



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

MICHAELMAS 2025
ISSUE 3

Wishing all of our families and
friends of the School Peace and
Happiness this Christmas

Please click below for a Christmas Card recording from each
section of the School

[Pre-Prep](#)

[Prep](#)

[Senior](#)

Christmas Market

There was plenty of festive cheer at our Boarders' Market, the Dining Hall was transformed into a row of brightly lit stalls, each serving warm treats for the cold December evening. Delicious food stalls, twinkling lights, and the perfect Christmas soundtrack. The highlight of the night came with a surprise appearance from Father Christmas, who wandered through the market to greet pupils and add an extra touch of fun to the occasion. The Christmas Market proved a popular way to bring the boarding community together, offering a memorable start to the festive period at Bromsgrove.



Father Christmas

Pre-Prep pupils, from Nursery to Year 2, enjoyed a magical meeting with Father Christmas. After singing some festive songs to wake up Santa from his snooze, pupils asked questions about where he lives, what reindeers actually eat and how long it takes him to deliver the presents around the world on Christmas Day. Afterwards, each child received a special gift to take home.

Financial Times

Amelie Mertins-Miller has been chosen as one of the Financial Times student advocates, a cross-subject endeavour for Economics and Politics. This means she will be utilising the Financial Times more effectively for students, as well as working on projects throughout the year related to the promotion of application of the real world to the theory learnt in lessons.



Unity in Diversity

The 'Unity in Diversity' art competition is a new initiative set up by pupils to celebrate our multi-cultural and diverse Bromsgrove community. Well done to the following pupils - First place: Kayshan Samaratunga, second place: Immy Marsh and third place: Isabel McAloon.

Kayshan's piece stood out not only for its ambitious scale and technical expertise but also for its sensitive portrayal of multiple cultural symbols and people. From serene geishas to dragons, lanterns and flowers. In his own words, Kayshan tells us his aim was to 'celebrate the richness of human heritage by blending Newari heritage, West African costumes, Chinese opera, and Punjabi crafts. The collage reveals diversity not as division, but as a vibrant tapestry of unity.'



Shoe Box Appeal

At the end of November, the TEAMS4U charity came to the Prep School and collected 100 Christmas shoeboxes, as well as a further seventy-one from Senior and twenty from Pre-Prep. They will start their journey to Ukraine and Romania at the beginning of December. Thank you to everyone who kindly donated items.

Podcast Club

The Podcast Club, part of the Senior Activities Programme, has completed its very first recording session. Pupils stepped behind the microphone to interview members of the Combined Cadet Force (CCF), gaining insight into their experiences, challenges, and the unique opportunities the CCF provides.



Wreath Making

Senior Gardening Club enjoyed making Christmas wreaths with holly and ivy sourced from the School garden. Thank you to Mr Sutherland for hosting the group in the Prep School DT room.



Woodland Mosaics

Pre-Prep were delighted to welcome back artist, Ellie Sandall to install the woodland animal mosaics that every child helped to create during the workshops in September. The finished pieces look truly wonderful. It was lovely to see the children's pride in their efforts as they spotted the woodland animals they had helped to create, now proudly displayed along the Forest School fence. These creations are a beautiful celebration of the children's creativity and teamwork.

Remembrance Day



Pre-Prep

Our youngest pupils planted handmade poppies around their flagpole in the grounds of Pre-Prep in honour of Remembrance Day. Also, Year 1 pupils produced a poignant collage of poppies as a symbol of respect and remembrance for all who have served and sacrificed.



Prep

Page House was visited by one of our military parents who had taken part in the Birmingham Remembrance Sunday parade. That afternoon, our younger boarders enjoyed decorating biscuits with poppies and other Remembrance-themed designs. We are proud of our long-standing links with military families at Bromsgrove, and our Forces Liaison Officer ensures that our service children receive ongoing support.



Senior

Cadets represented the School at the Remembrance Service in Bromsgrove town and at the School's own service on Remembrance Sunday. At 11.00am on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the School community gathered by the flagpole beside the Memorial Chapel to honour the fallen, holding a two-minute silence before a sea of poppies engraved with the names of Old Bromsgrovians who served in both World Wars. On Remembrance Sunday, two services were held in the Memorial Chapel with readings by the Heads of School, Senior pupils and staff, led by Reverend Hedworth.

ESSA Swimming

Many congratulations to our junior girls' team who competed at the 67th Secondary ESSA Swimming Championships at the Sandwell Aquatics Centre in Birmingham.

Connie Foster, Darcey Hackett, Phoebe Lloyd and Flo Raine successfully qualified from the regional round in both the medley and freestyle relays.

In the freestyle relay, the girls swam brilliantly, recording a time of 2:07.57

mins, narrowly missing out on a place in the final but finishing as first reserve. In the medley relay, they produced an exceptional performance, climbing three places from their qualifying position to finish 17th in the country with a time of 2:22.85 mins.

We were also very proud that Mr Camden, in his role as President of ESSA, officially opened the Championships and delivered a motivational speech. Mr Camden,

alongside Darcey, interviewed Paralympic swimmer Brock Whiston, a four-time world record holder who famously broke a seven-year old 200m individual medley world record, previously held by Jessica Long, by nearly five seconds.

Huge congratulations to all four girls who represented the School with outstanding commitment and skill on the national stage.



Emergency Services

Reception children enjoyed an exciting week filled with special visits from a paramedic and two police officers. Mrs Albutt from West Midlands Ambulance Service spent time with the children, sharing insights into her work as a paramedic and demonstrating some of the equipment she uses during emergency callouts. The excitement continued when Chief Constable Albutt and PC Anthony arrived in a police car, giving the children the chance to switch on the lights and sirens, try on police hats and jackets, and even handcuff a few of their teachers.



Santa Run

The Nepalese Feast, organised after the Santa Fun Run, was a superb occasion which brought together our Prep and Senior Boarding community.

In total, over £1,500 was raised from the two events, in honour of pupil Namsong Rai, and these donations will support the Nepal School Dining Hall Project.



Football

Jenson Wright has been selected for the Football Association of Wales Regional Programme. This is a two-year programme that will run alongside his academy commitments, and it is potentially the start of his journey with a national youth team. Jenson attended the first training camp over half term.

We are also delighted to hear that Zachary Trinder has been called up to the England U15 football squad at St George's Park. The team will face Iceland, Spain and Italy.



Netball

Congratulations to the 1st team who were outstanding throughout the County Championships. They won every group game, defeating North Bromsgrove, Malvern College and King's Worcester to top their pool. In the semi-final they faced St Augustine's and secured a confident win to progress to the final against RGS Worcester. The team delivered an epic performance, dominating the second half to win convincingly and be crowned County Champions. They now join the U16 team in the Regional Finals.

Cadbury Trip

The Year 8 visit to Cadbury World was both educational and great fun. Students explored the history of the Cadbury company and discovered how its workers supported the war effort, from producing chocolate for troops to helping their local community during difficult times. Before heading inside, students had the chance to explore Bournville, gaining a deeper appreciation for the model village and the vision that shaped it. The experience will inspire entries for the National Historical Association and Western Front Association competitions, showing how local industry played a part in national history. The visit also showed how local stories connect to national events and how history can be explored in creative ways that build valuable skills for the future. Alongside their learning, students enjoyed spending time with friends, taking part in interactive activities and, of course, tasting some chocolate.



Outer Space

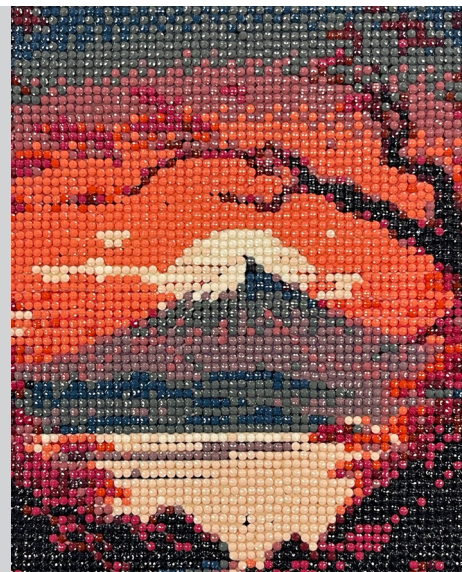
Year 2 took their families on a journey into outer space during their end of topic assembly. They shared facts about the planets, showed off their space-themed artwork, and performed songs that had everyone smiling. The children brought their learning to life with confidence and enthusiasm.



Crafts

The Diamond Art and Felt Craft Clubs have just finished another beautiful batch of artwork.

These clubs are just one of the many enriching After-School activities at Prep School, giving children the chance to explore new skills and express their creativity.



Sailing

Well done to Mona Nygard who raced at the 29er Ovington winter championships at Weymouth-Portland National Sailing Academy. Her learning curve continues to be very steep and her resilience is paying off. With her helm Charlotte, they achieved 15th overall and 3rd in the girls' category.

IAPS Hockey

The U13 girls' team competed in the IAPS National Hockey Finals hosted at Wellington College. Despite the tough group stage, the team qualified for the quarter-finals of the Plate competition where they faced St John's College. This was a very close contest, ultimately decided by shuffles, with Bromsgrove narrowly losing 3-2. The girls showed tremendous determination, skill, and resilience throughout the day, battling top-level opposition in difficult conditions. Their teamwork, commitment, and sportsmanship were exemplary, and they can be very proud of representing Bromsgrove at a national level.



Law Conference

Bromsgrove's pupil-led Law Society organised their first Law Conference. Guest speakers included James Griffiths and Kate Horsburgh from Gateley, Jody Li from Squire Patton Boggs and Anaiah Ferdinand from the Birmingham Black Lawyers Executive Committee. Professor Emily Carroll from the University of Birmingham opened the conference. We were also delighted to welcome local students from North Bromsgrove High School and Dean Close. The event was hosted by our Co-Presidents, Phoebe Dinnen and Ibukunoluwa Okeowo.



Heritage Centre

Year 8 pupils visited the Heritage Centre in groups to learn more about the School's history, with a particular focus on WW1 and WW2. Their research will help them with their creative writing in English and their understanding of conflicts in History lessons.



Fused Glass Art

Year 8 have been experimenting with fused glass in Art this term. Combining colour, shape, and texture to create wonderful seascapes.



Tennis

Jake Webley delivered an outstanding performance at the Grade 3 tennis tournament at Bath University, showing remarkable determination as he topped his group unbeaten before winning a hard-fought quarter-final, a dramatic semi-final in which he saved match

point, and a composed final to take the title. We congratulate Jake on this superb achievement and wish him the very best at next month's U9 national event.

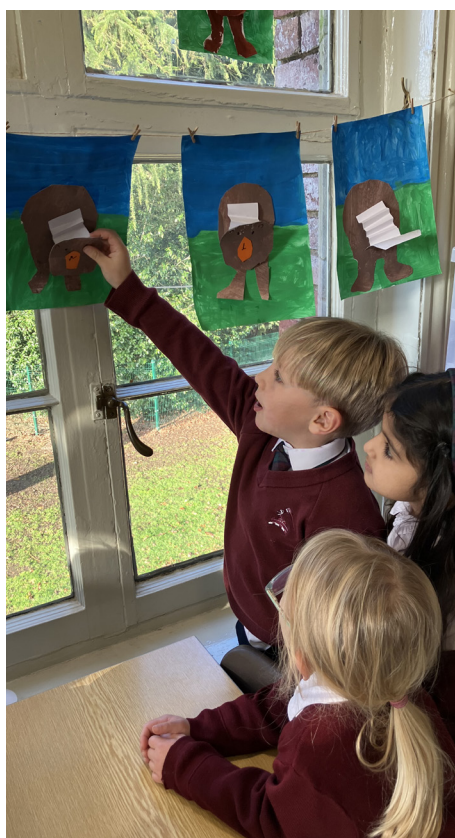
Congratulations to Gina Obrey, Callum

Hooper and OB Stuart Shannon on their selection for the Hereford & Worcestershire open age County Cup teams. Both the men's and women's teams delivered fantastic performances, each securing a 3rd place finish. Well done to everyone involved.



Rugby

Lower Fourth pupils Josh Stock, Tom Reid and Huey Conniff represented Greater Birmingham at U14 Level in a tournament against Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire. They won all three matches and came away as undefeated winners.



Bear Hunt

Year 1 have been on an amazing Bear Hunt this term, discovering everything from teddy bears to pandas and polar bears. The children invited the Reception pupils to tour their classrooms, scan QR codes, explore displays and share in their learning. It was a fun, confidence boosting morning that really developed speaking and listening skills, and Reception were thrilled to venture upstairs into the Year 1 classrooms.

Cross-Country

Congratulations to our Inter-Girls who competed in the English Schools' National Cross-Country Finals. On a muddy and challenging course, the girls performed with great determination and resilience, representing the School brilliantly. Martha Blower was our top scorer, running an outstanding race to finish 7th out of more than 150 competitors. As a team, the girls secured an impressive 19th place in the country out of the twenty-eight schools battling for the National title, and they were also the highest-placed team from our region.



National Languages Competition

At the end of November, Lower Fourth students proudly represented Bromsgrove School in the annual GCHQ National Languages Competition. Working through a series of challenging puzzles and code-breaking tasks, they demonstrated

exceptional teamwork, resilience, and linguistic flair.

Their enthusiasm for languages and problem-solving shone through from start to finish - we now eagerly await the final results.

The pupils were outstanding ambassadors for our School, and we are excited to see where their passion for languages takes them next.



Cooking Session

The cooking session in Nursery focused on identifying a selection of winter vegetables. The children washed the vegetables, used child-friendly knives and tools to chop them, or tore cabbage leaves by hand, before adding the prepared vegetables to the pot. In gardening club, Mr Davereux introduced the children to beans in their pods. The children picked the pods, opened them, and collected the beans, supporting the development of fine motor skills as well as counting how many beans were found in each pod. Mr Davereux also explained how the beans will be planted, and how the branches and pods will be added to the compost to help feed the worms.



Forest School

In Forest School, Year 4 focused on birds. They made bird feeders, a bird bath and even a nest within a tree trunk. The group discussed migration and discussed why the swallows and swifts fly to warmer countries for the winter.



Golf

Congratulations to Mack Jones who has been named Junior Captain at Edgbaston Golf Club. He was appointed during their awards ceremony, during which he was also awarded two additional prizes following his competition wins throughout the year.

Geography Trip

Year 8 pupils enjoyed a visit to Stratford-upon-Avon on to undertake some primary data collection for their geographical enquiry on tourism.

Fieldwork is an essential aspect of geography that will facilitate students to enrich their locational knowledge and

environmental understanding. It is an important component of geography at both KS3 and GCSE level.

The visit allowed pupils to collect data to investigate various impacts of tourism in the town. Pupils gained experience of five different fieldwork methods

including pedestrian counts, land use surveys and environmental quality assessments. The results gained were of excellent quality and are proving very interesting to present and analyse back in the classroom.



German Café

Pupils from the Fifth Form and Sixth Form paid a visit to The German Café in Shirley with Mr Syner and Ms Williams, in order to try out some delicious traditional German dishes. The café, run for over 20 years by its German-speaking owner, served students Schnitzel, Bratwurst and Currywurst. Some students were even brave enough to try Sauerkraut - an acquired taste.

For dessert there were waffles, home-made apple cake and custard. Students put their German skills to the test in a quiz and by speaking some German while tucking into their meals.

Coffee Concert

The Prep School Chapel Choir performed in the community at one of the much-loved Coffee and Cake Concerts at St John's Church in Bromsgrove. This occasion felt extra special as they were joined by the Pre-Prep Choir Club, who charmed the audience with joyful renditions of Seeds of Friendship and Let's Go Fly a Kite.

The concert also featured talented soloists from the Prep School — Sylvia

Marie, William Morris, Rory Townsend and Anthony Park — each performing with confidence and musicality. For the finale, the Prep and Pre-Prep children united for a touching performance of the Irish Blessing.

What shone through most was the camaraderie and kindness between the children.



Blackbelt

Well done to Finn Halls who passed his second Dan Black Belt exam with Merit.



Senior Mentors

The Senior mentors visited Prep School to lead an assembly about what language we choose to use around School. They addressed discriminatory language and the impact it can have on the School community. They promoted the pupils to be upstanders, calling out any language that causes offense and the impact that such language can have on an individual. They were shining examples of Bromsgrove core values.

Little Shop of Horrors

A truly awesome end to the Michaelmas term came in the form of the Senior School Production of 'Little Shop of Horrors'. It was filled with laughter, great music and more than a dash of horror. Audience members were wowed by the standard of the acting, singing, dancing and live music and production elements. It was a collaborative effort, with special mention to Abi Lamb for her choreography, and Ruby Foster for her help at so many different points in the process. Performing Arts at Bromsgrove is truly exceptional.





Showjumping

Chloe Chan enjoyed a brilliant weekend at Addington in November, with great rounds on both Paddy and Polly as she prepares for her international showjumping debut in Belgium.

Christmas Carol

Year 6 brought the characters from their studied novella, A Christmas Carol, to life through hot seating. They carefully thought of questions for each character, showing a strong understanding of character development and the plot. Several brave pupils dressed up and stepped into character, answering questions with confidence and drawing on their knowledge of the story.



Compton Verney

Year 4 enjoyed a wonderful day at Compton Verney, finding out about vessels used during the Shang Dynasty. Artefacts were observed, drawn and handled extremely carefully. The day concluded with the pupils making their own vessel out of clay.



Fencing

Bromsgrove Fencers were extremely successful at Warwick Age Group Épée, especially in the mixed U19 event where Ronny Lai and Archie Wilson made it an all Bromsgrove final. In the end, Ronny took the victory pushing Archie down into second place. Xenia Gibson took silver in the girls' U12 category, and Hussein Saigar was awarded silver in the boys' U12 event, closely followed by Thomas Pratt in bronze medal position. Priya Madhavan also gained a silver medal in the U10 event.

At the team day in Worcester, the U12 Épée team event was won by Bromsgrove - Xenia Gibson and Priya Madhavan.



England

We are very proud of Oli Hewitt and Krystof Wood on their selection for England's U18 rugby development camp. Both pupils have been outstanding for the School 1st XV and deserve this reward for all their hard work. We wish them well ahead of the fixtures in the New Year.



Christmas Meal

Page boarders enjoyed their Christmas meal in the hospitality suite with Mr and Mrs Lawton and House staff at the end of the term in preparation for the Christmas holidays.

Information Evening

Fifth Form parents were welcomed to School by the Headmaster, Mr Punt, and the Deputy Head (Teaching), Mrs Holden, for an information evening about upcoming exams and the next steps.

Our Sixth Form representatives were superb when answering questions about A level, IB and BTEC courses.



UCL Debating

Four of the School's 'star debaters' travelled to London to take part in the UCL Winter Cup debating competition. Debating everything from the UN's voting system to whether Coca-Cola should devote its profits to helping the poor, our pupils performed admirably amongst a highly competitive field of sixty teams.

In their first competition, Matthew Hill and Eleanor Young produced an impressive 27th place finish, whilst a special mention goes to Gleb Sovietkin and Jasper Page who performed strongly all day to finish in 13th place.

Badminton

Congratulations to our U16 boys' and girls' badminton teams, as well as the U14 boys' and girls' teams, who secured victory in all of their matches to be crowned champions in every age category. We are delighted with their outstanding performances. The teams now advance to the County round, organised by Badminton England.



Linguistics Olympiad

Well done to Gleb Sovetkin who has gained a Gold Award (Advanced Level) in the first round of the UKLO Linguistics Olympiad.

This award is given to the top 5% of competitors nationally. Gleb will now go on to participate in the second round next year.



ToK

At the end of the Michaelmas Term, IB2 students showcased their hard work and engagement with Theory of Knowledge (ToK), one of the three elements which links the IB Diploma subjects.

Students showed real flair in being reflective, open minded and inquirers all of which embody the IB learner profile.



Twenty Years of Service

We are delighted to celebrate twenty years of service with Mrs Angela Gregory. In 2005, Angela was employed as one of Housekeeping Assistants in the old Mary Windsor House (now Page House). After twelve months, she moved to Lupton under Houseparent, Mr McClure. She says that she had the most wonderful years in the House and is still in touch with some of the Luptonians today.

On Saturdays, Angela also works in School House, although her main role is as Housemother of Housman Hall.

She also recently enjoyed evening duty in Page House, having worked for four years with our Prep boarders. In the School holidays, Angela has worked on our Summer Camps and has 'lived in' looking after pupils as part of the Guardians Angels team.

We know that many Old Bromsgrovians who remember Angela will want to send their congratulations, and we hope that she will still be welcoming many more Bromsgrovians through the doors of Housman Hall in years to come.



New Book

Reverend Loone has written a new book entitled 'A Million Reasons to be Angry – Only One to Love.' As his final book, it is the most personal. He says that his readers have told him it makes for an easy and interesting read, though the topics covered are quite challenging. The book is currently available online from Waterstones, T G Jones, Amazon, and all good bookstores.



NICE

Mrs Holden is a trustee of NICE, which was the School's chosen charity supported by the Eco-Committee through Sustainability Week. Recently, she was delighted to meet pupils and adults from NICE. The charity supports children and adults to 'Move for purpose' through the process of conductive education. We are looking forward to building further links in the future.

A MILLION REASONS TO BE ANGRY – ONLY ONE TO LOVE

A book about Mental Health,
Childhood Trauma, and Faith



SEAN LOONE



Bromsgrovian News

Speaker's Lunch

We were delighted to welcome Old Bromsgrovian Caroline Binham, UK Companies News Editor at the Financial Times, as guest speaker at our 2025 Foundation Speaker's Lunch. Caroline delivered a compelling address, reflecting on her time in Mary Windsor House as a boarder, her arrival in New York to begin her Master's studies shortly before 9/11, and her distinguished career in journalism. We extend our sincere thanks to Caroline for providing such an insightful and engaging talk to the Bromsgrovian community.



Visit

David Rowlands (S 66-72) returned to Bromsgrove in November for a tour. He enjoyed visiting the Heritage Centre and locating his former study in what is now the Administration Building.



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.