



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

SUMMER 2025
ISSUE 1



A Word from the Headmaster

At the beginning of the month, we held our special annual ceremony to sign in the new Monitors for the 2025/26 academic year. In Routh Assembly, held in silence and in front of all Senior School pupils and staff, each new Monitor stepped forward, one by one, to sign the Monitors' Book, the latest edition of which dates back to 1950. The format of this tradition has remained unchanged for many years: each of the twenty-four pupils signed the Monitors' pledge, confirming that they had read the schedule of responsibilities and would uphold the School rules. In accepting

the office of Monitor, they pledged to carry out their duties to the best of their ability, and in doing so, they continued a tradition that stretches back centuries.

As usual, in the pages that follow, you will find a snapshot of just some of the events that have taken place across Bromsgrove School in recent weeks. Some of these have been running for generations, indeed, an Old Bromsgrovian returning after a gap of, say, 150 years might be pleased to see that activities they enjoyed during their

schooldays are still thriving today. At the same time, there is much that is new, as the School continues to respond to evolving interests and opportunities, and prepares pupils with the skills, knowledge, and values they will need to thrive in the modern world. As ever, I hope Bromsgrove continues to strike a dynamic balance: honouring our proud traditions while also embracing innovation and change.

Michael Punt
HEADMASTER

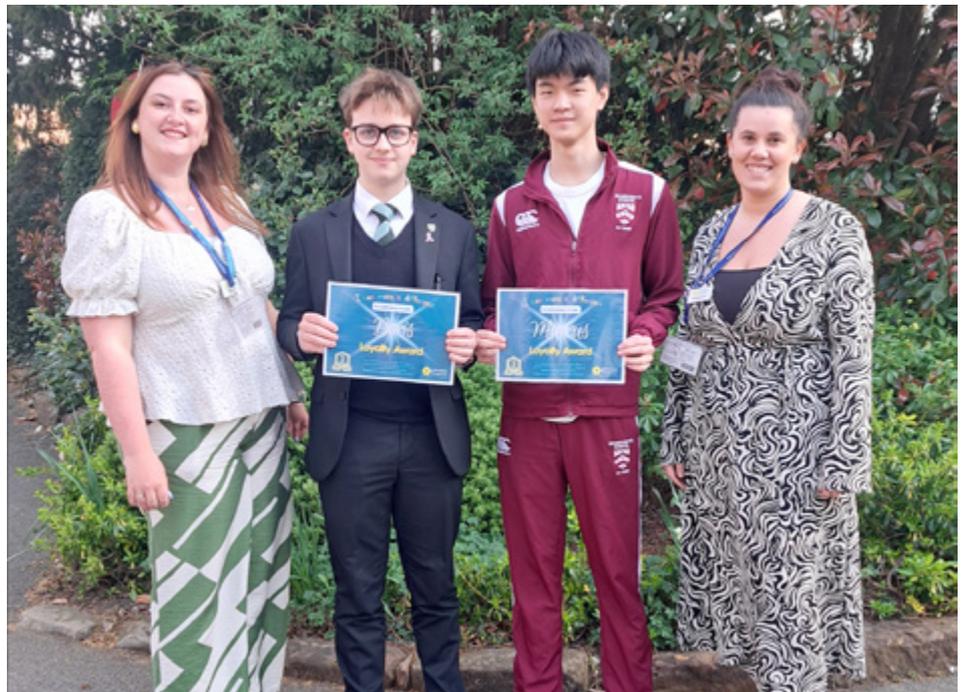


Masterclass

A group of Senior School pupils visited the University of Birmingham for a History and Politics masterclass. These popular masterclasses provide students with fun, engaging, and interactive insights into what it's like to study at university and help to expand their knowledge and curiosity of the subject.

Flourishing Fivers

Before the Easter holidays, the Flourishing Fivers team celebrated what they have achieved so far this year. Two representatives visited the School from Primrose Hospice with some thoughtful thank you gifts for the students and were thrilled to hear about all the innovative ways they have been raising money this year. Two Upper Sixth students were presented with long-service awards after being committed to the activity for the three years that it was available to them. We look forward to sharing the total amount raised by the Flourishing Fivers team at the end of the year.



Young Enterprise

Well done to our Young Enterprise team, Illimité, who won the Creativity Award at the Worcestershire Final. Sadly, their YE competition journey has now come to an end but they should be very proud of their achievements this year.



Gothic Literature

This term, as part of their studies in English, Year 8 explored the campus through the lens of Gothic literature. There was much to observe and imagine, from the architecture to the School Archives — including a visit to the tunnel linking the Old Chapel with Hazeldene and Thomas Cookes House.



Kit Car Success

Congratulations to our racing team who were the first placed kit car in the F24+ category with 'The Egg'. The Greenpower Race Team competed at Mallory Park with both their electric race cars. The Seniors upheld their perfect record, winning race two with improved lap times and strong team coordination. The Juniors faced setbacks in race one after a crash caused by a driver error, damaged their car significantly. The car was hastily repaired in time for race three and the team finished in a commendable fifth place. Both teams passed scrutineering with ease and demonstrated great spirit and teamwork.

Triathlon

Congratulations to Caitlin Pridden who competed in the British Triathlon Super Series, which included a 400m sea swim, a 12km bike ride, and a 12km run. She has now qualified for the next stage in Lochore, Scotland.



Athletics

Prep Boys' and Girls'

Well done to all the Year 8 athletes who competed in the District Athletics Meet at the Ryland Centre, going up against strong Year 9 competition from across the Bromsgrove and Droitwich area. Both boys and girls performed admirably, with several standout results.



George Grey came 1st in the discus and 2nd in the hammer throw, while Josh Darby secured 1st in the long jump and 3rd in the triple jump. Bertie Philips-Girling placed 3rd in the hammer and 2nd in the shot putt. Freya Obrey claimed 2nd in the javelin. Harriet Barnes had an exceptional day, finishing 3rd in the 800m, 2nd in the triple jump, and 1st in the hammer.



We now await confirmation of which pupils will be selected to represent our district at the upcoming County Championships.

Friendly Meet

Years 5 and 6 pupils took part in a friendly athletics meeting, hosted by Winterfold School at the Ryland Centre. For many pupils this was their first taste of an athletics event and we had some great performances. Once the official results come in, we will determine if any School records have been broken and note our outstanding performances. Sadly, the relays had to be abandoned due to a thunderstorm, but despite the rain the boys and girls thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon.

Individual Successes

William Hapgood competed at the Middlesex County Championships. He competed in the 400m and 800m races where he won silver in both events and also set a new PB in the 400m.

Monty Yiend ran a personal best in the county athletics at Stourport. He finished in 1.33 in the 800m to win the race.

Seb Yiend took part in the U10s

quadrathlon and came second overall. He enjoyed the spirit of competing and ran well in the 600m against some very good runners. His strong overall performance in all four events bodes well for next year when it is his age group.

Lucas Yiend also took part at the same event and ran his first ever 1500m at the county championships to pick up the win.



Marmite Club

Marmite More Able students gathered for the final Movie and Pizza Evening of the year. Continuing their 'glitch in time' theme, the group watched the hilarious and moving film, *Yesterday*, giving them the chance to, once more, appreciate the music of The Beatles. The room was full, and pizza, popcorn and cookies were devoured. It was lovely to see how well the Year 8 students blended in – they will be very welcome in Senior Marmite in September. Many thanks from Dr Ruben to all the Marmites for a wonderful year of esprit de corps, animated discussion and academic excellence.



Girls' Rugby

A historic event took place on the penultimate evening of last term as the Bromsgrove School girls' rugby team played their first ever fixture against Worcester Rugby Club.

The team, made up of players from across all year groups, rose to the occasion and competed brilliantly against more experienced opposition. These trailblazing girls were outstanding ambassadors for the School and plans are already underway for more fixtures next year.



Fencing

British Fencing held its National Age Group Finals at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield. George Ascough and Jasper Page competed in the U18 Boys' Épée, finishing 31st and 44th respectively. Archie Wilson took part in the U16 Boys' Épée and placed 50th, while Nicholas Lo fenced in the U18 Boys' Sabre, securing 33rd place. Edward Nuttall represented the school in the U14 Boys' Épée, finishing 68th. Meanwhile, George Ascough and Ronny Lai also tested their skills in the U18 Boys' Foil. George placed 42nd, while Ronny enjoyed an excellent day, finishing in an impressive 17th place. Congratulations to all our pupils who competed — particularly for taking on the challenge of fencing at this level and across all three weapons.



Fieldwork

Year 6 pupils enjoyed a Geography fieldwork visit into Bromsgrove town centre. Their aim was to collect primary data to help them answer the question 'Is Bromsgrove a place fit for local residents?' Pupils had a great time asking questions and finding out what people think about our local area. They then returned to school via the Heritage Centre to learn how Bromsgrove School is closely linked with the history of the town.

Cricket Tour

During the Easter break, our Senior and U15 boys' cricket teams embarked on a pre-season tour to Spain. The trip provided an excellent opportunity for warm weather training and valuable match practice on grass pitches in preparation for the upcoming season. Throughout the tour, all pupils represented the School really well, conducting themselves impeccably both on and off the field.



Manic Games

As a farewell before exam leave, Upper Sixth pupils took part in a host of outdoor games - from tug o' war to solving puzzles, launching themselves down the slip n slide and racing for team success in the egg and spoon race, everyone had a great time in the sunshine.



Afternoon Tea

Boarders from Mary Windsor House organised a tea party for local residents as part of the charity, Re-engage. The charity aims to reduce loneliness in later life. The pupils engaged with their guests and kept them entertained throughout the afternoon with ensemble performances and an impromptu rendition from our House Song winners.



Air Experience

Under bluebird skies, six CCF RAF Cadets travelled to Cosford to take part in an air experience flight in a Grob Tutor Aircraft.



Tennis



Midlands Champions

Gina Obrey and Grace Hadley enjoyed a proud moment at the prestigious Midlands Girls' Schools Championships – a highlight of the school's tennis calendar. Facing a highly competitive field, the Bromsgrove pair showed superb preparation, resilience, and composure, winning six of seven matches to reach the final. They made a strong start, leading 5-1, but their experienced opponents from King's High fought back to level at 5-5, saving three match points. Grace held serve under pressure to edge ahead, before King's forced a tiebreak. Regrouping with determination, Gina and Grace raced to a 6-2 lead and held firm to claim the title.

National Cup

Our U16 boys' team delivered a strong performance, beating Wellingborough 6-0 in the National Cup. George Hadley and Henry Foster set the tone with 6-0 singles wins, while Jay Lo and Yura Pohoretskyi secured a 6-2 doubles victory, giving Bromsgrove a 3-0 lead. George and Henry then won their doubles 6-0. Yura followed up with a 6-1 singles win before Jay edged a tight 7-6 final rubber. Bromsgrove is through to the next round.

Congratulations to the boys' 1st team on their 4-2 win over Warwick School in the National Cup semi-final. They will now face either Ellesmere College or King Edward's School Birmingham for a place in the National Finals.



Gardening

With small hands and big smiles, Nursery children had a fantastic time planting hanging baskets and pots with Mr Devereux. They learned all about soil, seeds, and how to care for growing plants. We can't wait to see the flowers bloom and brighten up the Nursery garden.



Photography

The Prep School Photography Club made the most of the Spring sunshine during the first week of the Summer Term. Armed with cameras and creative ideas, pupils explored the school grounds, capturing the vibrant colours, blooming flowers, and changing light that mark the season. From close-up shots of nature to wide-angle views of the campus, the session provided a perfect opportunity to develop their technical skills whilst appreciating their surroundings.



Gold DofE

Students old and new received their Gold DofE Awards at Buckingham Palace, hosted by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. It was a marvellous occasion for all involved.





Orchestra Concert

Earlier this term, the Senior Orchestral Concert was a special event featuring dozens of students taking to the Routh stage in some spectacular performances. The Percussion Group brought great energy in the opening number, and the evening flowed with music by the Brass Group, Concert Band and String Ensemble. Marcus Ho, Sophia Tong and Nicholas Kwok rose to the occasion performing very challenging Bach's Brandenburg Concerto no.5, and in the second half the Orchestra played some gems, including a Strauss Waltz conducted by Huxley Ngan.



Eco Committee

The Prep Eco Committee were given a tour of the kitchens, with Chef Giles explaining how his team Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. They learned how the plate waste, kitchen scraps and cooking oil are all collected and sent off to be recycled. Holroyd Howe, our catering partners, choose suppliers that support sustainability by using local and seasonal produce, and reducing packaging as much as possible. The pupils were excited to hear about three new initiatives that we are launching in School - 'Waste Knot', 'Beans is How' and 'Wildfarmed'.

Virtual Club

The first session of the new 'Bromsgrove School Flying Club' took place with British Young Pilots. Years 6 and 7 learnt about the different parts of a plane and what the controls do. They then had the opportunity to test out their knowledge on the simulators. We look forward to following their progress throughout the term.



Confirmation Service

Isabel McDougall, Dylan Littlefield, Caitlin Pridden, William Pridden and William Shirley were confirmed in the School Chapel by the Very Reverend Martin Gorrick, Bishop of Dudley (and acting Bishop of Worcester).



Theatre Visit

Year 8 pupils visited The Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham to watch *An Inspector Calls*. From the striking scenography to the gripping plot twists, the performance captivated them from start to finish. They are still enthusiastically discussing it, eager to uncover the different meanings and deepen their understanding.



Rugby

Congratulations to Upper Sixth pupils Jack Gilbert and George Dufty who have signed scholars' contracts with Gloucester Rugby. This will enable them to combine going to university with training and playing in the academy. We look forward to following their journey with Gloucester.

Basketball

Congratulations to the U17 squad on winning the 2025 YBL Championship final. They have played exceptionally well all year and earned the trophy with lots of hard work and commitment.



Portugal

During the first week of the Easter holiday thirty-one pupils and three staff members headed off on a pre-season tennis tour to Portugal's Algarve.

The sun shone all week and with some fantastic coaching from the Monte Gordo tennis coaches the pupils worked on developing their skills, if they were relatively new to the sport, or honing their skills for those with

more expertise. The week ended with competitive matches against some of the best local tennis players in the area.

Aside from tennis the pupils enjoyed free time on the beautiful sandy beaches, swam in the hotel pool, played some Paddle Tennis and took in the sights of Seville on a day trip across the border into Spain.

They even met a local whose father was an old Bromsgrovian who had been evacuated with the School to Llanwrtyd Wells during WW2.

We look forward to seeing the fruits of their labour as they embark on this term's matches.



Outdoors

Reception always have a wonderful time exploring Forest School. Outdoor learning offers pupils the chance to explore nature, build confidence and develop essential life skills in a stimulating environment. Through activities such as den building, nature trails and the campfire, our youngest students enhance their curiosity and teamwork. Most importantly, it cultivates a lifelong connection to the natural world, all within the safe and inspiring grounds of Pre-Prep. Our pupils don't just learn about the world, they experience it.

Cricket

The U13A boys' team travelled to Solihull School for the first round of the U13 Bunbury National knockout competition. Bromsgrove elected to bat and posted a total of 172 runs off their 30 overs. Will Clarke top scored with 45 and Zach Trinder scored 21. In return, Bromsgrove managed to bowl out Solihull for 146 in what became quite a close game, winning by only 25 runs.

In the second round of the U13 National Cricket Cup the team faced Packwood Haugh, won the toss and elected to bat. Bromsgrove bowled well from the start restricting Packwood to 33-4. Wickets came from Joshua Bhardwaj and Arjun Bhogal before another quick set of wickets from Will Clarke and Roshan Kotekar saw Packwood bowled out for 69.

Roshan Kotekar led the way with the bat and helped Bromsgrove to victory.

Many congratulations to our U13 girls' team who came third overall at the Regional Indoor Finals. The team won two matches from three in the group stage, as well as their third/fourth play-off match.



Beekeeping

Reception had a special visitor, Mr Goodall, who came to teach all about beekeeping and how bees make honey. The children were fascinated to learn about the different roles bees play in the hive — from worker bees to drones, and even the Queen Bee herself. The highlight of the afternoon was seeing real bees in action, including spotting the Queen Bee.

A huge thank you to Mr Goodall for giving our little learners such a meaningful educational experience.

CCF

Cadets have been extremely busy this term. Our Bromsgrove Service group, along with CCF Cadets, entertained the residents of Chandler Court Care Home for their VE Day celebrations. There was plenty of singing, music, sharing of memories and street party treats.

Members of the CCF paraded at Bromsgrove War Memorial to commemorate 80 years since VE Day in 1945. Sgt George Ascough and Sgt Issy McDougall escorted the Deputy Lord Lieutenant as she laid a wreath in the town.

A group of Cadets volunteered at the Bromsgrove Blood Run, a local 10k and 5k run to raise money for blood cancer charity. The cadets marshalled traffic, helped with set up and tear down, and handed out medals and water at the finish.



Planting Legumes

In Prep School Gardening Club, pupils enjoyed planting legumes (runner beans) and creating a framework for them to climb up. They also planted root vegetables - beetroot, parsnips and carrots. The brassicas are coming on nicely and the group added kale and sprouts to the ones already planted. A framework and netting was placed around to protect against caterpillars.



Art Showcase

The Prep Art Department recently launched an exciting new initiative, the Art Showcase, inviting pupils to create pieces inspired by Spring.

The brief encouraged the use of colour and mark-making processes, and we are delighted with the response. The creativity demonstrated by pupils from Year 3 to Year 8 has been exceptional.

We look forward to the next Art Showcase in the Autumn where we are hoping to see even more fantastic work.



Harry Potter

Year 6 are studying the popular book, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. One of the pupils very kindly brought in her own copy, which includes beautiful illustrations and pop-up elements. The group enjoyed marvelling over the unique style of book. Thank you Sophie Ostroumoff for sharing.

VE Day

Pre-Prep made their own red, white and blue wreaths and then held a one minute silence around the flagpole for the 80th anniversary of VE Day.



Iceland

Over the Easter break, forty-two Upper Fourth pupils travelled to Iceland with the Geography Department. Expecting wintry weather, the group was instead greeted by sunshine, though a brief rain shower marked their arrival.

Their journey began at Grindavík, near the recently active Sundhnúkur volcano, where students explored three fresh lava fields. They then visited the Bridge Between Continents, straddling the ever-widening Mid-Atlantic Rift.

The second day took them to Iceland's iconic Golden Circle: the mighty Gullfoss waterfall, the erupting hot springs of Geysir, and the Þingvellir National Park, where they saw the dramatic continental rift. The evening offered a choice between shopping in Reykjavík or relaxing in local thermal pools.

Day three featured a Superjeep tour through Þórsmörk's glacial valley, with glacier walks, river crossings, and Game of Thrones filming locations. A hike

behind the Seljalandsfoss waterfall left everyone soaked—but exhilarated.

Their final sightseeing day took them to the black sand beaches of Vík and the Solheimajökull glacier. The trip ended with a quiz night before an early departure the next morning.





Italy

Fifty excited Year 7 pupils enjoyed a memorable four-day trip to Naples, Italy. Their adventure began at an organic farm in Sorrento, where they made their own pizzas, toured citrus groves, and ended the day with games on the beach beneath the spring sunshine.

The second day featured a guided tour of the ancient Roman town of Herculaneum, followed by a challenging but rewarding climb up Mount Vesuvius. Spirits remained high despite the rain, with students singing on the coach after experiencing the thrill of standing atop a dormant volcano.

On day three, pupils travelled along the world-famous Amalfi Drive, taking in the stunning coastline. Highlights included Positano, Amalfi Town, and a boat ride to Maiori. In Ravello, students explored the beautiful Villa Rufolo gardens and enjoyed shopping in the charming alleyways before returning for one final beach visit.



Aberdovey

Year 8 enjoyed a fantastic week in Aberdovey on the annual Outward Bound trip. They were blessed with some glorious spring sunshine and made the most of all the opportunities on offer. The pupils developed their teamwork, leadership and communication skills through a variety of challenges, including jetty jumping, canoeing, abseiling, scrambling, climbing and gorge walking. They tested their resilience on hikes and developed their understanding and appreciation of the natural environment.

CityZen Award

A team consisting of Alex Cheung, Nathan Chan, Aidan Swadling and Jacob Moore have achieved second place in the National CityZen award, run by the National Institute of Civil Engineers. Key geographical and engineering skills are required for this competitive challenge. The digital game is played over four rounds which allows students to solve current, city based problems in the game's simulations, engage with stakeholders and budget for their plans. All four teams worked well together, changing tactics and priorities over the four weeks of gaming. This led to a highly competitive final round with two teams trying to achieve the top score in Bromsgrove School and the victors being placed second in the country.



Mathematics Challenge

For the third year a group of pupils entered the International Mathematics Modelling Challenge hosted by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM). Students had fourteen hours to complete the challenge and submit their research paper with their solutions. This year students were asked to analyse temperature trends, predict power grid demand and identify the populations most at risk in order to help governments and communities strategically allocate resources to effectively manage heat waves and avoid power outages.

Well done to team members Mikhail Voronetskiy, Sai-Nam Panyasiri, Veronika Koretckaia, Vuk Ilić, and Jasper Geiger for completing the challenge.



International Scholars

We're delighted to welcome scholars from BIST to Oakley House and from Mission Hills to Page House, as they join us for the Summer Term.



Royal Garden Party

School swimming coach, Mr Camden, is currently serving as President of the English Schools' Swimming Association (ESSA), was invited to attend His Majesty's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, held in honour of those working in Education and Skills. He had the privilege of being introduced to His Majesty The King and briefly discussed the association and Prince William's involvement in swimming.

Birmingham Run

Congratulations to the fifty members of 'Team Bromsgrove' who completed the AJ Bell Great Birmingham Run.

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our page in aid of Cancer Research UK. To find out more, or to donate, please visit <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/bromsgrove-school-2025>



Bromsgrovian News

Reunion

A group of Old Bromsgrovians in Hong Kong recently met up over brunch. They enjoyed excellent food whilst sharing fond memories of school days at Bromsgrove.

Old Bromsgrovians present:

Andy Lai (E 04-09), Vincent Wong (E 04-09), Eugenia Lam (MW 04-10), Brian Tsang (WG 06-09), Kyna Chan (O 09-11), Emily Yuen (MW 08-13) and Philip Lam (E 07-13).



Meet Up

Old Bromsgrovians Matthew Leung (HH 08-10), Michael Leung (E 12-16) and Adrian Siu (HH 14-16) recently met up in Osaka, Japan. All three OBs are currently living in Hong Kong. Michael and Adrian both work in the legal sector, and Matthew works in business strategy.



Old School

Eighty years after the end of the Second World War, we visited Llanwrtyd Wells with Old Bromsgrovian Christopher Price to record his memories of living there as a Bromsgrove pupil during the war.

Many boys joined the School in Wales and then moved to Bromsgrove when it returned. Christopher was just one of them, spending four years in Llanwrtyd Wells and just a term and a half in Bromsgrove. He has often returned to Llanwrtyd Wells on Remembrance Day to lay the wreath for Old Bromsgrovians who lost their lives during WW2.

You can watch the full film via the School's YouTube Channel:
<https://youtu.be/-O1za3QJIOA>

Rugby 7s

As the rugby 7s season approaches, the OB Rugby management team have been working tirelessly behind the scenes to prepare for what promises to be an exciting and competitive campaign. Building on from last year's tournaments, the team now look to expand their calendar. Having competed in the Hartpury 7s tournament in early May, the following events are coming up:

- Bournemouth 7s: 23rd-25th May
- Oddballs Foundation 7s: 31st May

and the team would welcome supporters.

The team is constantly looking for more players to help grow their squad and community, as well as new sponsors to embark on this journey with them. If you are interested in getting involved in any way, please contact the team via the channels below.

Email: Bromsgrovebulls@icloud.com
Instagram: Bulls_7s
LinkedIn: Bromsgrove Bulls 7s Rugby



England

Congratulations to OB Tom Banton (Ly 10-15) who has been announced in the England Cricket team for the ODI Series vs West Indies. Tom made his England IT20 debut in 2019 and his ODI debut the following year. He has represented his country in twenty-one white-ball fixtures, scoring 499 runs.

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.