



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

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ISSUE 1



A Word from the Headmaster

Some 150 years ago, the Victorian headmaster Edward Thring argued that the best schools develop not only the mind but also character, creativity, and physical well-being. A wide range of co-curricular options allows pupils to work together, to uncover talents that might otherwise never be revealed, and to develop interests that last a lifetime. Moreover, Thring believed that we all have areas in which we excel, and that good schools identify those strengths in each pupil and nurture them.

If Edward Thring were alive and able to visit Bromsgrove School, albeit at the age of 205,

I think he would like what he found. Indeed, the pages that follow highlight the wealth of opportunities available to pupils here, with many young people excelling not just in one area but in many. Importantly, we hope they enjoy the richness of their experiences: learning skills that help them work well with others, making memories that will last long after they have left, and becoming equipped to make their own way in the world.

Older pupils also play their part in leading activities, as seen recently in the House Solo and Ensemble competitions. In both events, the adjudicators commented not only

on the excellent standards achieved by the performers but also on the evident joy shared by all those involved. Music, someone said, is one of the ways we remember we are human; it connects us, moves us, and reveals who we are. As so often happens, those concerts - and indeed so many activities in and out of the classroom - remind us just how multi-talented most Bromsgrovians are. Enjoy reading about just some of their recent achievements here.

Michael Punt
HEADMASTER

Jardine Scholarship

We are delighted to announce that Nikki Liu has been awarded a full scholarship from the Jardine Foundation to study at Oriel College, Oxford.

Nikki has been awarded one of up to thirty scholarships offered each year, which go to students who have been awarded places at Oxford, Cambridge or Hong Kong Universities.

In making the awards, the Scholarship Committee look at, in addition to academic achievement, the personal qualities and character of the applicant, achievements in non-curricular activities and other attributes that indicate they are likely to become an outstanding citizen with a high commitment to the performance of public duties and/or community involvement.



Rugby

Congratulations to the U16B rugby team who were ranked nationally as the seventh best team last season. Out of nine regular matches played (one was cancelled), the team beat Oakham, Sir Thomas Rich's, Haberdashers' Monmouth, Uppingham, Stowe, Millfield, and Oundle.

Mr Pardoe, the team coach, commented, "The team are a pleasure to work with. They have a fantastic work ethic and willingness to learn. The team's improvement throughout the season was hugely encouraging and the boys have a real pride in their team."

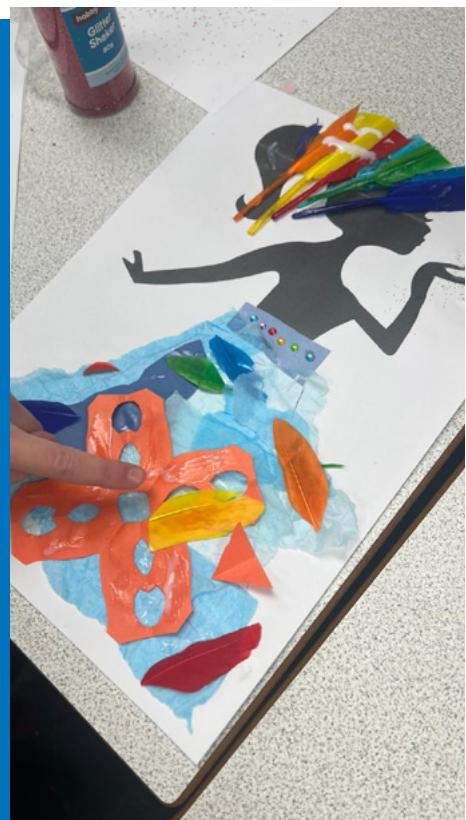
Visiting Artist

Haseebah Ali, an artist and arts educator, worked with some Fourth Form pupils on pattern, print and geometric forms. The day culminated in a giant piece of artwork created from printed squares designed by the pupils.



Clay Workshop

Our very own 'celebrity potter' (and AV Technician), Stephen Parkes, who appeared on last year's Great Pottery Throw Down, led a workshop with Year 2. After pupils saw a real life tortoise during their 'African Animal' experience, they came together again to make their own animals out of clay.



Fun Fashion

A new Prep School activity launched this term – Fun Fashion for Years 3 to 5. With a plethora of after-school and Saturday activities to choose from, our pupils are encouraged to explore their interests, discover new talents, and build confidence beyond the classroom. From creative and practical pursuits to sporty and skill-building sessions, there truly is something for everyone. Fun Fashion is the latest addition, offering pupils the chance to express their creativity, develop practical skills, and, most importantly, have fun with friends.



Guest Speaker

Ben Whitehead, Branch Manager at Nationwide, spoke to Upper Fourth pupils during their Life Skills lessons. Students have been considering tax and National Insurance as well as careful management of their money.



New Gap Teachers

The Headmaster and Mrs Punt met the new Bromsgrove gap teachers over tea on their first afternoon at the School. Having exchanged the summer sunshine of Australia for a rather more wintry Worcestershire, they were nevertheless given a very warm welcome. We look forward to working with them throughout 2026 and hope they are very happy here.



Global Politics

Joy Kariuki put her skills to the test when completing some prep for her Global Politics course. With her creative application of political legitimacy theory, and using the input-throughput-output framework, she produced a scorecard to analyse the legitimacy of the USA as a political system.

The work also demonstrated several of the IB learner profile attributes, not least students being inquirers, knowledgeable and open minded, and analysing society through a global lens.



Basketball

After completing their fixtures, the U15 basketball team have been crowned District Champions for the 2025/26 season. The team finished with a convincing record of eight wins from eight games - a phenomenal achievement for the boys and their coaches.

Behavioural Science

Ayaan Rauf has been co-writing a blog on how behavioural science can help shape education in the developing world. This has now been published by the British development organisation, DARE-RC, who also work with the University of Oxford. The blog addressed two questions: 'What if boosting school attendance was as simple as sending a text? Or if improving student performance required simply sending a friendly reminder about an upcoming test?'

Thanks to behavioural science insights, short, well-timed nudges have been remarkably effective in addressing education-related problems across the world, digging deeper into everyday habits, motivations, and mental shortcuts that shape how students, parents, teachers and school administrators behave.

The blog can be read in full on the DARE-RC website at:
<https://darerc.org/using-behavioural-science-to-improve-education-a-global-perspective/>



Geography Competition

Congratulations to Emily Jones who has been awarded third place in the annual Geographical Association photo competition. Her photograph, titled Balancing Act, was taken on Hin Lak island, Anghong National Marine Park.

The judges commented 'This is a well-taken opportunity to capture an interesting Earthshape, resulting in quite a stunning photograph – its sharp focus emphasises the sharp edges of the stack.'



Geographical Olympiad

Congratulations to Austin Cooke and Luca Phipps who scored the highest score (53/60) in the country following the Geographical Association Olympiad. All students who achieved a Gold award were in the top 5% nationally: Leo Chan, Oliver Dieppe, Julian Lim, Brandon Tang, as well as Austin and Luca.

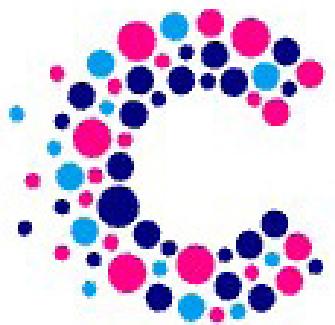
Wellbeing Art

Senior Art scholars collaborated to create artwork and photography for the Wellbeing Centre with the goal of promoting relaxation, positivity, and emotional balance. Drawing on their skills in use of colour, image appropriation and aesthetics, they designed pieces that evoke calm and inspire reflection and positivity. The Art Department wish to continue a creative collaboration with the Wellbeing Centre to highlight the positive impact creative subjects have on mental health and wellbeing.



Jingle Bell Bonanza

The Prep School Pupil Voice committee is pleased to announce that the winners of the Jingle Bell Bonanza charity vote are Cancer Research UK. Thanks to the generosity of our school community, £800 has been raised by Bromsgrove Preparatory School. Thank you to everyone who donated and took part in the Jingle Bell Bonanza. We would also like to thank the Prep Parents' Association for their continued support of the School.



**CANCER
RESEARCH
UK**

Drone Show

The Pre-Prep and Prep Parents' Association organised a drone show at the School. This was an amazing immersive experience, enjoyed by all who attended.



Netball

U11

Congratulations to the undefeated U11A IAPS regional champions. Bromsgrove topped their group by winning all four matches, scoring 42 goals and conceding just four. Best of luck to the girls at the IAPS National Finals.



U13

The U13 team enjoyed a competitive Invitational Tournament at Repton Prep School. Congratulations to the outstanding team who won all their matches, earning the winners' certificates and the tournament shield for the eighth time.



U15

Congratulations to our U15 team on their fantastic win in the National Semi-Final of the Independent Schools' National Cup, beating The Grange School, Northwich. A brilliant achievement and we wish them the very best as they head to the National Final.



U16

We are extremely proud U16 team who have qualified for the National Schools Finals. The girls worked incredibly hard as a team throughout the day, competing against the best schools in the West Midlands Regional Final. After a hard-fought semi-final win against Solihull, they secured qualification for the National Schools. In the final, Bromsgrove pushed all the way in a tightly contested match, finishing second in the region by just one goal.

1st Team

Huge congratulations to our 1st Netball team, who, after an impressive victory against Royal Russell School, have qualified for the Independent Schools' National Cup Semi-Finals.

Gruffalo Crumble

During Drawing Club, Reception have been exploring the story of The Gruffalo's Child by Julia Donaldson. To bring the story to life, they created their own Gruffalo Crumbles. The children peeled and chopped their own apples and carefully added their crumble topping.



Cyber First

During CCF, under the guidance of Lt Palmer, Fifth Form Cadets were awarded their Cyberfirst Adventurers Badge. This is the first level of cyber award that the Cadets can gain. Many of them are now working towards their 'idea' award. Cyber is an important aspect of the modern military, so it is good to see the Cadets getting involved. Also, all of the Upper Fourth CCF RAF Cadets have completed their Blue Leadership award and members of the Fifth Form CCF Army Section were awarded the first of our Bronze Idea award.



Early Years

Our youngest learners have been fully immersed in the great outdoors, making the most of everything our environment has to offer. They have taken part in the Big Garden Birdwatch, modelled birdhouses, made and installed bird feeders, and planted spring bedding plants during Gardening Club.

The children have loved exploring the Mud Kitchen, searching for minibeasts, and even toasting bread on a campfire - all while building curiosity, confidence, and a meaningful connection with nature.

Sailing

Anila Atkins recently took part in the Youth Open at Draycote, which attracted entries from around the country. This was her first race since transitioning into the ILCA 4 Class. She came 12th overall out of 35 entries, also placing the highest out of her RYA transition training group.



St Johns Helpers

Our St John's helpers, part of Bromsgrove's activity programme, have been lending a hand with some essential tidying in the church. The upkeep and maintenance of our beloved St John's takes a lot of time and effort with a few volunteers that the School is able to support.



Pupil Voice

At their first planning meeting, the Pupil Voice Leads are developing forums in areas such as Outreach, EDI, Academic, Health, and PSHE. They will be encouraging pupil voice in enacting positive change, fundraising and informing parents and staff about what matters to them and their School.

Bebras Competition

180 pupils took part in the Bebras Computational Thinking and Problem-Solving Competition, organised by the Raspberry Pi Foundation. Nationally, around half a million students participated. We are extremely proud of all who took part and congratulate those who achieved the highest scores in the School within their age categories, as well as those who ranked in the top 10% nationally and received a Gold award. The standout performance was from Sam Inglis who achieved the Best in School.



Kapla Workshop

Year 1 demonstrated how “From Small Beginnings” anything is possible. Starting with just one Kapla block, the children worked together to create an incredible scene, featuring giant volcanoes with flowing lava rivers, fierce crocodiles, enormous dinosaurs, and colourful birds which the children made independently simply by following a design. There was a hushed atmosphere in the room as the children concentrated deeply on balancing the Kapla blocks, which of course have no fixing mechanisms at all. We couldn’t believe what they were able to create using just tiny wooden blocks.

The teamwork and friendship the children showed were outstanding, and this enrichment activity provided a truly wonderful experience to add a wow factor to the topic.



Paralympian

Pupils and staff welcomed Darren Harris, dual Paralympian and England's most capped blind footballer. Darren will be working with pupils around resilience, motivation and overcoming adversity.



Volleyball

Our girls' 1st team put in a superb performance in their National Grand Prix fixture, claiming excellent victories against East Northants Volleyball Club and South Bucks Volleyball Club. They then pushed MK City Volleyball Club all the way, narrowly missing out in a closely fought match.

Well done to the boys' 1st team who competed in the next round of the England Volleyball National Grand Prix. The team produced excellent

performances, securing impressive victories against the Welsh National Team and Coventry and Warwick Riga Volleyball Club. Their match against Birmingham Five Ways Volleyball Club were a real thriller, and the opposition narrowly edged the win 16–14.

It was a highly competitive and exciting day of volleyball, and both teams should be very proud of their efforts.



Training Camp

Congratulations to Nelson Pompigne-Mognard who has been invited to join the "Générations Bleues" U18 elite programme, forming part of the Fédération Française de Rugby (FFR) national performance pathway. This pathway brings together the leading French U18 players for high-level identification and development through comprehensive physical, mental, and technical assessments conducted by the Federation's elite coaching and performance staff.



IB Session

Current IB students spoke to the Fifth Form in a 'speed dating' session all about the IB, telling them about the benefits of studying it. There was a lively buzz, and we were delighted to hear some productive conversations underway.



Lunchtime Concert

Ten students gave a fabulous lunchtime recital at Worcester Cathedral. Spike Bloxham, Davyen Wong and Marcus Ho played a variety of moving and uplifting organ pieces; singers Aarush Thapa, Dylan Foster-Arg, Rosie Li, Wesley Sham, Marley Sohna, Anson Yu and William Wang entertained a good sized audience with their songs ranging from French 'chanson' to Mozart operatic arias. The sounds of all performances echoed down the length of the Cathedral's nave and it was a very uplifting event for all in attendance. It's not every day one can perform in such a venue, right next to the tomb of King John.



RAF

Thirteen members of our CCF RAF section travelled to RAF Cosford to take part in the West Area Royal Air Squadron Trophy. The team came joint 6th place overall, and also won the Cyber competition. During the shooting competition, the following cadets were awarded the Gold Shot Marksman Badge: Sai-Nam Panyasiri, Thomas Shaw, TJ Oakley and Verity Williams.

Park Run

Some students kindly offered to travel to Worcester Park run to support a charity event organised by the Black Pear Joggers. Their support was much appreciated.



Book Swap

'Go All In' is the official slogan for the National Year of Reading, and our pupils certainly did that at the first Prep School Book Swap of 2026. Thank you to everyone who donated books and well done to the pupils who have so enthusiastically supported the cause. We can't wait to hear what you think about the books you chose.



Yoga Workshop

With thanks to the PA, Pre-Prep pupils enjoyed a mindful day with yoga teacher, Hannah Burton. Yoga can be especially beneficial for children because it supports their rapid physical, emotional, and cognitive development in a gentle, playful way. By learning that movement, breathing, and relaxation can help them feel better, children gain healthy tools they can carry with them as they grow.



Table Tennis

Congratulations to the pupils who took part in the Worcestershire Table Tennis competition. The standout performances on the day were Harleen Bahra finishing in second place in the U16 girls' competition and Markus Kwok finishing in third place in the U16 boys category.





Litter Pick

The Prep Eco-Committee were keen to support the Keep Britain Clean campaign. Their litter pick efforts were much appreciated by local residents.

Bee-Bots

Reception pupils have been using their Maths and ICT skills by exploring different ways of making eight, using cubes and counters to support their understanding and recording their ideas as number sentences. They have also been introduced to Bee-Bots through an activity inspired by our Drawing Club story *Snowball*. The children programmed the Bee-Bots to navigate around obstacles, using directional language as they landed on items Snowball collected on his journey.



German

During the week of 19th to 24th January, the German department celebrated 'Shout Out For German Week', an initiative run by the Goethe Institute. Students reflected on what they like about learning the German language and celebrated some of its well-known compound nouns. Students in the Upper Fourth also used their learning about role models to research German personalities and produce a poster.



Hockey

U13 Boys

The U13A team travelled to Malvern to participate in the IAPS Cup. They played some outstanding hockey in the group, securing dominant wins and finishing top of the group. This set up a semi-final against Moulsoford, and the excellent form continued as they earned a convincing 7–0 victory. That win took them into the final, where they met Repton once again. Repton, eager to respond after their group defeat, capitalised on an early Bromsgrove chance that went wide and countered to score the opening goal. They added two more before half-time. Bromsgrove rallied admirably in the second half, showing much-improved play and real determination, but a late fourth goal secured the win for Repton. Due to tournament rules, the team were unable to progress further, but it was unquestionably the best hockey they have played so far this term. Every player should feel proud of the standard they reached.



U13 Girls

Our U13 hockey team have been crowned county champions. They competed against RGS Worcester and The King's School Worcester, the girls produced a dominant 5–0 victory against King's and a 1–1 draw with RGS to secure the county title - a fantastic achievement.



School Cup

The U15A boys' rugby team competed in the quarter final of the Continental Tyres Schools Plate Competition against Barnard Castle. It was a close encounter with the weather conditions. However, two very early tries from Bromsgrove ensured a victory alongside a good defensive effort by all. The team now face an away trip to Radley College after half term for a spot in the Plate Final.

Young Voices

Over forty students from Year 6 travelled to the BP Pulse Live arena in Birmingham to take part in the national Young Voices festival. They were joined by over five and a half thousand children from schools all over the Midlands and beyond to create a mass choir that was buzzing with energy. Year 6 have been working so hard throughout the Michaelmas term, and they delivered a memorable performance to the watching parents. Notable highlights included singing with American artist Aneesa Folds, who came off Broadway to take part in the concert. The dance group Urban Strides, a staple at Young Voices, also got everyone up and dancing for a floor-shaking finale.



Future Debaters

The Prep School Debating Team have been working closely with the Senior School Debaters to develop their oracy, communication and debating skills in preparation for the IAPS Debating Competition. We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm, teamwork and commitment.

Oxford Union Competition

The Senior School debating team took part in the regional round of the Oxford Union Debating Competition, the largest school debating competition in the world. In a high-calibre field of forty teams, our students competed strongly against schools from across the region, vying for a place in the top four teams that would see them qualify for Finals Day. We were delighted that two of our teams, Eleanor Young/Matthew Hill and Jasper Page/Gleb Sovetkin were able to secure a top 4 finish and so will now travel to the Oxford Union in March to compete for the title against the best teams in the country and from around the world.



Author Visit

Pre-Prep pupils enjoyed a visit from an Old Bromsgrovian and local author, Graham Jones, who officially launched the Pre-Prep Reading Challenge, as part of the 'National Year of Reading'. He shared his book, *Time Travelling Toby and The Dinosaurs*, which the children loved.



Debating

A group of junior and senior debaters competed in the Nottingham University Schools' Debating Competition. Across four fast-paced rounds of British Parliamentary debating, teams had just fifteen minutes to prepare each motion, relying solely on their own thinking and teamwork.

Our junior debaters, all novices and the youngest competitors, performed impressively, with each team placing at least second in a debate. Special congratulations go to Bella Collins-Bishop, who won a debate single-handedly when her partner was unavailable. The senior team of Jasper Page and Matthew Hill reached the Silver Final, finishing second and ranking sixth overall out of fifty-seven teams.

All students showed outstanding resilience, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

In Memory

Members of Bromsgrove School came together for a moving tree-planting ceremony in honour of the late Namsong Rai, marking what would have been his sixteenth birthday. A special tree was planted in his memory, symbolising growth, remembrance, and the lasting impact Namsong continues to have on our community. His family joined us for this meaningful moment, alongside the Headmaster Mr Punt, the Housemaster of Wendron-Gordon Mr Farnfield, and the Head of Prep and Pre-Prep Mr Marie.

Namsong is remembered with great affection, and this tree will stand as a living tribute to his life and legacy for years to come.



Top School

We are delighted to be named as a Top 250 Prep and Senior Schools in the UK by Talk Education. Bromsgrove School is one of just five other independent schools in Worcestershire to be named in the list.

The panel takes into account a wide range of criteria when selecting their top schools list: everything from results, facilities, destinations and more, to word-of-mouth reputation.



Birdwatch

The Senior Eco-Committee worked with the boarders from Page House as part of the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. They identified goldfinches, seagulls, blackbirds, robins, pigeons and a buzzard.



Bromsgrovian News

Racing Academy

Congratulations to Freddie Slater (S 14-22) who has become the first recruit of the Audi F1 Team's new Driver Development Programme. Freddie will compete in F3 this season with Trident Motorsport, under the guidance of Audi's new junior academy run by former F1 driver Allan McNish. He followed up major championship wins in karting with the UAE and Italian F4 Championship titles. Last year, he won the Formula Regional European Championship (FRECA) in his rookie campaign.



Photo Credit: Audi Revolut F1Æ Team

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.

Six Nations

We are delighted to see Seb Atkinson (E 15-20) named in the England squad for the Six Nations. Seb returns to bolster the centre ranks after he impressed the coaching staff on his debut last summer. He then missed the autumn through injury. We look forward to following Seb and the England team.



Photo Credit: England Rugby