



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

MICHAELMAS 2026
ISSUE 1



BROMSGROVE
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
CAMBODIA

NEARLY
500
Years
OF OUTSTANDING EDUCATION



A Word from the Headmaster

The start of a new school year is always an exciting time: new uniforms, new courses, new ambitions for the months ahead, and new families joining the community. A few weeks into term, it is remarkable how quickly new pupils have settled in, found their place in their new surroundings, and become immersed in the wide range of opportunities on offer here. We look forward to seeing their talents develop and to the many contributions they will make. While they will undoubtedly have plenty to do, most importantly we hope that their time at School will be a happy one.

Meanwhile, this time of year also marks the start of the new academic year for other schools in the Bromsgrove family, in Cambodia, China and Thailand and, soon, India as well. In total, nearly 4,000 pupils have begun a new term at a School called Bromsgrove, whether in Worcestershire or across Asia, and our hope is that each and every one of them enjoys a fulfilling and rewarding year ahead.

As we look forward to the 2026/27 academic year, we do so with optimism and confidence in the potential of our pupils, nurtured by

talented and caring staff. The opportunities young people embrace, the friendships they forge and the challenges they overcome will help shape the adults they become. In the words of Eleanor Roosevelt, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." May the year ahead bring every Bromsgrovian one step closer to achieving theirs.

Michael Punt
HEADMASTER

2026 Results

In 2026 Bromsgrove's IB students achieved an average of 38.5 points with two pupils scoring the top grade of 45 points, which is achieved by less than 1% of IB students. This helped to place Bromsgrove amongst the highest-performing IB schools in the world. Overall, our 2026 Leavers achieved the equivalent of 60% A* and A grades at A level, while the average GCSE grade (across nearly 2,000 results) was a grade 7.



MOST COMMON GCSE GRADE
IN 2026 WAS **GRADE 7**
ACHIEVED ACROSS NEARLY 2,000 RESULTS

A* A* A* A* A*

**FOUR A* A-LEVELS
AND ONE A* FOR EPQ**

THE HIGHEST GRADES AWARDED TO
AN INDIVIDUAL A LEVEL STUDENT

38.5

AVERAGE IB SCORE

64% OF OUR COHORT
AWARDED THE BILINGUAL DIPLOMA



81%

A*/ B GRADES

SIXTH FORM
A LEVEL, BTEC & IB
2026

60%

A*/ A GRADES



#7

**GLOBAL IB CO-ED
BOARDING SCHOOL**

#26 TOP GLOBAL IB SCHOOL #6 TOP UK CO-ED SCHOOL



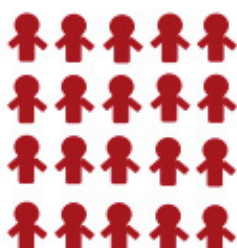
19

DISTINCTION*

90%

DISTINCTION
OR ABOVE

20+ DIFFERENT
NATIONALITIES
STUDYING THE IB



45 POINTS

TWO STUDENTS GAINED THE
MAXIMUM IB SCORE
(ACHIEVED BY 1% OF IB CANDIDATES WORLDWIDE)

Boarders' Competition

Congratulations to the group of new boarders from Housman Hall who won Miss Scannell's competition during their visit to Oxford during induction. Pupils were challenged to find and photograph a number of popular city centre landmarks.



Top IB School

We are delighted that Bromsgrove School was named a top global IB school for 2026 by Education Advisers, ranking among the top co-educational UK boarding schools and in the top eight IB schools across the UK. Globally, Bromsgrove was placed among the top eighteen IB schools, including seventh among co-educational boarding schools.

The IB Class of 2026 achieved an

impressive average of 38.5 points, with more than 40% of pupils achieving 40 points or above. Two pupils achieved the maximum 45 points, a score attained by fewer than 1% of IB students worldwide. These results reflected the pupils' hard work, perseverance and ambition, alongside the dedicated support and guidance of their teachers and the wider school community.



Pupil Voice

The new Prep Pupil Voice group met for the first time and it was fantastic to see so many pupils ready to share their ideas, listen to others and help make a positive difference across the School.

Pupil Voice is all about giving pupils the opportunity to speak up, share their opinions and use their voice for good. They are looking forward to working together, listening to the views of the School community and turning great ideas into positive action. The Pupil Voice group is chaired by Roman and Nia who will help lead the group as they begin this exciting journey.

Gold DofE

Twenty-three Sixth Form pupils travelled to North Wales after Commemoration Day to complete their Gold DofE Qualifying Expedition. Two teams tackled the summit of Snowdon on day one whilst the other two groups had the challenge of navigating Beddgelert Forest. Four days of mostly fair weather made for an enjoyable and successful expedition with all pupils completing this aspect of their Gold Award. We look forward to hearing their presentations and encourage them to keep working towards signing off their other sections to finish their award and receive their invite to Buckingham Palace once completed.



Gardening Club

Autumn is a wonderful time to reap the rewards of hard work, and the pupils in the Prep Gardening Club have been busy harvesting French beans, pumpkins and cucumbers, all of which will be used by Chef Steve in the School kitchens. Winter peas have also been planted and, thanks to the exceptionally warm weather, are already beginning to germinate.



Cricket Debut

Well done to Cricket Scholar Ayan Khan who took 6 for 68 on his Warwickshire 2nd XI debut. He has worked extremely hard across the year and it is great to see his effort starting to pay off.

Athletes

Congratulations to four of our pupils who competed for Hereford and Worcestershire against the very best athletes in the country.

Bromsgrove performed very well with the following results:

Ben Hilton - 19th in the Senior Hurdles

Hari Vijh - 10th in the High Jump

Martha Blower - 8th in her heat in 3000m

Ollie Dieppe - 2nd in 400m Hurdles

With Ollie having had a superb summer and earning his first international vest, gaining a silver medal in this competition is a fantastic achievement. We are very proud of Ollie and his achievements throughout his time at Bromsgrove and now look forward to following his progress as an Old Bromsgrovian.



Young Farmer

Prep School pupil Nancy Morgan attended the Young British Farming Awards at Canon Hall Farm in Yorkshire. Nancy was the only girl finalist in The Future Young Farmer category. She was praised for her fearless approach to farming, her commitment to lambing, the growth of her own flock of Ouessant breeding ewes and championing rare breed sheep in the industry.

Fundraising for Charity

Arthur Ledward-Smith and his older sister, Aurora, were featured in the local newspaper for their entrepreneurial fundraising efforts over the summer holidays. They decided to start their own business called Bestie Beads and spent hours making friendship bracelets and Hama bead designs.

In just a couple of hours, the siblings had raised £55 selling the creations outside their home. Additional support from the local community was incredible - the post on their local Network Facebook Page received a fantastic response, and the local Sports & Social Club generously offered to top up their donation, taking the total to £100 for Cancer Research UK.

Wimbledon

Grace Hadley enjoyed an outstanding week at the Play Your Way to Wimbledon National Finals, having battled through a challenging qualifying campaign to earn her place at the All England Lawn Tennis Club. Competing in the 18U Girls' Doubles alongside Mia from Inkberrow Tennis Club, Grace progressed through the group stages and quarter-final before a hard-fought semi-final saw the pair win the deciding match tie-break 10-3. In a thrilling final, Grace and Mia twice prevailed in tie-breaks to secure an 8-6, 8-6 victory and be crowned 18U Girls' Doubles Champions. Grace can be hugely proud of this fantastic achievement and the memorable experience of competing at such an iconic sporting venue.

Photo Credit: AELTC



Royalty

Harper Coates was selected to meet with the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh when they attended the European Championships in Birmingham. A very memorable day and an honour to represent her athletics club, Birchfield Harriers.



Music Masterclass

The music department was delighted to welcome conductor and violinist Richard Laing for an inspiring afternoon of music-making and learning. Richard led a conducting workshop with our student conductors and Senior String Ensemble, working on Elgar's Serenade for Strings and developing conducting technique, rehearsal strategies and musical leadership skills. He also led a violin masterclass with Sophia Tong, Cecilia Ginns, Marcus Ho and Roke Morrison, who performed works by Elgar, Wagner, Hubay and Kreisler and received valuable guidance on technique, interpretation and performance. The session was also enjoyed by members of Upper Strings, who gained valuable insights from observing the masterclass.

World Challenge

The World Challenge expedition in July took students from eSwatini to South Africa and Mozambique, combining community work, adventure and conservation. In eSwatini, they supported a local care point by clearing land for a new clinic, helping with activities for children and taking part in community life.

In Kruger National Park, they experienced unforgettable safari encounters, including sightings of the Big Five and a dramatic wild dog hunt, before undertaking the demanding Lubombo Trek, where they developed resilience, teamwork and confidence while navigating challenging terrain and wild camping.

The final stage in Mozambique focused on marine conservation, with pupils swimming alongside whale sharks, observing humpback whales and learning about local ecosystems and sustainable waste management. The expedition provided a memorable combination of cultural experiences, personal challenges and opportunities to make a positive contribution to local communities and the environment.



Microsoft Showcase

Bromsgrove Senior School has been recognised as a Microsoft Showcase School for the third year running. As a Microsoft Showcase School, we are proud to lead the way in educational transformation and future-ready skills, empowering students to thrive in an increasingly digital society.



Squash

Ted Snelling competed in his first Warwickshire County U13 squash tournament in Sutton Coldfield, representing Stratford. Ted, who is an U11 player, was playing up an age group, faced a tough start against the No. 1 and No. 3 seeds. Despite this he responded brilliantly, winning his final two matches 3–0, including a dominant final match in which he barely dropped a point. It was a fantastic first experience of County competition and a great achievement competing against older and more experienced players.

Athletics

IAPS

Prep School pupils competed at the Prep Schools National Athletics Championships at Birmingham's iconic Alexander Stadium, producing an outstanding set of results. The team returned with nine national medals, two national titles and two national records, with gold medals for Jai Vijh in the U14 80m hurdles and Roman Wadhwa in the U13 javelin, both setting new national records. Further medals were won by Jai Vijh, Lucas Yiend, Chloe Heath, Hari Vijh, Ben Tucker, Roman Wadhwa and Harper Coates, while several other pupils achieved impressive top fifteen national finishes.

ESSA

The Years 7 and 8 junior boys' athletics team competed in the English Schools' Athletic Association National Cup Final in Chelmsford, having made history by qualifying after a record-breaking performance in the Midlands Final. Despite being two athletes short, the team performed superbly against the best schools in England, with outstanding individual performances from Jai Vijh, Hari Vijh, Ben Tucker, Conrad Hoskins and Roman Wadhwa. The team ultimately finished eleventh in the country, an exceptional achievement from more than 500 schools that entered the competition. Their determination, resilience and team spirit made for a memorable end to a highly successful athletics season.



Talk Education Award

We are delighted that the School has been shortlisted in the 'Inspiring Sporting Activities' category in Talk Education's Awards for Innovation 2026. This is a wonderful recognition of the energy, commitment and opportunities that inspire our pupils to get active, challenge themselves and achieve their sporting potential.



Half Marathon

Lt Col Farnes, the CCF Contingent Commander, has run a half marathon every day from 12th September to 5th October (a total of twenty-four days), in memory of his sister who died of Acute Myeloid Leukaemia last year. He ran one of the half marathons around the School grounds and was joined by some of the pupils and cheered on by some staff. Nathan Limbu completed the whole half marathon, the furthest he has ever run.

Lt Col Farnes is raising money for Macmillan and Blood Cancer UK, and he is truly grateful for the support he has been given.

You can read more about the cause here: https://www.justgiving.com/page/jeff-farnes-10?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL



Gardening Club

In Forest School, Year 4 used the bow saw to cut logs, identified leaves and seeds, played conkers and much more. It was a pleasure to see their teamwork and confidence growing in the outdoor environment.

Hockey

Hockey National Cup

Many congratulations to the U13 hockey team who played some excellent hockey to beat Newcastle Under-Lyme School in the first round of the Independent Schools national cup competition. A special mention goes to Lili Hiley for scoring a hat trick.



Mercian Marauders

Congratulations to four of our pupils - Evelyn Quinn, Bea Snelling, Alana Fuller and Ellie Ballard - who were selected to be in the Mercian Marauders after a rigorous selection procedure. The girls competed at Nottingham Hockey Centre over the summer holidays with the Trophy team winning their tournament and the Championship team coming second in their matches. They will continue to play for their teams in future national competitions.

Bea was also selected for Stourport TA, one of England Hockey's Talent Academies, making her one of the youngest players on the England hockey pathway.



Individual Success

Toby Kippax enjoyed a busy summer of hockey, representing the UK Lions in three days of competition in Belfast, as well as being selected for the Talent Academy Cup in Nottingham. Playing for Stourport TA, Toby and his team won all three group matches, defeating Westminster & Hampstead TA 2-1, Bath TA 5-1 and Sheffield TA 3-2. Representing his age group at this level is a fantastic achievement.





Teddy Bear Day

Pre-Prep pupils enjoyed a fun-filled International Teddy Bear Day, with Nursery and Reception taking part in bear-themed activities including a teddy bear hunt and bear stories. Year 1 used the day to launch their new topic, A World of Bears, making and enjoying teddy bear toast, creating pictograms and investigating which material would best keep a teddy dry. The practical science activity encouraged teamwork, predictions and discussion. The day ended with a delightful performance of *The Bear Went Over the Mountain*, accompanied by Mrs Martin on the ukulele.

Sailing

Fred Seddon moved from a junior-class boat to the youth-class ILCA 4 over the summer and made an impressive start to his campaign, leading the South England ILCA Youth Regional Series after two events with five points, just one point ahead of the sailor in second place. The series provided valuable warm-up racing ahead of the National Open. Fred was also inspired by Sir Ben Ainslie, CEO and Team Principal of the Emirates GBR SailGP Team, who sailed the same ILCA class at the Olympics when he was younger.



Global Voices

The Prep and Senior School are proud to have students from seventy-eight different nationalities. Global Voices is a new activity club at Prep School, celebrating the different languages, countries and cultures from around the globe and from within our own Bromsgrovian community. Each half term, the group will explore a different language and country through fun activities and research. Pupils will help plan themed events - including global voices lunches and making displays for the boards in Cobham.

County Tennis Championships

Pupils from Bromsgrove and Winterfold School took part in this year's County Championships across Staffordshire, Warwickshire, and Herefordshire & Worcestershire. Players enjoyed valuable competitive experience and achieved an impressive collection of county titles across singles and doubles events, from the 8U to 18U age groups, alongside individual and Team of the Year honours. These performances highlighted the strength and depth of tennis across the wider Bromsgrove community.



Roman Soldiers

Year 5 had an exciting and enriching day learning all about life in the Roman Army. The day provided a fantastic opportunity for the children to bring their study of Roman Britain to life. They explored what it was like to be a Roman soldier, discovering more about army life, training, equipment and the important role the Roman Army played in Britain.



Mission Hills

The Headmaster and Miss Scannell visited the Museum and Statue of the late Dr David Chu at Mission Hills on his birthday, laying flowers in his memory alongside his daughter, Dr Catherine Chu, and members of the BMH Education Board. The visit provided a fitting opportunity to reflect on Dr Chu's remarkable legacy in sport, education and philanthropy, before Board members joined pupils and staff for a special Bromsgrove School Mission Hills photograph, marking a memorable day for the wider Bromsgrove community in China.



Young Chemists

Senior students took part in a competition designed to stretch and challenge those genuinely interested in Chemistry, and to provide a meaningful taste of the way scientists at university actually think. Set by an experienced team of teachers and Cambridge chemists, the paper is accessible to Lower Sixth students but deliberately takes them significantly beyond the A-level syllabus, rewarding curiosity, careful reasoning, and a willingness to sit with a problem.

Special congratulations to our gold award winners, Klement Man and Sarah Schmidt



Skiing

Well done to Bo MacLennan following the Welsh National Ski Championships. Bo competed in a strong field of U12 skiers from across the UK, racing a challenging slalom course of over thirty gates. He finished an impressive 5th overall in his age category, with a time of 26.35 seconds. As the fastest Welsh skier in the U12 category, he was crowned Welsh National U12 Ski Champion.



BIST Scholars

Whilst in Thailand, the Headmaster and Miss Scannell enjoyed catching up with the BIST Scholars who spent a term with us last year at Bromsgrove UK.



War Poetry

As part of the English Department's topic on war poetry, Prep School pupils have been researching some of the ninety-four Old Bromsgrovians who fought and died in WW1. Throughout September, pupils visited the Memorial Chapel and Heritage Centre to learn about their stories and experiences. They then used what they had discovered to write their own Remembrance poem, some of which will be given to the School Archivist to keep for future generations.



Made for Aid

The newly formed 'Made for Aid' group created a collection of soap dishes during their activity session, with each student adding their own personal touches to their design. The finished pieces were produced to an excellent standard, particularly impressive for some students who were working with clay for the first time. We look forward to seeing what other creative pieces the group produces to sell in support of charity.



Museum Trip

Year 6 enjoyed a fantastic day at the Black Country Living Museum. They took part in an engaging Victorian school lesson, enjoyed an exciting canal trip and explored the fascinating mine. The children showed great enthusiasm, curiosity and excellent behaviour throughout the day, making it a truly memorable experience.



Cambodia

Mrs Siviter, Teacher of Business, took the opportunity to visit Bromsgrove International School Cambodia (BISC) whilst on family vacation in SE Asia with her husband, Paul (OB 94-99) and their three children.

They enjoyed a fantastic morning and learned a great deal about the School, including the lessons, facilities, and the exciting opportunities available to students, from drone competitions and VR to the arts and sports programme. Thank you to BISC for facilitating the visit and to Deputy Head, Mr Lo for the tour.



Sydney Marathon

We were proud to support Miss Brown and Mrs Punt as they took part in the TCS Sydney Marathon, raising funds for charity. Miss Brown ran in aid of Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity, while Mrs Punt continued her remarkable fundraising journey following her London Marathon challenge as 'Paula the Polar Bear' in aid of Cancer

Research. With almost 30 years of charitable fundraising and more than £2 million raised, Mrs Punt was also honoured with the British Citizen Award Medal of Honour for Services to Volunteering and Charitable Giving, bringing her closer to her ambitious £3 million fundraising target.



Wolf Run

Mrs Holden, along with OBs and friends of Bromsgrove School, completed the Wolf Run. They have managed to raise a huge amount of money to support the work of the charity NICE.

You can read more about the cause here: https://www.justgiving.com/page/judith-holden-2?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL



Bromsgrovian News

Pre-1990s Leavers' Reunion

We were delighted to welcome back Old Bromsgrovians who left the School before 1990 for a special reunion. The day began with a welcoming service, followed by a group photograph to capture the occasion. Our Lower Sixth pupils enjoyed showing the OBs around the School and in the Heritage Centre, sharing stories and memories along the way.

The reunion concluded with a wonderful lunch in the Dining Hall, a fitting opportunity to catch up, reminisce and celebrate lasting friendships.



Rugby

We are delighted to see recent Upper Sixth leaver Krystof Wood (Ws 21-26) named in the England U20 Elite Player Squad.



Photo Credit: Gloucester Rugby



Hong Kong Reunion

Over 100 Old Bromsgrovians and current parents came together for our Bromsgrove School drinks reception in Hong Kong. This was a delightful evening of laughter, memories, and friendship. We are so proud of the contributions our OBs are making to society.

Sailing

Stella Nygard (TC 23-25) enjoyed a busy summer after her first year in university. She sailed with tough competition at Lake Garda during Foiling Week, then at the European Championships in Mar Menor. Her travels and experience in the international settings paid off as she raced at the WASZP UK National Championships and won the female championship title.



Playwright

We were delighted to hear from Boris Belov (W-G 21-25) who recently made his debut as a playwright. Earlier this year, he started working on a script called “Едно и Също” - “One and the Same” for the centennial celebration of a festival held in Central Bulgaria “Просвета 1926” - “Enlightenment 1926”. The script is based on a one-page local tale which follows the founder of a small Bulgarian village (Voneshta voda) during the Ottoman Empire’s control of Bulgaria. The founder attempts to host and please the Turkish Mudurin (administrator), but as always in comedies, it goes wrong and gets worse and worse throughout the 90-minute play.

The play’s premiere was performed in front of an audience of around 100 people by Theatrical Group “Suglasie”, who will soon take the performance on tour within Central Bulgaria.

Boris says that his writing developed at Bromsgrove through his experience with the School’s Drama department.



University Challenge

Jake Wingfield (S 18-23) appeared on University Challenge over the summer, representing the University of Bristol. You can watch his appearance on BBC iPlayer (episode aired 13th July).



Visits

James Clappison (L 84-93) returned to Bromsgrove in the summer holidays, on his way back home from a gig in Manchester. He enjoyed a tour of Lupton House - memories came flooding back in his old study - and visited the Heritage Centre where he was able to spot a few familiar faces in the whole-school photographs



At the start of the Michaelmas Term, Tehzeeb Sharif (OH 19-25) visited Mrs Round and Mr Palmer in the Computer Science Department. She is now studying Cyber Security at Royal Holloway and has already completed a placement at Ofcom.



Eric Li (HHall 16-21) took the opportunity to visit his former Housemothers, Angela Gregory and Jayne Wise, during Staff Inset. Eric is now a teacher in the Physics Department at Bromsgrove.



Grady Chun Heng Lam, Simon Au, Thomas Wong, Anthony Wong and Marco Chan, all 2008 leavers from Wendron-Gordon, visited the School during the summer holidays with their partners. Along the way, they met the Headmaster and Miss Scannell, and enjoyed a tour of the campus grounds in the glorious sunshine.

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.