



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

# Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

MICHAELMAS 2023  
ISSUE 1



## A Word from the Headmaster

Welcome to this, our first Bromsgrovian News Review, for the academic year 2023/24. The start of a new school year is always an exciting time but particularly so in a community when there are so many opportunities available and so much willingness to get involved. On the pages which follow, you will see numerous examples of pupils who have, with the support of staff, developed talents in a whole host of areas and achieved a great deal.

We were delighted with the public examination results that pupils

were awarded in the summer but the overall figures may hide the really concerted efforts made by individuals seeking to fulfil their own particular potential. We aim to help each and every pupil, regardless of age, achieve the very most they can and for their experiences in School to be as positive as possible. Of course, every pupil is different, but a typical Bromsgrovian likes to be busy, has a whole host of interests and enjoys rising to a challenge. This has long been the case here, and as last summer's leavers begin to make their way in the world as

Old Bromsgrovians we welcome new members of the Bromsgrove family. We hope they too will have a happy and fulfilling time here and we look forward to seeing just how much they will thrive.

Michael Punt  
HEADMASTER

# 2023 Results



## 59%

7/8/9 GRADE  
AT GCSE

## TOP 15%



## VALUE ADDED

OF ALL INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

## 38.0

AVERAGE IB SCORE

## IN 2023



## 75%

A\*/B GRADES

A LEVEL  
2023

## 52%

A\*/A GRADES



## #11

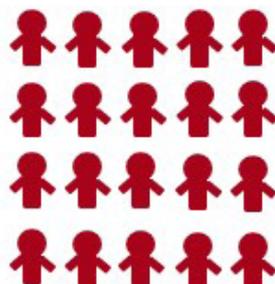
## UK CO-EDUCATIONAL IB SCHOOL



## 48

DISTINCTION &  
DISTINCTION\*  
(2023 RESULTS)

20+ DIFFERENT  
NATIONALITIES  
STUDYING THE IB



## 45 POINTS

ONE OF ONLY 25 STUDENTS  
IN THE UK TO ACHIEVE THIS

## TOP IB SCORE

## New Monitors

The Headmaster was delighted to welcome his new team of Monitors.

The traditional Signing-In ceremony took place in front of a full Routh Assembly, with each Monitor being called up to sign the Monitors' book in silence, before each then received celebratory applause from the School.

The Headmaster also announced his Heads of School. Congratulations to Heads of School Finbar Dinnen and Arianna Okemuo, Deputy Heads of School George Hastings and Amelia Barnes and Senior Boarders Nikolay Kovalikhin and Caroline Ross.



## Kindness

The Kindness Song, featuring vocals from some of our Prep School pupils, has now been released.

The song, which was recorded in Maple Hall by the organisation Worship for Everyone, is a reminder to choose kindness in how we play, what we do and what we say.

You can listen to the song at <https://youtu.be/pK-0KAHqAk0>



## Triathlon

Congratulations to Caitlin Pridden who competed in three Triathlons and a Transition challenge to be placed third nationally in the B Final.





## Hockey

The U13 hockey team travelled to Repton Prep for their invitational tournament. Bromsgrove started well with a win against Repton B, then they faced Repton A which they narrowly lost despite playing extremely well. The girls won their remaining three games against Denstone College, Solihull and Belper Hockey Club. Bromsgrove finished in a very credible second place having conceded only two goals all day. Well done to the whole team.

Congratulations to Tristan Shaylor and Beau Langford who both recently took part in the Repton Cup representing the Mercian Marauders regional team. This was a week-long residential tournament where the teams played indoor and outdoor games. After a busy week playing some of the best U14 boys' teams in the country, the Mercian Marauders came out as winners of the boys' competition.

## Studio

Darcy Dines (Lower Sixth) and his band, Split Second, have had a very productive year. Whilst revising hard for their GCSEs, they also found time to return to the music studio. Their fourth single, The Hello Song is available to stream on all major music platforms.



## Cycling

Well done to Malakhi Bailey who won the British Schools' Cycling Association Grass Track finals, and is now the U13 National Champion.

# Rugby Tour

During the summer holidays, Mr Windo, Mr Holdsworth, Mr Bell and Dr Short, along with thirty-nine boys, ventured on a two-week rugby tour to South Africa.

After arriving in the country, the squad acclimatised by enjoying a training session followed by an excursion to Voortrekker Monument, which symbolises and honours the Cape Colony settlers. The boys felt well prepared for their first game against the Harlequins where they got off to an outstanding start with convincing wins for both the A and B teams. Some relaxation followed with a two-day safari at the Ivory Tree Game Lodge where they were able to spot most of the Big Five.

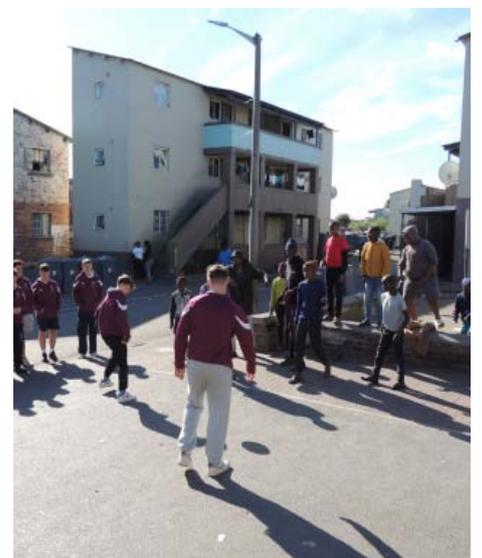
The team then travelled to Belville School to participate in a rugby festival; the B team took on the hosts and the A team played against a strong Strand School. The B team narrowly lost, with the A team continuing their early tour performance with a second victory.

The boys enjoyed some relaxation taking in the panoramic views from the top of Table Mountain before preparations started for their penultimate game. The A team played some of their best rugby of the tour to overcome a strong DF Malan High School squad.

The next few days saw the group taking a ferry ride over to visit Robben Island and enjoying some cultural highlights in

a trip to the Langa Township where they interacted with local children and played a game of football.

The final game of the tour was against the world-renowned Paarl Boys' High School. Both the A and B teams performed very well but, unfortunately, were not strong enough to secure victories. Well done to the squads on good performances throughout the tour.



## Gardening

Senior Pupils have engaged enthusiastically in gardening activities, with large numbers of pupils signing up to take part. They have been using their time well with weeding, tidying flower beds, digging the corn and composting.



## GreenPower

Earlier this term the Design Technology Greenpower Race Teams competed in the penultimate heats in an attempt to solidify a place in the World Finals at Goodwood.

Practice for the Juniors in Team Chicken went well, however less so for the Seniors where they suffered a setback with a wheel being ripped from the chassis, bending multiple components into different directions.

Team Chicken raced first and the car was strong and the new system seemed to work well; they finished in fifth place overall and first place kit car. The Egg was next, and headed out very quickly from the start, due to some difficulties they dropped back slightly but they made some advances and managed a respectable third place Kit car.



Well done to both teams:  
Juniors (The Egg); Jonnie Parker, George Ascough, Alexis Chiliment, Logan Ingram and Tom Shaw.  
Seniors (The Chicken); Felix Meng, Steven Chen, Alex Li, Ming Satithamajit, Wennqing Tan, Conrad Berg, Yanbo Dong, Maksym Gurevych and Kaan Erdam.

We are, as always, grateful to our team sponsors: 4QD, A Plan Insurance, Point S, Washford Finishings, Eagle Plastics, Cycle Studio and Aston.com.

A big thank you to Mrs Ascough who accompanied the teams for the day, and to Mr Matthews and Mr Kingston for their engineering excellence and advice.

## Cricket

George Hall continued his successful 2023 season clocking up nearly 2000 runs and 40+ wickets to date. One of his most notable achievements was a run total of 53 not out at Lords, the Home of Cricket, for the MCC U13.



## Bee Keeping

Bromsgrove Service Beekeeping has started well this term with a host of new faces. Even Miss Palitti has caught the buzz!



## Egyptians

To kickstart their 'Walk Like An Egyptian' topic, Year 3 were transported back in time with a fantastic visit from Ari the Ancient Egyptian scribe from Historic Workshops. The children thoroughly enjoyed a very busy day of rich learning, with plenty of exciting hands-on activities.





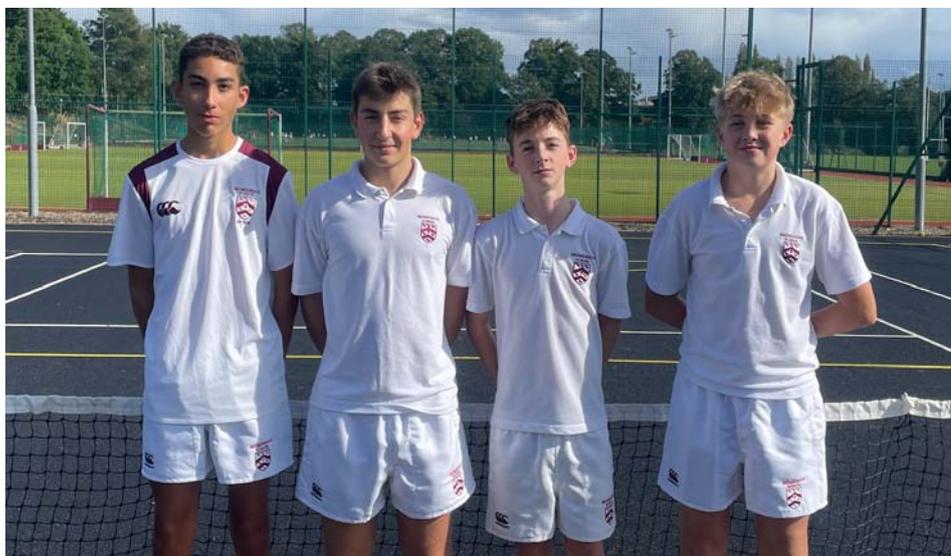
## Lunchtime Concert #1

The Music School has established a lunchtime concert series to give students a more informal opportunity to perform and to try their repertoire out. The first lunchtime concert took place in early September, with eight students taking part and giving wonderful and well-prepared performances. The remaining lunchtime concerts will take place on: Friday 10th and 24th November, and Friday 8th December. All concerts will start at 1.20pm in Routh Hall and everybody is welcome to attend.



## Baking

The children in Nursery and Reception have enjoyed baking delicious apple pies using apples from one of the pupils' apple trees.



## Tennis

The U15 boys' tennis team have won through to the regional tennis finals - the last sixteen in the country - after beating Old Swinford Hospital 6-0. The regional finals take place in November, we wish them the best of luck.

## Golf

Congratulations to Lili-Rose Hunt who has been awarded her first England cap.

Lili has had several top ten Major competition finishes and recently finished second in the England girls' U18 amateur championship, which has taken her to second in the England golf girls' order of merit league table.

She has been selected for England to represent her country in the R&A 'home nations'. The team were victorious at the Home Internationals winning the mixed boys and girls trophy and the girls trophy. Lili played six matches and won all six.

Lili was interviewed by The Telegraph as she has been leading the Justin Rose league table for a number of weeks for a place to play in Portugal in October. We wish her the best of luck.



## Equestrian News

Chloe Chan and Blennerville Rua competed at Stoneleigh, jumping the only clear round in the 143 plaited Working Hunter qualifier. They achieved top marks all round to win and were placed overall Working Hunter Champion.

Chole also represented England in the FEI pony 2 competition; despite

facing very wet conditions, she and Blennerville Rua completed a clear round over a challenging track and terrain, they finished tenth overall and in the Defender Burghley 2023, Chloe and Ruby finished fifth nationally.

Well done to Amy Pinfield and Earnwell Elwyn who have qualified for the Horse of the Year Show in the National pony

Society/Baileys horse feeds Mountain and Moorland Dales pony of the year class.

Amy has also qualified with Nipna Jackmanii for the Horse of the Year Show in the Westtown stud Junior Mountain and Moorland Large breed pony of the year class.





## Sailing

Fraser McDougall won three awards at the National School Sailing Association (NSSA) Youth Regatta, which took place over the summer at Draycote Water Sailing Club in Warwickshire.

## Collaboration

Wellbeing Ambassadors from St John's Middle School met with our Prep School Wellbeing Monitors. Everyone had a positive time, collaborating on their World Mental Health Day assembly.

Miss Birmingham, St John's Pastoral Deputy Head, and Dr Barron, Prep School's Mental Health Coordinator, are very excited to launch the topic of Mental Health Stigma across both Schools.



## Adventures

Our Nursery children have all settled in so well. They have enjoyed exploring the Nursery environment and making new friends.





## Spanish

The Lower Sixth Spanish A level group have given a modern day take on the 'Guía de la buena esposa' written by Pilar Primo de Rivera, founder and leader of the ladies section of the 'Falange'. The guide was written in 1953 to tell women how to be the 'perfect wife' under Franco's regime. This is a celebration of its 70th anniversary of the publication date.

## Biology Olympiad

Lower Sixth Biology students completed the Intermediate Biology Olympiad, which was undertaken by 15,000 students in over 700 UK schools.

Five students received the Silver certificate (top 10%): Serisha Sunner, Namwan Sirithunyanont, Hamza Suleman, Casey Wong and Lily Rose; a further nine were awarded the Bronze certificate (top 15%): Intouch Sirisukhodom, Alicia Wong, Georgia Hancox, Isaac Teo, Bernice Lau, Milly Baker, Aleksandra Kichaikina, Victor Hogset and Ethan Tong.



## Rugby

Congratulations to Henry Parsons who has been selected for the Midlands West (Worcester Warriors) U18 team against Sale Sharks.





## Pupil Voice

Pupil Voice is a thriving group, representing every Form in the Prep School, including day and boarding pupils.

Pupil Voice representatives worked together to consider our international links and connections with BIST, Mission Hills, Winterfold and Bromsgrove. They all gave their opinions and ideas in response to a series of questions created by the Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl of the Prep School.

## Eco-Committee

The new Prep School Eco-Committee met for the first time at the end of September and have enthusiastically discussed their vision for the coming year.



## Psyche

Congratulations to Aleksandra Kichaikina who has won a National Essay Competition organised by Medic Mentor. The theme of the competition was 'Psyche', and the research question was 'To what extent is caring for a patient's emotional needs and mental health important in dentistry?'

Aleksandra's winning article will be featured in Psyche magazine.

# Senses

Dave Parvin from Drug Sense UK visited to present to all year groups, from Year 7 to Upper Sixth about the dangers of drugs, alcohol and vaping.



# Festival

Reception and Nursery children were delighted to welcome Mrs Wang to Pre-Prep who spoke to the pupils about how her family celebrate The Mid-Autumn Festival (Moon Festival).



# Street Food

The annual boarders' Street Food event was held on a mild Saturday evening. Boarders enjoyed a selection of 'dirty fries' and street food, all prepared by our in-house chefs.



## Netball

Congratulations to the 1st Netball team who won the Brize Norton Invitational RAF Netball tournament, winning all eight matches against some very strong adult competition.



## Bikeability

The wheels started rolling with Prep's Bikeability activity. Several intrepid cyclists learnt the rules of the road, how to keep safe and how to look after their bikes. Congratulations to the cyclists on being awarded their Level 1 Certificate.

## Football

Girls in Years 5 to 8 have been enjoying the new girls' football session that has been introduced after School on Fridays.

Any girls who are interested to attend can speak to Mrs James or sign up via SOCS.



# Boarders' Ball

The Upper Sixth Boarders' Ball was held at Stanbrook Abbey near Malvern, the event marked the start of their final year at Bromsgrove School. Students and their Houseparents enjoyed dinner and dancing at this spectacular venue; the Abbey is a former 16th Century monastery and is set within a twenty-six acre estate.



## Ensemble

Two Sixth Form musicians, Toby Roberts and Ed Thompson performed with the Birmingham Philharmonic Ensemble and Bromsgrove Concerts on the Routh Hall stage at a recent concert.

The organisers were very impressed with their work ethic during the extensive rehearsals and during the concert itself.

# Bromsgrovian News

## Retirement

Just before the new academic year commenced, we bade a fond farewell to Steve Taylor, a much-loved colleague and stalwart of Bromsgrove School, who retired after an incredible 53 years of service.

During his time here, working with the support team and in estates, Steve has worked with six Headmasters - Mr Carey, Reverend Earle, Mr Taylor, Mr Edwards, Mr Clague and Mr Punt.

Steve's stories about the early days at Bromsgrove are fascinating and give a great insight into the history of the School. Steve can create a wonderful image of those old School days: pupils playing fives, pupils swimming in the outdoor pool, even teachers cutting the grass.



Steve's claim to fame is that he discovered Scott's expedition sledge, which now holds pride of place in the Heritage Centre.

On behalf of the Governors, the Headmaster and all of our staff, present and past, we say a huge thank you to Steve for all that he has done for the School over these 53 years. He is a true Bromsgrovian. We wish him a long and happy retirement.



## Volunteering

Old Bromsgrovian Nell Stone (HH 07-22) and her brother, Archie (current Upper Sixth) volunteered at the International Blind Games in Birmingham. They helped with the blind judo event, a qualifying event for next year's Paralympic Games.



## Netball

Congratulations to Old Bromsgrovian Alanna Pullen for winning the U19 MVP award during the England Netball NPL tournament. Alanna's team, Central Warriors, finished second overall. Alanna has also been selected for the U21 England side at the Netball Europe Competition.

## Catering

Congratulations to our catering partners Holroyd Howe, whose Senior School kitchen team have been awarded another certificate of excellence during their unannounced ESB audit. The team scored a very impressive 98.17%.



## Doctor of the Year

Congratulations to Tun Tha (S 00-14) who has recently been awarded "Doctor of the Year" at the end of his Foundation training in the West Midlands. Tun is now training to become a Consultant Radiologist in his five-year training post at University College London Hospitals NHS Trust in London.



## Visits

2023 leavers Gaby Breithupt, Izzy Rusling and Sophie Spittle returned to visit their old House - Hazeldene where they caught up with Houseparent, Miss Linehan and Housekeeper, Ms Paling. Gaby and Izzy are taking a gap year whilst Sophie heads off to Nottingham University.

Just before the start of the new academic year, Mr Wilkins welcomed back two of our 2021 leavers, Marion Skurtu and Alex Moskalevskiy. They enjoyed reminiscing with their former Housemaster and also met up with Mr Matthews in Humanities.



## Reunion

At the beginning of the Michaelmas Term, we welcomed back Old Bromsgrovians who had left the School between 1980 and 2009. Guests enjoyed reminiscing in the Heritage Centre, where they were able to spot some familiar faces, as well as a visit to their old Boarding or Day House. Lunch was a convivial occasion in the Dining Hall where the Headmaster read out passages from the Bromsgrovian and gave them an update about the School today.



## Alumni

The Headmaster and Miss Scannell were very grateful to some of our Hong Kong based Old Bromsgrovians who gave their time to help at the recent Academic Asia Top Schools event.



## Marathon

Congratulations to Mrs Gill Punt who ran the prestigious Berlin Marathon to reach the major milestone of raising £1.4 million for Cancer Research UK.

This now completes her World Marathon Majors journey, joining an elite group of global runners who have raced in Tokyo, Boston, London, Berlin, Chicago and New York.

# Foundation Lecture

We enjoyed a fantastic evening at One Great George Street in Westminster at the thirteenth annual Foundation Lecture. The guest speaker was The Rt Hon Sajid Javid, MP for Bromsgrove. The event was very well attended by parents, OBs, Foundation Trustees and other friends of the School who were interested to hear from our local MP and former Minister but also to support the work of the Foundation which raises money for life-changing bursaries.



## Family Successes

It was lovely to hear from the Derriey family recently – Leon (HH12-14) is a successful freelance film producer working mainly in New York and New Mexico, whilst his sister, Alia (MW 12-19) graduated from Barnard - Columbia University in May 2023 Phi Beta Kappa, which is the top 10% of graduates. Alia now works for Simon & Schuster, the publisher reviewing new book submissions in New York.



## OBEC

In September, OBEC had a great time socialising and walking around Beddgelert in Snowdonia. New members very welcome -please join their Facebook Group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/5287969489>



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 at: [oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto: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.