BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

MICHAELMAS 2026
ISSUE 2



Year 1 poppy artwork for Remembrance

A Word from the Headmaster

Alongside the experiences, values and lessons learned at School, we also hope that pupils take with them memories that will last a lifetime. Long after they have left us, as they embark on exciting futures across the world, we hope they will look back fondly on their time here, and particularly on the friendships they have formed. The pages that follow highlight just a sample of the many ways in which pupils of all ages have been working and achieving together. We hope that, in years to come, these will be among the memories they look back on with particular affection.

Over the School's long history, generations of Bromsgrovians have made memories here that they have carried with them throughout their lives. At this time of year, however, we think of those OBs who, just as they were beginning their lives beyond School, died in war. We remember not only how they lived and the contribution they made while they were with us, but also how their lives were tragically cut short and, especially, the futures they never had the opportunity to enjoy. This has particular relevance in a School that is now home to around 200 children from UK Armed Forces families, whose parents are on active service across the globe. This serves as a reminder that every young person with whom we work has their own story, shaped by experiences and circumstances that may not always be visible to us.

Michael Punt
HEADMASTER

Musicians

Thirteen Upper Sixth Music Scholars performed at The Firs in Worcestershire. The venue was the cottage where Sir Edward Elgar, one of Britain's greatest composers, was born in 1857 and, towards the end of his life, he reputedly attended a performance at Bromsgrove School in 1929. Collectively, the group holds more than twenty Grade 8 qualifications and represents an exceptionally talented cohort of musicians. The musicians spent time exploring the museum, viewing Elgar's manuscripts, instruments and other fascinating artefacts, before giving a superb concert featuring music by Elgar and his contemporaries, alongside more modern British works, including two pieces by Worcestershire composer Ian Venables, who was in the audience.

The quality of the music-making was simply outstanding. Congratulations to Spike Bloxham, Frances Ginns, Marcus Ho, Ella Kenyon, Nicholas Kwok, Rosie Li, Lydia Markovics, Roke Morrison, Wesley Sham, Sophia Tong, Arthur Wong, Jarry Xing and Florence Yip, who represented the Music School magnificently.





Remembrance Poetry

As part of their study of War Poetry, Year 8 pupils took part in a competition to write a poem honouring the ninety-four Bromsgrovians who fought and died in WW1. The winners, Clarice D'andilly and Emily Ford, read their poems to the School at the Prep School Remembrance Service. The poems will be added to the collection in the Heritage Centre.



Prep Sunday Activities

Prep School boarders enjoyed a fantastic afternoon of activity, teamwork and plenty of fun. The Years 6 to 8 boys were the first to tackle Page House's brand-new Halloween orienteering challenge, 'Build a Skeleton'. Racing around the course, they had to put their navigation skills to the test to complete the challenge as quickly as possible.

The fun didn't stop there. Afterwards, pupils from Years 5 to 8 came together for a brilliant session of dodgeball, rounding off a hugely enjoyable afternoon for the boarders.

Pumpkin Growing

Seb Speers has been growing his own pumpkins and he brought a selection of them into the Prep School. Some were used to make a delicious lunchtime soup and others for decoration around the dining hall. Seb was very proud to show everyone the results of his hard work.



Pumpkin Competition

Congratulations to Webber House, who have been crowned winners of the 2026 pumpkin carving competition. Well done also to Wendron-Gordon (second place) and Lupton (third place).



St John's Helpers

Members of the St John's Helpers group - Martha Blower, Sneha Khaira and Annie Pettican - attended a special service at St John's Church for the blessing of the beautiful altar cloth they designed and painted last year. The cloth was formally dedicated by Reverend Ray Khan and is a very special piece of work that will be enjoyed by all who visit the Church for many years to come.





Astronaut Training

Year 2 astronauts braved the inclement weather for some 'on the ground' training at Pre-Prep, in preparation for their Space assembly to parents. Pupils took part in an obstacle course, tested their dexterity, bounced on the space hoppers and ascended the climbing wall.

Outdoor Learning

Reception children enjoyed a wonderful autumnal afternoon of outdoor learning. They embraced the opportunity to explore, discover and learn through play as they dug in the earth, practised their balancing skills, searched for birds, read forest stories and simply enjoyed being outdoors.



Re-engage Tea Party

Mary Windsor boarders hosted their annual tea party for the charity Re-engage, welcoming fifteen local elderly residents to give them the opportunity to get together and socialise.

Lower Fourth pupils served the guests with sandwiches and cakes, kindly provided by the catering department. They also led a crafting session, making cards and painting Christmas decorations.





World Record Reading Attempt

Mrs Adams and her Upper Fourth classes took part in a Guinness World Record attempt to have as many people reading together globally as possible. This initiative was run by the British Council and the National Literacy Trust to mark the 2026 National Year of Reading.

Astronomy Club

Members of the Astronomy Club enjoyed visiting the local Astronomy Society for their open evening. It was a fantastic opportunity to meet fellow enthusiasts, share their passion for space, and discover more about the amazing work taking place within the local community.



Rocket Day

Year 2 children enjoyed a challenging 'Rocket Day'. They demonstrated their engineering, creativity and teamwork skills to design and make their rockets and watched in awe as they were launched in the School garden. During the day they also created rocket artwork in the style of Peter Thorpe, constructed rockets using a variety of materials and used their coding skills to make an animation to show the first lunar landing.





Direct Gold DofE

Just before October half term, Direct Entrance Gold Duke of Edinburgh participants visited Eryri (formerly known as Snowdonia) for two days of mountain awareness and navigation training.





World Smile Day

Year 3 celebrated World Smile Day 2026. The children enjoyed taking part in 'Friendly Friday' activities and thought about all the wonderful things that have made them smile. They wrote down five things that brought a smile to their face - it was a lovely way to celebrate kindness, friendship, and happiness.

Prep Eco-Committee

The first activity session of the academic year for the Prep Eco-Committee saw them making wooden key rings, pencil cases and tote bags. The pupils also made lavender bags with lavender harvested from the School gardens, a truly sustainable product. The committee has decided to support Kailish Home, a charity recommended by Olivia Cox in Year 6.





Fencing Award

Congratulations to Mr Nick Chapman, the School's fencing coach, who has been honoured with the 'Award of Merit' by British Fencing. The award is for his services as a competition organiser, volunteer coach and club administrator.





Little City

The Nursery and Reception children had a wonderful time exploring Little City UK. Through this immersive, hands-on experience, the children stepped into the shoes of a variety of real-life professionals, including vets, doctors, post people, hairdressers and builders on a construction site. Play was at the heart of the experience, providing fantastic opportunities for the children to develop their communication and language skills, build confidence, practise turn-taking and cooperation, and strengthen their personal, social and emotional development.



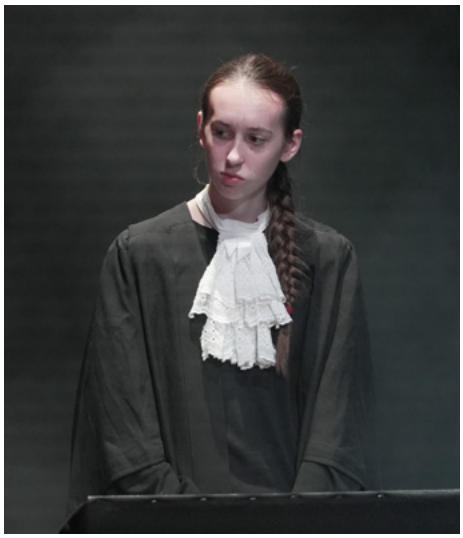






House Drama

The Drama department is off to a flying start, with its first productions at the beginning of October, when over ninety pupils took part in the Junior House Drama competition. This wonderful evening of performance brought together the Fourth Form in a diverse range of plays, ranging from the haunting 'Afflicted Daughters of Salem' to the farcical and physical hilarity of 'The 39 Steps'. It truly was an excellent show of camaraderie and talent. The award for Best Play went to Hazeldene with Lupton as a worthy runner-up. The award for Best Actor went to Florence Burke-Adams (Ottilie-Hild) with Freddie Russell (Lupton) as runner-up. Oakley received the Special Award for their slick performance of 'Clue'.













Athletics

District Cross Country

The School was delighted to host the District Cross Country event, welcoming pupils from across the area for an excellent afternoon of competition.

Bromsgrove pupils enjoyed considerable success across all age groups. In Year 5, Rafe Lewis finished 3rd in the boys' race and Lottie Farr 7th in the girls' race, both securing qualification for the County round. Year 6 also saw strong performances, with Ted Snelling finishing 2nd, George Cox 3rd and Ollie Hughes 4th in the boys' race, while Kira Mitskevych (4th) and Lulu Molloy (6th) qualified in the girls' race.

The Years 7 and 8 races brought further success, with the Bromsgrove girls taking an impressive first three places: Freya Sutton (1st), Chloe Heath (2nd) and Harper Coates (3rd). The boys also celebrated a race winner, Lucas Yiend, with Rory Townsend finishing 3rd and Ollie Gibson 4th. Further strong performances came from pupils across both races, with County qualification results still to be confirmed.

Congratulations to all the pupils who represented Bromsgrove so brilliantly, particularly the seven confirmed County qualifiers in Years 5 and 6. It was a fantastic afternoon of cross country, filled with determination, team spirit and outstanding performances.



Prep Sport Tour

During half term, the Prep girls enjoyed a fantastic five-day sports tour to the Costa del Sol and Gibraltar, combining hockey, netball and tennis with sunshine, sightseeing and plenty of entertainment.

After arriving in Spain, the girls settled in before enjoying an afternoon relaxing at the Beach Club. The sporting programme began on Saturday with an energetic tennis masterclass, followed by competitive netball fixtures in Gibraltar. The girls enjoyed a hugely successful afternoon, winning almost all their matches and demonstrating excellent teamwork and skill. Sunday focused on hockey, with a coaching session followed by competitive fixtures. The matches proved physically demanding, but the girls showed tremendous determination and resilience, with both the 1st and 2nd teams securing victories.

Monday provided an opportunity to explore Gibraltar, with highlights including a dolphin-watching boat trip and a tour of the famous Rock of Gibraltar. The resident Barbary macaques proved particularly entertaining and provided plenty of memorable photo opportunities.

The girls also enjoyed a fantastic programme of evening entertainment, including a Hallowe'en quiz, Bromsgrove's Got Talent and an Awards Evening celebrating their contributions and achievements throughout the tour.



Goldilocks

School Chef, Mr Giles, helped Year 1 children make delicious porridge. They explored the texture of oats, discovered how porridge is made and talked about why a healthy breakfast is a great way to start a busy day. With plenty of nutritious toppings to choose from, the children enjoyed trying new flavours and, of course, tasting their creations.

Back in the classroom, the children turned into designers and builders. Their challenge was to create a brand new bed for Baby Bear after Goldilocks broke his. Using a variety of materials and fixings, they produced some wonderfully imaginative designs and demonstrated impressive creativity.

Pupils ended the day on an especially heart-warming note. After counting all the donations, they raised a fantastic £200 for Mary's Meals.

Judo

Congratulations to Roman O'Connell who competed at the Alkmaar International Judo Open in the Netherlands and came away with a gold medal after winning the U15 category.





International Football

Congratulations to Conor Lyons who has been called up to represent Wales U17 for three EURO Qualifiers.

IAPS Festival

Over thirty Year 5 students participated in the inaugural IAPS Festival of Singing. This was a collaborative event, hosted by Moreton Hall School in Shropshire. Other schools involved included Solihull Prep, Eversfield School and Hallfield School. The day was directed by the charismatic Aled Phillips who runs the choir John's Boys, famous for their prize-winning performance on Britain's Got Talent.

Throughout the day the children learnt many new warm-up games and two new songs which were then recorded for parents at the end of the day. It was a tremendous success, and hopefully the first of many IAPS music events.







People Who Help Us

Reception children welcomed two special visitors as part of their 'People Who Help Us' topic.

Dr Khaira visited to talk to the children about the importance of oral health and how to brush their teeth properly. Each child received a toothbrush and a two-minute timer to help them learn how long they should brush for. Mrs Albutt, the paramedic visitor, helped the children learn more about her important role in the community. The children were fascinated to hear about her work and explore some of the equipment she uses as part of her role.

A huge thank you to both visitors for taking the time to share their knowledge and experiences with the children. They loved learning about the amazing people who help keep us safe and healthy.

Rugby Tour

Over half term, the U15 rugby team travelled to Wales for their annual tour. The weekend included two matches - against Newbridge School and Luctonians Rugby Club. Both matches were challenging and played in high spirits. The group also visited the Principality Stadium and enjoyed watching a match - Ospreys v Dragons.





House Song

All thirteen houses (including Webber's debut) came together in the Arena for the annual House Song Competition. This year's theme was 'Places and Locations', and the event was adjudicated by Mr Dom Franks, Director of Music at Dean Close, Cheltenham. He was hugely impressed by the strength of House spirit and the standard of singing across the School. Congratulations to all the prize winners: Anushka Aulak (Thomas Cookes) for Best Accompanist, and Ella Kenyon (Thomas Cookes) for Best Conductor; Mary Windsor for Best Creative Performance with 'Saturn' by SZA; Ottilie Hild, Runner-up, with 'Locked Out of Heaven' by Bruno Mars; and Wendron Gordon, overall winners, with their rendition of John Denver's 'Take Me Home, Country Roads'. The standard of performances was higher than ever, making this a fantastic celebration of musical talent and house spirit. If you missed the competition or would like to enjoy the performances again, recordings are available on YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oyqLX1JBHk8

Green Flag Award

We are delighted to announce that the Senior School has been awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award. This prestigious recognition celebrates the significant steps taken to reduce the environmental impact and build a more sustainable future for the community.

Across the School, sustainability is embedded in daily practice. Energy is sourced from renewable sources, supported by on-site solar panels, air source heat pumps and energy-efficient LED lighting. The School is committed to sourcing food locally wherever possible, with its catering partner, Holroyd Howe, introducing new initiatives such as working with regenerative farmers.

The Estates team has worked tirelessly to create a thriving biodiversity hotspot on the School site, with habitat-enhancing planting projects continuing wherever possible. The School also strives to reduce waste through initiatives such as composting and recycling all coffee grounds used across the School.

This year's Sustainability Week was the most successful yet, with pupils enthusiastically taking part in a wide range of activities, including a Colour Run, apple pressing from the School orchard, a BioBlitz and the spectacular Sustainability Sounds Concert. The event also raised funds for the NICE Centre for Movement Disorders, supporting its important work within the local community.

This award recognises the collective efforts of the pupils, teaching staff, support staff and wider community. Together, these initiatives demonstrate that small actions, when combined, can make a meaningful difference.

We look forward to building on this success as the School continues its journey towards a more sustainable future.



Respect in Sport

Years 3 to 5 took part in an assembly on 'Respect in Sport' following the Years 6 to 8 assembly earlier in the term. Sports teachers Mr Langlands and Mr Harris led the assembly with the message to show kindness, inclusion and respect on and off the pitch.

Two members of the 1st team hockey team discussed the importance of positivity and kindness within team sports, and Year 8 sportsman, Rory Townsend, shared his experience of respect and kindness in sport.







Excellence

Congratulations to the Senior School catering team who have achieved their highest ever score of 99.35% in the recent unannounced Navitas Audit, with 100% awarded for their allergen management.



Gardening Club

In Prep Gardening Club, pupils used the apples collected from the School orchards to make apple juice. They all agreed it was delicious and it was available to purchase at the Eco/ Gardening Sale.

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 received celebratory applause from the School.

The Headmaster also announced his Heads of School. Congratulations to Heads of School Seth Benjamin and Ella Kenyon, Deputy Heads of School Henry Foster and Kate Ignatiuk and Senior Boarders Adrian Keseljevic and Drishti Rai.





Forest School

Despite the wet weather, Year 4 visited Forest School to learn how to use an axe safely and make a wooden peg. They also managed to carve out one of the huge pumpkins grown by Gardening Club, harvesting the seeds to plant next year.

Namsong

6th October 2026 marked one year since Namsong's passing. At lunchtime, three of his closest friends laid some flowers at the memorial tree. Also in attendance were Mr Farnfield, Mrs Tidmarsh, Mr Wilkins and Mrs Wilkins.



Sailing

Congratulations to Fred Seddon on two excellent results in the ILCA UK sailing championships. Fred finished 13th in the Under 4 Rig Class at the ILCA UK National Open #5 at Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy, with a fourth-place finish in one of his races. Two weeks later, he secured an impressive seventh place at the ILCA UK Inland Championship at Grafham Water Sailing Club. Both events attracted more than 160 sailors across three rig sizes, including over 50 competitors in the Under 4 Rig Class, and were important national qualification events. These results have earned Fred access to National winter training, helping him prepare for next year's major racing events.





Little Builders

During an awe-inspiring day with Creative Builders Workshops, Year 2 turned a handful of grey Lego bricks into the surface of the moon and built their own launchpads and rockets, complete with astronaut figures.

Long Service

Congratulations to Angela Cotterill, Housekeeper of Lupton House, who celebrated twenty years of service at Bromsgrove. Having joined the Catering Department in 2006, Angela moved to Housman Hall before becoming a valued member of the Lupton team in 2012. The boys send their very best wishes and thanks for her dedication.

Congratulations went to Trudie Timmons, who also celebrated her 20-year service award this term. Trudie joined Bromsgrove's Housekeeping team in September 2006.





Bromsgrovian News



Non-Profit

Sungyoon Joseph Hong (E 18-23) serves as an Executive Director for Asclepios, an international non-profit association that prepares and conducts annual analogue lunar missions. Analogue missions are simulations conducted on Earth in extreme or isolated environments to replicate the conditions of space travel, the Moon, or Mars for a set period (in this instance, two weeks). As Executive Director, Joseph led an association of over 100 international students across six continents. Asclepios provides a scientific test bed for experiments, including ones that have previously launched to the ISS or will be used in future lunar missions and an educational opportunity for students to experience deep space mission operations first hand.



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 individuals' names and years, can be found on the Bromsgrovian Facebook site.