



## Lupton House

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## BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

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Dear Parents,

The arrival of April has certainly mixed up the weather over the last week with bursts of warm sunshine punctuated by threatening clouds and cold winds – I hope that the odd shower did not spoil the adventures of the many pupils enjoying a variety of trips, from Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, to language exchanges to some skiing. It was certainly entirely British that the first cricket games session last Tuesday included a good soaking! As ever, the beautiful tulip magnolia tree outside Lupton has waited for the beginning of the holiday before starting to flower, but should be in all its glory when we return. However, before all thoughts turn to summer, I hope this newsletter gives you a snapshot of the Lent term in Lupton.

It is always an important term for mock examinations and January saw the Fifth Form and U6 IBDP pupils pitting themselves against the clock to gain experience but also learn lessons in subject specific examination techniques. Likewise, the Sixth Form returned after half term to much the same process. There is also the pressure for many of completing elements of controlled assessment and pieces of project work now nearing final marking and moderation. In the first set of AEO grades, I was pleased to nominate George Hatfield and Gabriel Thornton (both L6) for Headmaster's commendations for their engagement averages of 5.1. Other pupils who gained commendations were:

*School commendations:*

Upper 6: Joe Bellamy, Alex Dew, Benedict Mann, Nick Papaioannou

Lower 6: Jamie Day, Dominic Gardner, Aled Luckman, Will Nadin, Freddie Owen, Hayden Owen, Oliver Plummer, Edward Shinner, Tristan Stephens-Jones

Upper 4: Jamie Cox, Harry Dodworth, Theo Gardner, Freddie Harvey-Gilson, Iain Messore, Josh Osborn-Patel, Ben Russell

Lower 4: Josh Lawson

*House commendations:*

Upper 4: Awais Mohammed, Fin Morgan

In the Lent 2 grades, Lupton's overall averages continued to move in the right direction, just as we would want at this stage of proceedings. Will Nadin (L6) and Josh Lawson (L4) were duly put forward for Headmaster's commendations for engagement averages of 5.2 and 5.1 respectively, with other commendations as follows:

*School commendations:*

Upper 6: Ben Adamson, Nicholas Martin

Lower 6: Edward Shinner

5<sup>th</sup> Form: Archie Batham-Read, Morgan Bennett, Andreas Frangeskou, Ben Humphries, Charles Sapwell, Jagveer Uppal

Upper 4: Jamie Cox, Harry Dodworth, Rorie Dodworth, Theo Gardner, Freddie Harvey-Gilson, Iain Messore, Josh Osborn-Patel

Lower 4: Rhys Evans, Lewis Harper, Harry Lyle, JJ Williams

*House commendations:*

5<sup>th</sup> Form: Alfie Broadhurst, Camran Rai-Watson

Upper 4: Will Bellamy, Seb Mehjoo

To break up the focus on academic work, there have been the usual rounds of House competitions, as well as a couple of Lupton PA events. Straight after the January mocks there was the opportunity for a bit of ten-pin bowling, courtesy of our Lupton Parents' Association. Forty Luptonians (a bit down on last year, sadly, with not too many U6/F5 on the bus) filled six lanes of Rubery's Hollywood Bowl in their pursuit of glory or, failing that, burgers or chicken nuggets. At the end of the evening, the following emerged triumphant as champions of their year groups: James Prince (U6), Alex Spurgin (L6), Will Porter (F5), Ben Russell (U4) and Josh Lawson (L4).



In the annual cross country and 1.2 relay events, the Reds put in a decent showing, although not making the podium this year. In the senior cross country, Charles Sapwell (F5) finished in second place, but credit also goes to those who stepped up at the last minute due to clashes with rugby and hockey fixtures. In the junior race, it was great to see 16 flashes of red supporting each other and the cause, at various speeds, around the Charford fields.

*Senior Cross-Country:* Jasper Merrick (U6); Jamie Day, George Hatfield, Will Nadin (L6); Tom Anning, Archie Batham-Read, Will Hallows, Isaac Jaya, Joe May, Charles Sapwell (F5).

*Junior Cross-Country:* Will Bellamy, Harry Dodworth, Theo Gardner, Freddie Harvey-Gilson, Fin Morgan, Ben Russell (U4); Tom Bullock, Cameron Chance, Rhys Evans, Lewis Harper, Alfie Harvey-Gilson, Josh Lawson, Jack Stirk, Dan Walter, Dan Washington, JJ Williams (L4).



For the 1.2 Relay, an event which requires six individual runners with at least one from each year group, it was good to welcome back some individuals who were not available for the cross country, particularly Nick Papaioannou (U6) who has been a stalwart of school running in his time. The same tagline is becoming true of Charles Sapwell, who duly proved his calibre by running the fastest leg of the whole event to claim the trophy for that feat.



*1.2 Relay team:* Nick Papaioannou (U6), Henry Stone (L6), Morgan Bennett, Charles Sapwell (both F5), Ben Hollingworth (U4), Rhys Evans (L4).

In other events, Jasper Merrick and James Prince (both U6) competed heartily, if inconsistently, in the senior Badminton against some of the experts from the boarding Houses, as did Toby Finnemore and Aled Luckman (both L6) in the senior Table tennis. Seb Mehjoo was a constant in the U4 Squash tournament, whilst the L4 preferred to rotate their energies between Tom Bullock, Cameron Chance, Josh Lawson and Jude Wilson. Nick Martin (U6) and Aled Luckman (L6) represented us in the Debating competition, proposing a motion for this country continuing to give monetary foreign aid. They put their moral case strongly with plenty of lucid points against the more miserly Brexiteering of their opponents, and won the floor vote if not a place in the final.

A welcome initiative this year was a Thursday evening of 5-a-side football for the boys' Day Houses followed by a curry. It was pleasing to see Lupton fielding the most teams (1 junior and 2 senior), even more so when the 'unofficial final' pitted the Lupton U6 team against their L6 counterparts. Suddenly, and palpably, camaraderie took on a competitive edge! Bragging rights on this occasion to the L6 team.



The boys who turned out for the football were:

**U6 team:** Himmat Bhandal, Lawrence Hill, Benedict Mann, Jasper Merrick, Nick Papaioannou, James Prince

**L6 team:** George Hatfield, Freddie Owen, Hayden Owen, Oliver Plummer, Edward Shinner, Gabriel Thornton

**Junior team:** Freddie Harvey-Gilson, Ben Hollingworth, Nick Jakobsen, Fin Morgan, James Baker, Cameron Chance

In musical matters, Lupton has had a tremendous term. The revival of the House Music competition required each House to enter a soloist as well as an ensemble piece. Not content with the 'safe' option of something like a piano duet, Ben Adamson and Archie Batham-Read co-ordinated a twelve-piece jazz ensemble which swept all before them with a fantastic feel-good rendition of Ary Barroso's *Brazil*. In the adjudicator's own words: *"To put a performance of this scale together, and this was a very well-rehearsed, tight ensemble – outstanding. You captured lots of the joie-de-vivre of the Latin style so well. The full sections were beautifully consistent and the ensemble was well-balanced, well-tuned and utterly convincing. Well done one and all!"* Why not judge for yourselves, with a reprise [here](#)?



**Saxophones:** Archie Batham-Read (F5), Josh Lawson (L4), Ben Hollingworth (U4). **Trumpets:** Charles Sapwell (F5), Alfie Harvey-Gilson (L4). **Horn:** Josh Osborn-Patel (U4). **Trombone:** Freddie Harvey-Gilson (U4). **Guitar:** Ben Mann (U6). **Bass:** Jack Stirk (L4). **Piano:** Will Nadin (L6). **Drums:** Will Bellamy (U4). **Vibraphone:** Ben Adamson (U6).



In the solo section of the competition on the same evening, Josh Osborn-Patel was simply captivating in his performance of F. Strauss' *Nocturno* on the French Horn. With a beautiful warm tone and a delivery which fooled everyone into thinking it looked easy, Josh fully deserved his victory, made all the more complete for me by our own Mr McKelvey accompanying him so sympathetically. I promise you, if you ever want 6½ minutes of pure calm in your day, hit this [link](#) now.



These two musical items, together with a repeat of our winning House drama entry were welcome additions to the programme of our annual Lupton Open Mic Night, this year in the Hospitality Suite whilst Routh Hall undergoes its transformation as a venue. In contrast to these three proven items, the first item of the evening encouraged everything I value in this event: a group of L6 pupils enjoying the opportunity to perform something together, without the pressure of a 'concert' atmosphere in front of a fully supportive audience, and with elements of humour more than making up for the odd missed note! Close to a third of the House grabbed the chance to take part in some live entertainment and experience that buzz of adrenaline, from soloists to groups, from AC-DC to Chopin, whether novices or seasoned performers. If I may, a special mention to Ben Adamson and Benedict Mann, two U6 pupils who have been absolute stalwarts of this event during their five years with us, adding a certain relevance to their finale of Brubeck's *Take Five*. Other instrumental performers on the night were:

Charles Sapwell (F5) on trumpet; Josh Lawson (L4) on saxophone; Will Nadin (L6) on piano; Jamie Day (L6) on guitar, Josh Osborn-Patel (U4) on French Horn; Ben Hollingworth (U4) on saxophone; Will Bellamy (U4), Cameron Chance (L4) and Tye Evans (L4) on drums; plus the *Brazil* ensemble again.

The penultimate Saturday of term saw a festival of House sport with both the hockey and football competitions, at senior and junior level. First up were the junior competitions, in which the absence of any semi-final stages made goal difference the key factor. Freddie Harvey-Gilson's footballers were in a brutal group in which all three teams won and lost one game each and so, despite a 1-0 victory (a Fin Morgan goal) against Elmshurst, the 0-3 loss to Lyttelton saw us heading to the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> play-off with School – a good-humoured game which we won 3-1, thanks to goals from JJ Williams and a brace from skipper Harvey-Gilson. In the hockey, after a good 2-2 draw with Walters (Dan Washington and Nick Jakobsen goals), Theo Gardner's men lived to rue a convincing, but less than ruthless 6-2 victory (scorers Nick Jakobsen (2), Rhys Evans, Elliot Mason, Ben Hollingworth, Dan Washington) over a weakened Lyttelton side, which enabled Walters to target a better goal difference against Lyttelton to claim the final spot. We claimed third placed after a comfortable 2-0 win over Wendron-Gordon, but would have fancied our chances against the competition winners Elmshurst.



*Junior hockey:*

Theo Gardner, Ben Hollingworth, Nick Jakobsen, Elliot Mason (U4);

James Baker, Rhys Evans, Lewis Harper, Josh Lawson, Harry Lyle, Dan Washington (L4).

*Junior football:*

Will Bellamy, Freddie Harvey-Gilson, Seb Mehjoo, Fin Morgan, Ben Russell (U4);

Tom Bullock, Tye Evans, Alfie Harvey-Gilson, Jack Lyle, JJ Williams, Jude Wilson (L4).



In the senior competitions, both squads had an intense afternoon of round-robin format matches with good play but ultimately some frustration in results. Morgan Berry's hockey players had convincing wins against Elmshurst (4-0) and Housman Hall (5-0), but narrow losses to Walters (0-2), School (1-2) and Wendron-Gordon (1-2), and yet more than held their own in a 0-0 draw with the eventual winners Lyttelton. In a similar vein, Joe Bellamy's footballers were never out-classed: apart from an easy win against School (4-0, a brace each for Messrs Mann and Bhandal), they were involved in tight games but struggled to score. Nick Papaioannou netted in the 1-1 draw with Lyttelton; somehow no Red could score in the bizarrely one-sided 0-0 draw with Elmshurst; and we lost narrowly to Walters (0-2), Housman Hall (0-1) and to a last minute goal (0-1) by the eventual winners Wendron-Gordon.



*Senior hockey:*

Morgan Berry, Lawrence Hill (U6);

Aled Luckman, Will Nadin, Hayden Owen, Gabriel Thornton (L6).

Morgan Bennett, Alfie Broadhurst, Lewis Maddox, Charles Sapwell (F5)

*Senior football:*

Ben Adamson, Joe Bellamy, Himmat Bhandal, Oliver Goodwin, Benedict Mann, Jasper Merrick, Nick Papaioannou, James Prince (L6);

George Hatfield (L6)

Archie Batham-Read, Andreas Frangeskou, Isaac Jaya (F5)



Certainly no shame in all four competitions and, ultimately a great afternoon of House sport with 43 out of 78 Luptonians wearing a House shirt for the cause.



All this House talk is not to forget those who have participated in school events this term. On the Arts front, I continue to enjoy thoroughly all of the soirees, concerts, Jazz Gigs and anthems in Chapel performed by those who put regular weekly practice into such performances by the various ensembles in school. Equally, our thespians spoiled us with the magnificent Artrix production of *Hairspray*. From the Lupton perspective, I was delighted to see the on-stage antics of Ed Shinner milking his heart-throb role as Link Larkin, Aled Luckman as a suitably flamboyant Mr Pinky, and Tom Anning showing off some smooth moves, aided by the backstage work of Dom Gardner, Alex Spurgin, Will Porter and our Tutors Mr Kingston and Ms Densem, all accompanied by Ben Adamson and Benedict Mann in the band pit, under the watchful musical direction of Mr McKelvey.



The last week of term brought the customary round of final assemblies, highlighting the extent of pupils' regular participation in extra-curricular activities, particularly those who have turned out for School teams on a weekly basis in sports as varied as hockey, football, rugby sevens, cross country, golf and swimming, not to mention those already in training for cricket. In the final Routh Assembly, it was good to witness the award of major school colours to Morgan Berry (hockey) and of minor school colours to Andreas Frangeskou (football), Joe Harper (rugby), Lewis Maddox (rugby) and Charles Sapwell (cross country), as well as Oliver Goodwin and James Prince gaining their Gold Duke of Edinburgh awards.

One other thing that I think is also worth mentioning is an update on our charitable activities. The charity chosen this year by the Upper Sixth is Parkinson's UK, which will receive a good sum from last term's Lupton PA Ball, supplemented by our in-House pool/table-football competitions. The PA committee also decided that it would be appropriate to support a local charity as well as this national cause and so, in one of their final Monday Tutor Time sessions this term, Ms Densem and Mr Beet took their U6 tutees 'shopping' with £400 to spend on the items required for four of the Gold starter packs to help the local charity St Basil's. As these young Luptonians prepare for their own lives away from school/home, it was a valuable activity for them to organise, budget and purchase the sort of things which most, no doubt, will take for granted, but which will make such a difference to the independence of some others who do not lead such privileged lives.

At the final House Assembly, I was delighted to award House colours ties to the following young men:

*Junior Lupton colours:* James Baker, Tom Bullock, Rhys Evans, Tye Evans (all L4)

*Senior Lupton colours:* Jasper Merrick (U6); Toby Finnemore, Will Nadin (L6); Tom Anning, Archie Batham-Read, Morgan Bennett, Isaac Jaya, Lewis Maddox, Charles Sapwell (F5)

The other House awards to mention are the Countess's Pennies, awarded each term to somebody in each year group who has played their part in House and School life during the term; it is rare that a pupil receives two of these in their time at Bromsgrove. This term's Pennies were awarded to:

Upper 6: Nicholas Martin

Lower 6: William Nadin

5<sup>th</sup> Form: Isaac Jaya

Upper 4: Theo Gardner

Lower 4: Thomas Bullock

And so the Lent term came to a close with a gentle reminder to the Fifth and Sixth Forms of the revision required for examinations when we return, but mostly the need of a well-deserved break for all.

As ever, please do feel free to contact me on any matter either by telephone (extension 229) or email ([amclure@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:amclure@bromsgrove-school.co.uk)).

If you have managed to make it to the end of this epic newsletter, I wish you all a Happy Easter with your families.

Yours faithfully,



P.S. A date for your diaries next term:

Friday 23 June

Lupton PA Summer Party, from 6pm at the cricket pavilion