Them a Sporting Chance and St Michael's Hospice, Hereford.

The team depart on 12th June and we wish Chris and his crew the very best of luck.



Rugby

Congratulations to Ollie Lawrence (Ly16-18) who has been named as Premiership player of the season after a standout campaign for Bath.

Ollie won four of his eleven caps for England during this year's Six Nations and scored five tries in total for Bath across twelve league appearances.



Photo Credit: Bath Rugby

DofE

Congratulations to a cohort of Old Bromsgrovians who recently met up to receive their Gold DofE awards at Buckingham Palace.



If any Bromsgrovians have news that you would like to share with us, or you would like to arrange to visit the School, please do get in touch with the Bromsgrovian office: oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk.

All photos featured on the Bromsgrovian pages, including individual's names and years, can be found on the Bromsgrovian Facebook site.