



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

LENT 2024
ISSUE 1



A Word from the Headmaster

As is always the case at Bromsgrove, the last few weeks have been filled with opportunities of all kinds and a wide variety of achievements, and I always enjoy seeing the enthusiastic engagement of pupils and staff.

The pages which follow provide just a sample of recent events, but it continues to impress me that the typical Bromsgrove pupil manages to do so much so well. Of course, a key part of their School experience is pupils' learning and recently, Dr Tharaka Gunarathne gave a presentation entitled *Unlock your Genius*. Dr T is

a Consultant Clinical Psychiatrist, as well as a motivational speaker and TV doctor; over a 24 hour period he spoke passionately to groups of Bromsgrove pupils, Senior School staff and parents about techniques to help young people learn most effectively.

In addition, his talks were also attended by trainee teachers, staff from other local schools and their pupils. Especially at this time of year, many pupils will be thinking about how best to prepare for forthcoming exams and therefore Dr T's talk was particularly relevant.

Regardless of their age, interests, and future plans, we seek to ensure that all fulfil their true potential so that they can achieve their future goals. However, we also hope that the broad mix of experiences offered, the care for them as individuals and positive purposeful tone that pervade the School ensures that the journey young people make to their future destination of choice is a happy one.

Michael Punt
HEADMASTER

BBC Presenter

The Prep School welcomed BBC Midlands Today presenter Sara Thornton who gave a talk to Years 7 and 8 about the weather, climate change and an insight into what it is like behind the scenes at the BBC. Sara was very engaging and Mr Jones, who organised the event, was put on the spot when he had to present the weather forecast to the audience. Sara then showed us how it is done professionally before concluding her address with details about how flooding is becoming more prevalent.



Bebras Challenge

Last term, 120 Bromsgrove students participated in the Bebras Computational Thinking Competition. Following on from this, seventeen students have now qualified for the Oxford University Computing Challenge due to their outstanding results in the Bebras.

Congratulations to the best in School in each year group.

Lower Fourth - Daniella Balint

Upper Fourth - Samuel Chan

Fifth Form - Sovetin Gleb

Lower Sixth - Neel Agrawal

Upper Sixth - George Hastings

Award

Congratulations to Farah Croce who has been nominated for both 'Senior Player 2023' and for 'Player of the Year 2023' at the England Netball Awards.



House Drama

Seventy-six students from the Fourth Form, along with Fifth and Sixth Form Directors, took part in the Fourth Form House Drama competition. This competition is a great opportunity for many students to get involved with performing and stage craft, and almost 80% of those taking part were treading the boards for the first time. As such, you might expect quite a low standard of performance, but this could not be further from the truth; every year the standard just gets higher and higher.

The adjudicator had a tough decision as six Houses were in the frame for Best Play and a similar number of actors could have walked away with the top prize. Adjudicator Miles Rosbrook, OB, actor and young director, was fulsome in his praise for the consistently high standard of work and the sheer professionalism of the evening, insisting on awarding two Special Adjudicator's prizes this year.

Adjudicator's Special Award for most hilarious double act – Nicky Harding and Oscar Hill (Walters)

Adjudicator's Special Award for outstanding impersonation – Bertie Chandler (Elmshurst)

Best Actor – Esinam Adom (Oakley), Runner Up Best Actor – Ben Hilton (Lupton)

Best Play – Thomas Cookes for *Blood Wedding* directed by Amelia Rowe and Isla Chattin

Runner Up Best Play – Wendron Gordon for *Red* written and directed by Boris Belov



Hockey

In the In2hockey competition, the U11 hockey team won a thrilling game against RGS The Grange. The game finished as a draw and went down to flicks, with our team managing to convert the most. Well done to the team who now move on to the next round of the competition.

The U13 boys travelled to Cheltenham for the IAPs regional qualifier. A loss in their first game, followed by three wins, meant that the team finished second in the group. A tight win in the quarter final against Repton Prep saw the boys qualify for the National Finals. Wins in the semi-final and final saw the team crowned as regional champions.



Artistic Skills

Award winning artist Mark Lippett visited the Prep School where he led Years 6, 7 and 8 in art workshops.

They had a wonderful time creating landscapes, exploring texture and tone using pen and watercolour, guided by him and his expertise.



The Crown

Any fans of the Netflix drama *The Crown* may have spotted the choristers who played a key role in helping to recreate the marriage of Charles and Camilla in the final episode of season 6. Henry Shirley was one of the lucky choristers from Worcester Cathedral who travelled to York Minster a year ago for the recording. The choir's role was to sing the hymn 'Praise My Soul the King of Heaven'.

It was a long and exciting day of filming, but Henry was excited to speak to many of the actors and experience all that goes on behind the scenes of such a large scale production.



Tudor Workshop

Year 4 travelled back in time to meet Henry VIII in their Tudor workshop. They immersed themselves in a whole range of activities including the art of bowing and curtsying, investigating a plethora of weapons and armour, archery, learning the Pavan and Galliards dances, playing Tudor board games and learning about life at Henry VIII's court.



Cherry Tree

English Department's Mr Williams planted a cherry tree by the Old Chapel, whilst recalling the famous poem of beloved Old Bromsgrovian, A E Housman:

*Loveliest of trees, the cherry now
Is hung with bloom along the bough,
And stands about the woodland ride
Wearing white for Eastertide.*

*Now, of my threescore years and ten,
Twenty will not come again,
And take from seventy springs a score,
It only leaves me fifty more.*

*And since to look at things in bloom
Fifty springs are little room,
About the woodlands I will go
To see the cherry hung with snow.*

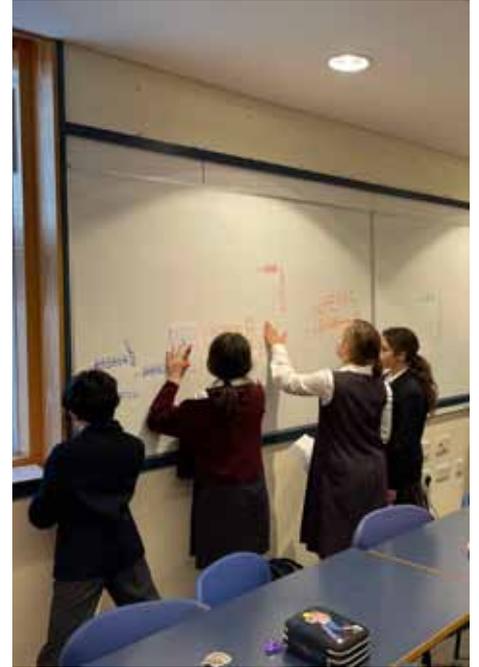
(Source: A Shropshire Lad)





Maths Fun

Prep mathematicians have been busy having fun with Maths; Mrs Drury's Year 8 group have been investigating practical number patterns, finding out how many cards are needed to make houses of cards with different levels. Mr Turner's Year 6 group visited Senior School where they took part in a lesson approximating pi using an infinite series, in the style of mathematician Matt Parker.



Explorers

Immersive drama was the name of the game as Year 1 joined a round-the-world expedition with explorer Sally Spade. Inspired by Nellie Bly who took seventy two days to travel the globe. Year 1 made a whistle stop tour of the continents, pausing at places of interest along the way.

Starting in London where they bowed down to King Sacha (who had a most magnificent royal wave), they then hot footed it over to Mexico to harvest cacao pods to make some very spicy chocolate, just like the ancient Mayans. The children had to work as a team to turn their bodies into aeroplanes and even suitcases along the way! They learned a new song in Mandarin as well as a call and response song from Africa, then finally took part in some Greek dancing to round off their travels.

Well done to Year 1 who expertly explored our planet in just one morning!





Horse Show

Mia-Bella Long won the London International Horse Show in December on her pony, Soldier. They competed against thirty finalists to win at the ExCeL Arena.

She also finished in first place in the U11 category at the Aintree Pony Premiere Show where, at just six years old, she was the youngest competitor in the class.

Cycling

Malakhi Bailey has had a rewarding season, achieving his first podium at U16 level - a second placed finish in the Western CX League at a very windy race, on top of the Mendip Hills.



Table Tennis

A number of pupils took part in the Worcestershire County Schools Individual Table Tennis Championships.

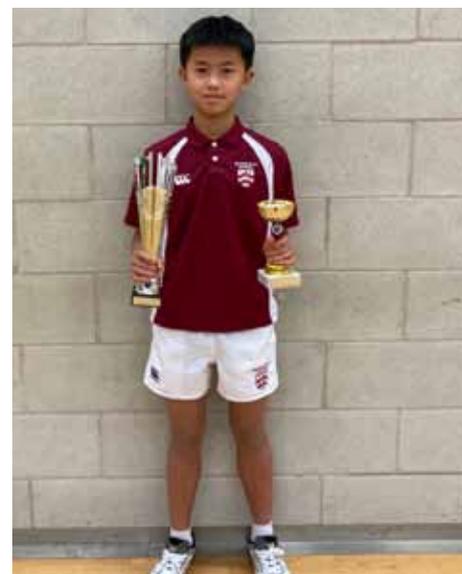
U19 boys - Alvin Wu (3rd), Alex Lau (4th), Gian Samara (5th) and Arutiun Nikogosian (6th).

U19 girls - Karis Cheng (2nd), Cherry Tang (3rd), Tiffany Fan (4th). Karis has now qualified for the National Finals.

U16 boys - George Dwight played well to reach the main knockout stage where he went out in the quarter finals.

U16 girls - Daniella Balint finished 4th against some very good players. She went into the Mixed Consolation Draw where she reached the semi-final losing a tight match 3-2.

U13 boys - Ismoil Akorirov came 3rd winning a bronze medal. Aarohan Gurung won the Consolation Final medal, and our star of the day was Aaron Ha who was undefeated. He won the U13 boys' competition and was also awarded the Junior Player of the Tournament trophy. He has now qualified for the National Finals.



STEM

Lower Fourth 'Girls in STEM' visited the University of Birmingham. The group enjoyed making jelly worms with emulsifiers and modelling outbreaks of infections with mathematics.



Friendly Football

As part of boarders' weekend activities, pupils took part in a friendly football match with Warwick School. The day was full of camaraderie and team spirit.

Destination USA

Congratulations to Josie Ward who has signed for Oakland University, Michigan. She has received a full scholarship to read Psychology.





Cricket

Congratulations to the U13 girls who were runners up in County Indoor Cricket Competition held at Worcester University.

The girls beat Dormston Academy, Bishop Milner and RGS Worcester to reach the final against The King's School Worcester. This was an extremely close match that saw our girls bat first and accrue their highest score of the day, however, King's came back strongly to win with an over to spare.

Sailing

Stella Nygard is one of just twenty-six girls from across the UK chosen for the Crew4Gold programme. Stella, and her partner, sail, train and race together in the 29er squad. 29er is a Youth boat class from which they will advance to 49er FX. Stella and her partner took part in a GP weekend where they finished 19th of forty-five boats.

At the Crew4Gold camp, the group practised boat handling, sheeting and trapezing on a 49er hull, which was anchored to the concrete from both sides of the mast. The aim is to learn the correct steps and hand movements, including getting from one side of the boat to the other as quickly as possible without tripping or getting your hands twisted.



Life Skills

Life Skills lessons have seen the Upper Fourth pupils welcome Bromsgrove's Nationwide Branch Manager to talk about banking, saving and staying safe with finances. Lower Fourth have been learning basic First Aid including the recovery position and CPR taught by our school nursing team.



Cross-Country



A total of twenty-seven runners represented the district at the Hereford and Worcestershire County event. There were several very impressive performances with all our runners competing well. Congratulations to all those who managed to qualify for the

National Schools Cross-Country as the best runners in their age group.

Junior Girls - Martha Blower (2nd)
Junior Boys - James Longworth, Harry Helmore, Malakhi Bailey, Freddie Giles.



Intermediate Girls - Kara-Rose Welborn (3rd).

Intermediate Boys - Tom Lyevashev.

Senior Girls - Rose Davenport (4th).

Symphonic

The Music Department took a group of School musicians to Symphony Hall in Birmingham. They felt exhilarated and inspired after a fabulous concert with Jess Gillam and the CBSO which was made even more exciting with the opportunity to meet her at the end of the concert.



Netball

The U11A team competed in the IAPS regional netball tournament. The girls played some excellent attacking netball to win all of the group games. In the quarter finals of the cup competition against Ratcliffe College Prep, the team faced tough opposition, but fought hard to progress through to the semi-finals. Bromsgrove started well against Blue Coat and battled on to the final whistle.



They deserved their place in the final but after a long day were unable to convert their chances, losing in the final to Warwick Prep. The girls should all be very proud of their silver medals.

Congratulations to the U13A netball team who became undefeated Regional IAPS Champions beating Maiden Hall, Bilton Grange and St Hugh's in the

group stage, St Faith's in the quarter finals, Bilton Grange in the semi-finals and Clifton College in the final.

Both teams have qualified to the National Finals in March.



Cross Fit

Well done to Lucy Cattell who took part in a CrossFit Competition.

Strength in Depth is the largest provider of CrossFit Competitions in the UK. This is their premier team event in which hundreds of gyms enter the online qualifiers, and only ninety qualify to participate in Bath. As a relatively new member of her gym, Lucy has already shown the skill, strength, and determination to make it into the team of twelve.



GB U20

Congratulations to William Pridden who has qualified in the U20 age group to represent GB at the 2024 European Multisport Championships in Coimbra, Portugal. William will race in the Sprint Duathlon.



CERN

Twenty Sixth Form students visited the Centre for European Nuclear Research in Geneva. The students discovered how CERN is helping to answer some of the Universe's most fundamental questions; how did the Universe begin? What are the basic building blocks of matter? What fundamental forces will shape the Universe's future? The group were given guided tours of the CERN facilities by scientists currently working with the ATLAS detector and were able to explore the recently opened visitors centre at CERN headquarters. The trip also included a visit to Geneva's History of Science museum, a boat ride across Lac Léman to explore Geneva's Old Town and a meal at a traditional Swiss restaurant complete with alpine horns and plenty of fondue.



Politics

The Upper Sixth A level Politics cohort travelled to Westminster as part of their studies of the UK Government. Visiting Parliament in the morning, students watched live debates in the Chambers of the House of Commons and the House of Lords before participating in an educational workshop where they debated and proposed a new law.

During the afternoon, students visited the Churchill War Rooms, the secret underground HQ of the British government during WW2, to see how the British Government was able to carry on functioning despite the threat of bombing. The group also visited the Churchill museum.

Safety Online

Thank you to the Prep School PA for funding a talk for Years 7 and 8 from the Breck Foundation to raise awareness of online safety on Safer Internet Day.



House Music



The House Music Competition displayed an outstanding array of talent from all the competitors and demonstrated wonderful support from friends, colleagues and family over both ensemble and solo competitions.

Over a hundred musicians took to the stage in the Ensemble Competition. Each House ensemble gave their all and impressed in the variety of arrangements and communicative qualities. Mr Punt adjudicated and announced the results as:

- Winners: Oakley
- Runners up: Lupton
- Highly commended: Thomas Cookes and Otilie Hild

The Solo competition, where each finalist had progressed from the first round, at which sixty musicians had auditioned, was adjudicated by Dominic Franks, Director of Music at Dean Close School.

- Winners:
- Intermediate category:
Winner: Jarry Xing (WG)
Runner up: Bertie Chandler (E)
Highly commended: Thomas Punt (S)

- Advanced category:
Winner: Ed Thompson (W)
Runner up: Huxley Ngan (WG)
Highly commended: Gabriel Brown (L)



Marmite

'Sometimes it's the very people who no one imagines anything of who do the things no one can imagine'. 'Inspiration' is a much over-used description, but Alan Turing, Joan Clarke and the others who broke the Enigma Code at Bletchley Park remain a genuine inspiration.

Members of the Marmite More Able Society gathered for an evening of pizza and film, watching *The Imitation Game*. Students were enraptured, entertained and heart-broken by the story of people who saved so many lives, and yet were still judged for not being 'normal'. Marmiters agreed that much has improved, and the group has been inspired to do more.



Essay

Well done to Lauren Baker who was awarded the runners up accolade in the Immerse Essay Competition. The prompt for the essay was "What events in history have we yet to learn from?" Lauren's essay focused largely on historical genocide, specifically those in Rwanda, Nazi Germany and of the Armenians in the Ottoman empire.

Escape Room

Boarders enjoyed a weekend trip to 'Escape Live', taking part in escape rooms such as Watson's Office and Time Machine.





Enrichment

A varied programme of lectures was on offer to Lower Sixth pupils during Enrichment Week, posing questions such as 'Are we facing Extinction?' (Biology) and 'Why do people do what they do?' (Psychology), as well as looking at AI, the Economics of Cricket and much more.

These regular series of lectures offer students the chance to investigate areas outside of their own subjects and utilise the staffs' own areas of expertise.



Swimming

Darcey Hackett competed at the the Worcester County Championships where she won three Gold medals in 50m and 100m freestyle and 50m fly. Her Personal Best in 50m fly (36.2s) places her in the top twenty swimmers in her age group in England and she will now compete in the regional championships.

Congratulations also to Lizzy Findlay who has been awarded a certificate for artistic synchro swimming.



Clip n Climb

Year 1 followed in the footsteps of famous climbers when they visited the local Clip n' Climb centre as part of their topic on explorers.





Lunar New Year

Nursery and Reception classes had a wonderful day celebrating Lunar New Year. They made Chinese dragons and lanterns, created their own Chinese themed restaurant, participated in Chinese number writing and made lucky envelopes.

Years 1 and 2 celebrated with the help of a group of pupils from Senior School. Each class received red envelopes with a special coin inside, they listened to traditional stories and tried writing their names in Chinese.

Prep School pupils enjoyed a Chinese-themed lunch in celebration of the Lunar New Year.



Culinary Excellence

During an unannounced audit at Housman Hall, the School caterers, Holroyd Howe, received a score of 98.8% and a certificate of excellence. Special mentions to Peter Phillips who heads up food safety/health & safety for the team and James Hopkins who oversees catering at Housman Hall.



PA Donation

Many thanks to the Prep School PA for donating this lovely circular bench.



Bromsgrovian News

Only Connect

Harry Heath (L 96-12) is currently appearing on BBC2 in Only Connect. His team, Also Rans, is made up of contestants who were the runners up in the Mastermind Final in 2021.



Visit

OB Jamie Lewis (S 16-23) visited School to share his exciting news that he is soon to start training for his dream job as Cabin Crew. Well done Jamie.



Speaker's Lunch

Tim Taylor (Headmaster 1986-2004) gave an interesting talk at the third Foundation Speaker's Lunch, which was held here at School.

It was such a lovely event bringing together former and current staff, past and present parents, Old Bromsgrovians from Tim Taylor's headship and current School Monitors.

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.