



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

# *Bromsgrovian*

NEWS REVIEW

LENT 2026  
ISSUE 3



Wishing all our families and  
friends of the School a  
Happy Easter

## Budget Challenge

Huge congratulations to four Lower Sixth pupils who have reached the National Final of the Budget Challenge, run by the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA). Matthew Hill, Adrian Keseljevic, Dosti Dostiyarov and Vincente Constantin Conte competed in the semi-final at the University of Buckingham, where they faced teams from across the UK.



## Arrival of Spring

Spring has sprung at Bromsgrove Pre-Prep, and the children in Reception have been learning about St David's Day, creating daffodil wreaths and making delicious Welsh cakes. They have also begun growing their own beanstalks to tie in with our book focus, Jasper's Beanstalk. It has been wonderful spotting signs of spring all around us.

## Oxford Union Finals

Having qualified amongst the top four teams in the region, Eleanor Young, Matthew Hill, Jasper Page, and Gleb Sovetkin travelled to Oxford University to take part in the Oxford Union Schools' Debating Finals. Taking part in the world's largest and most prestigious school debating competition, our students took on the best teams in the country and from as far afield as Brazil, South Korea, India, and Canada. Both our teams performed strongly, but a special mention - in their final appearance representing the School - for Gleb and Jasper who were ranked as the 47th best team in the world. A great achievement.



## Gardening Club

Prep Gardening Club have been harvesting some of the vegetables they planted in the School garden. At the end of the Lent Term, pupils made a delicious Leek and Potato Soup with the help of Chef Steven Giles.



## Science Week

Year 1 enjoyed taking part in an exciting outdoor activity for British Science Week during Forest School. The children built bird nests using clay to create a strong base and adding a range of materials to help shape and strengthen their designs. The activity encouraged the children to think like scientists by asking questions about how birds build their homes and which materials might work best. It linked to this year's British Science Week theme, "Curiosity: what's your question?", which encourages children to explore the world around them by asking questions and investigating their ideas.



## Eco-Committee

The Prep School Eco Committee have been busy cleaning up the local environment as part of the Keep Britain Clean campaign. It's so nice to see the signs of Spring with the daffodils in full bloom.



## Performance

Sixth Form musicians from the Chamber Orchestra visited Millfield's First School to demonstrate a range of musical instruments and to perform to the Years 1 to 4 assemblies. The children showed great interest and asked questions before listening carefully to our performance. It was also a rewarding experience for our Senior musicians who were excellent ambassadors for the School and music department.

## Agent Visit

We were delighted to welcome Claire Calder (from Claire Calder Education), and John Williamson and Dr Mary O'Connor (from EMA) to Bromsgrove School. Enrollment Management Association is a leader and one-stop resource in the education space, providing thought leadership, data, and insights, to enrollment professionals and families.

Claire Calder Education offers parents expert help in finding the right UK boarding school, summer school and revision courses for children, as well as working extensively with forces families.

Our pupil guides enjoyed showing the visitors around the School and giving some insight into life at Bromsgrove.



## Award

We were delighted that the National School Theatre Awards chose to attend this year's Years 7 and 8 Production of *Peter Pan*. The NTSA representative said that, "From the moment I entered the drama studio, there was a palpable sense of anticipation."

You can read the full review on the School website [here](#).

# Senior House Drama

A packed Cobham Theatre witnessed a superb night of comedy and tragedy when our Senior pupils took to the stage for the House Drama competition. The adjudicator, Dr Brown, was hugely impressed with the quality of performance and the consensus was that it was the best and most closely run competition for a while. The results were:

Best Actor: Ethan Masterson

Best Supporting Actor: Grace Laurenson

Special Award: Dylan Foster-Agg for his portrayal of the Judge in 'Conduct Unbecoming'

Best Director: Ewan Head for 'Only Fools and Horses'

Production Award: Charlotte Birch

Best Play: Wendron-Gordon with 'Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time'

Runner Up (Best Play): Hazeldene for 'Costa del Packet'





## Art Festival

Congratulations to Emily Round who enjoyed a very successful day at the Worcestershire Competitive Arts Festival. She had solo success in the Years 5 to 6 verse speaking category, winning the silver medal with the poem, *Dear Mr Examiner* by Gareth Owen. She also competed in two acting categories with the Wyre Forest Theatre Group and they won both.

Also, congratulations to Venise Moodley also entered Worcester Creative Arts Festival where she finished in third place in solo acting in the Years 7 and 8 age group.



## Swimming

Many congratulations to Years 5 and 6 swimmers who took part in the English Schools Swimming regional round, hosted here at Bromsgrove. There was some strong competition, which pushed our swimmers to produce the best times they could. We now await the results from the other regional galas to see whether we have secured a top three place in the West Midlands and the opportunity to compete in the National Finals in June.

## Life Skills

In life skills lessons, Lower Fourth students have been considering why people take drugs, what the risks are and what the law says. Students delivered excellent news presentations outlining the key issues.



## Crufts

With 128 pupils busy completing their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Bromsgrove, we find out all sorts of interesting things about the hobbies and interests that our pupils have.

Charlotte Ascough has been training her four-year-old Labrador Monty in Dog Agility and, over the summer, qualified for Crufts in the YRKC Jumping Cup. They had a great run, but were sadly eliminated at the penultimate obstacle. What an experience for the novice pair.



## Cross Country

Years 5 to 7 pupils competed in the County Cross-Country Finals, facing strong competition from across the county.

Notable performances included Ted Snelling (2nd), Harper Coates (1st), Chloe Heath (4th), Henry Buckingham (4th), and Freya Sutton (6th). The U12 boys dominated their race, with Lucas Yiend (1st) and Rory Townsend (2nd), supported by Jake Wilkinson (6th) and Oliver Clarke (9th).



Other strong runs came from Holly Moxon (23rd), Seb Yiend (16th), Jake Webley (26th), Maisie Branfield (7th), Lili Hiley (35th), Toby Buckingham (16th), Flo Raine (14th), Nia Roberts (19th), and Isobel Atkinson (30th).

Well done to all runners for representing the School so admirably.

# Tennis

## Sport Magazine Cup

Well done to the U16 girls' tennis team on a fantastic 5-1 win against Bedford Girls' School in the second round of the Sports Magazine Cup.

## County Cup

Eight Bromsgrove pupils represented their county tennis teams. Grace Hadley and Gina Obrey were part of the Hereford & Worcestershire U18 girls' team, which secured an impressive second place at the County Cup in Nottingham.

Charlie Fielding, representing Warwickshire in the U18 boys' event, won the Men's Grade 3 doubles and finished third overall. At the 12 Counties competition in Corby, Summer Nicol represented the Hereford & Worcestershire U14 girls' team. Meanwhile, in Taunton, Callum Hooper, Toby Ward, Chaim Conroy and George Hadley played key roles in helping the Hereford & Worcestershire U18 boys' team secure victory and earn promotion.

The school was extremely proud to have so many pupils representing their counties.

## Regional Champions

The girls' and boys' 1st teams competed in the 11-13 Championships Finals. The girls finished in 3rd position having beaten Lincolnminster in the playoff. The boys played against Ellesmere College in the final. Toby Ward, Callum Hooper, Charlie Fielding and George Hadley all delivered outstanding singles wins, securing the title before the doubles were even required. Yura Pohoretskyi came in for the doubles to complete the tie, and Bromsgrove were crowned Boys' 11-13 Champions.





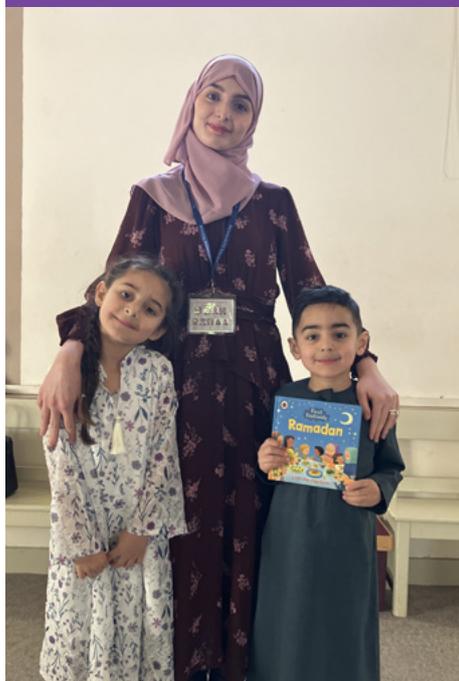
## Vocal Soiree

Five talented singing scholars entertained guests at the Winterfold School Vocal Soirée. Ella Kenyon gave it all with her House Music winning song from *Parade*, whilst Aarush Thapa, Dylan Foster-Agg, Marley Sohna and Wesley Sham formed a barbershop quartet to sing *Metallica*.



## Eid Celebrations

As part of the children's learning about different cultures and celebrations, we were delighted to welcome Mrs Shamma to Pre-Prep who spoke to Reception children about Ramadan and Eid. Mrs Shamma also shared a traditional story and talked about how their family celebrates Eid, giving the children a wonderful insight into these special traditions.



## Equestrian

Chloe Chan competed at the Mediterranean Equestrian Tour in Spain. Over the course of the tour, she stepped up to jumping at 1.20m level, and delivered a fantastic clear round. A brilliant achievement and a great reflection of all her hard work and dedication.

## Biology Olympiad

Congratulations to Aaden Chui, George Lau, Jai Singh, Winnie Zhuang and Wu You Xuan on achieving a gold medal in the British Biology Olympiad. Scores in excess of 72% placed them in the top 5% nationally, out of 18,800 students. They have now undertaken the first selection round to represent the UK at the International Biology Olympiad.



## Young Enterprise

The Young Enterprise team, HydroMind, achieved further success at their trade fair. Thanks to excellent teamwork and a very professional looking stall, not only did they nearly sell out of their branded water bottles, and seed and sentiment cards, they received very high praise from the judges and were awarded 'Best Brand Image' for the second time in the competition. The next step is the Area level of the Company of the Year Competition, so we wish them luck and hope all their efforts are recognised.



## Forest School

Year 4 have been working outdoors in the spring sunshine, weaving willow wreaths, bird feeders and whittling with penknives. They also developed their knot tying skills practising the clove hitch and learning the sheet bend. They even managed to join all twenty ropes together to make a class ring.

# History Competition

Congratulations to Aaran Mok, Alice Toye and Sebastian Dixon in Year 8 for competing in round two of the Townsend Warner History Prize, a national competition for Prep Schools.

All three pupils performed very strongly on the essay paper, writing on a range of challenging topics including Lenin, Pompeii and trench warfare. A special well done to Alice who was highly commended with an impressive 85th place finish, and to Aaran who achieved our highest ever placing in the competition, finishing 46th. A fantastic achievement for all involved - well done.



# Essay Competition

Dosti Dostiyarov's submission to the Future Thought Leaders 2026 Essay competition, in which he discussed 'should the UK government introduce a robot tax', has been successful with him being placed fourth in the country and top 1% nationally. A fantastic achievement.



# Rugby

Congratulations to the U12 Rugby Sevens squad who had an outstanding win at the BVGS tournament. Bromsgrove cruised through the group stages, scoring over twenty tries in three matches and conceding only one. The boys then showed great resilience in the semi-final, fighting back from two tries down against Northampton School for Boys to win a thriller by five tries to four. The final was against Old Swinford, Bromsgrove went from strength to strength, and in an impressive display ran out comfortable winners by six tries. Well done to the whole squad who have worked hard in training to improve throughout the season - just rewards for their full commitment.



# Hockey

## U11A Girls

The team delivered an outstanding performance at the In2Hockey Midlands Regional Finals. In the semi-finals, where they faced a strong Warwick Prep team in a tightly fought contest, Bromsgrove were narrowly defeated 1–0. The girls played brilliantly throughout the afternoon, scoring fifteen goals and conceding just two to secure an excellent top four finish out of fourteen teams in the Midlands region.

## U11A Boys

Huge congratulations to the team on an outstanding performance at the IAPS National Finals. After a determined group stage, finishing with three draws and one loss, the team progressed into the Plate competition. In the quarter-final, they produced an absolute thriller against the hosts Repton, winning in a dramatic sudden-death shuffle shootout. A special mention goes to Joe Clarkson-Kearsley, whose heroic goalkeeping saw him save three out of four attempts, and to Ted Snelling who scored both of his shuffles with calm confidence.

The boys then faced Cargilfield in a fiercely fought semi-final, narrowly losing 1–0. However, they bounced back superbly in the bronze-medal playoff - a rematch of the regional final - defeating Millfield 2–1 to take third place. We are incredibly proud of the boys' achievements throughout the term. They finish the season officially ranked 11th nationally at IAPS. What a brilliant campaign - well done, boys.



## Staff Reading Prize

Congratulations to Marcus Ho on being crowned winner of the 2026 Staff Reading Prize. Marcus' story, *The Borrowed* - read with expressive dynamism - is a detective murder-mystery thriller set in Hong Kong, in which a famous actor is in severe danger and comes to a sticky end.

Avani Bhandal, who read *The Elephant with the Short Nose*, was named junior winner.

Well done also to our other finalists:  
Struan Brockie – *The Ness in Loch Ness*  
Gus Cole – *The Pershore Plum*  
Emily Wiggins - *The Legend of the Bromsgrove Boar*



## Stressbox

During their PSHE lessons, Year 8 pupils have taken part in Stressbox sessions. Enhancing their learning within the current PSHE topic, *Healthy Me*, the aim is for pupils to develop their physical strength and skills through boxing while also supporting their mental wellbeing through meditation and music. We are grateful to the Parents' Association for funding this opportunity each year and helping to provide such a valuable experience to our pupils.



## Indoor Cricket

The School hosted a district indoor cricket tournament in the Arena, where the U13 girls' team remained unbeaten across all three matches, securing convincing victories and demonstrating excellent all-round skills, teamwork and composure throughout.

In the county round, they enjoyed a highly successful afternoon at the indoor county cricket tournament held at Worcester University, winning all four of their matches to progress confidently to the regional final.





## Fencing

The Senior boys' team competed in a challenging two days at the Public Schools' Fencing Championships at Lee Valley. On day one, Ronny Lai achieved an excellent 5th place in the Senior Boys' Foil, supported by George Ascough (19th) and Jasper Page (59th), while Archie Wilson and Arun Nandra placed 38th and 89th in the Junior Épée. On day two, Xenia Gibson joined and impressed with 8th place in the Mount-Haes Épée, with strong performances also from George (18th), Jasper (34th), Archie (68th) and Arun (78th). The team showed great skill, resilience and camaraderie throughout, making it a highly successful and rewarding competition.



## History Department Award

The Prep History Department is proud to have been awarded the Quality Mark by the Western Front Association. This national recognition celebrates schools that demonstrate excellence in teaching and learning about the First World War.

The Quality Mark is awarded to departments that show a strong commitment to helping pupils understand the causes, experiences

and consequences of the First World War. It recognises innovative teaching, meaningful links to local history, and the use of a wide range of resources such as primary sources, memorials and visits to historical sites. Differentiation, enrichment opportunities, and the quality of pupil outcomes were highlighted as particular strengths of the department's provision.

## Work Experience

We're delighted to share that Aidan McGarry has secured two prestigious work experience placements this summer in Engineering Design. Gaining hands-on experience in such a competitive field will provide invaluable insight into the design process, problem-solving, and the real-world application of engineering principles. Opportunities like these not only recognise individual talent but also help shape the next generation of engineers and designers.



## Pop and Jazz

The Pop and Jazz concert was a resounding success. No fewer than thirty-five acts graced the stage, from Big Band classics to soulful solos, with plenty of pupil bands making their debuts too. Congratulations to everyone who took part, including prize winners from the quiz and drum-off. A superb end of term musical treat.



## Orchestral and Choral Concert

The Orchestral and Choral Concert in mid March was a superb showcase for the music department groups. The audience was treated to really polished performances by the Orchestra, String Ensemble, Brass Group, Percussion Ensemble, Flute Choir, Concert Band and two new ensembles, the Chamber Orchestra and Chamber Choir.

The Chamber Choir gave a preview of music they are preparing for a performance with many local schools in Worcester Cathedral at the end of April.





## England Cap

Oli Hewitt received his first cap playing against France for the England Rugby U18 team.



Photo Credit: England Rugby

## Maths Project

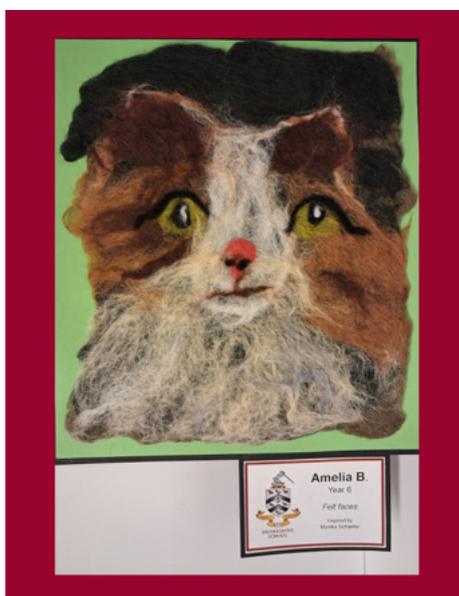
Prep School pupils took part in the Fantasy Maths Nets Project, a creative challenge combining mathematic precision with imagination. Using their understanding of 3D geometry, pupils designed and constructed intricate fantasy-themed structures from nets, including castles, dragons, towers and magical landscapes.

The finished models were judged by Dr Paul Turner, an engineer from D J Goode, who came in to speak to pupils about the practical use of mathematics in the workplace. It was fantastic to see such enthusiasm for maths, with many pupils going above and beyond to produce ambitious and highly detailed designs.

## Art Exhibition

We are delighted to announce that a number of Prep and Pre-Prep pupils have won prizes at the Junior Art Exhibition, hosted at Malvern St James.

- Freddie Levett – Winner in the Year 1 category
- Nancy Townsend – Highly Commended in the Year 3 category
- Freya Ryszkowska – Highly Commended in the Year 5 category
- Amaya Patel – Winner in the Year 6 category
- Nia Roberts – Winner in the Year 7 category
- Zoya Ali Baig – Highly Commended in the Year 8 category
- Amelia Behan – Best in Exhibition



# Netball

## U13

The U13A team competed in the IAPS National Netball Finals, delivering an excellent day of netball against the strongest Prep School teams in the country. The U13 girls made an excellent start to the IAPS Netball tournament, as they secured a place in the quarter-finals. There, they faced Millfield in a closely contested match but were narrowly defeated. The girls performed superbly throughout, showing great skill, teamwork and determination, and represented the School with pride.



## U16

The U16 girls travelled to the EIS in Sheffield to compete against the top eighteen school teams in the country, battling for the title of National Champions. The girls played with determination and passion throughout the day, winning three of their group matches and producing very close results against both the overall winners and runners-up. It is a fantastic achievement for the entire squad to represent Bromsgrove School at this level and to perform so strongly on the national stage. A particular mention goes to Iseoluwa Odugbesan who was awarded Coaches' Player of the Tournament by Miss Brown.



## Charity Sale

Four Year 4 pupils have shown fantastic initiative by setting up a charity sale raising funds for Cancer Research UK. Thank you to everyone who has supported them - the final total is yet to be counted.

## Prep Eisteddfod

The annual Eisteddfod took place, marking a significant date in our school calendar that honours our wartime connection to Llanwrtyd Wells in Wales. The competition across music, poetry, and art remains a vital tradition, reflecting the creative heritage of the community that welcomed our school during the Second World War evacuation.

We were joined by two guest adjudicators who provided professional feedback to all participants. Mr. James Moore, Head of Performing Arts at Clifton College, judged the poetry, while

Ms. Jenna Sainsbury, Head of Music at Solihull School, oversaw the musical performances. Both praised the high standard of work, noting that the level of talent made selecting winners and runners-up a difficult task. Special recognition goes to the students who performed in Routh Hall for the first time, showing great composure. As the event concluded, the judges spoke about the importance of the arts for well-being, encouraging all performers to continue developing their craft.

Congratulations to this year's winners:

Year 3 and 4: Chloe Fowler (Poetry and Year 3 Art), Bleubell Thorne. (Year 4 Art), and Chi-Chi Wheatle (Music, violin).

Year 5 and 6: Matilda Fowler (Poetry), Kimi Fickert (Music, horn), Freya Ryszkowska (Year 5 Art), and Jessica Sessford (Year 6 Art).

Year 7 and 8: Jungsher Deol (Poetry), Rambert Yim (Music, saxophone), Aviana Rai (Year 7 Art), and Alana Fuller (Year 8 Art).



# Bromsgrovian News



## Risk Management

Paolo Romanengo (HH 17-19) joined us in March to present his thoughts on risk management to Lower Sixth Economics classes. Paolo also delivered a presentation to the whole year group, looking at the current issues of war and conflict on economics, business, politics, and society. We are always grateful to our OBs for their enthusiasm in assisting current pupils.

## Visit

Owais Iqbal made a real success of his time at Bromsgrove and particularly enjoyed Young Enterprise activity. He is now on a degree apprenticeship and setting up his own business 'Fledglings', which will educate young people on real life skills such as money management and employability skills. Whilst visiting the School, two of our Futures Pupil Voice leads interviewed Owais for the pupil-led magazine, Two Zero One.



## Hockey: OB v School

In a well-contested hockey match for the Ben Dudley trophies, the OB side rallied early to a 4-0 lead at half time. A better second half from the School leavers led to a response and the match finished 5-2 to the OBs. Victorious for the second year, the Old Bromsgrovian side enjoyed reminiscing about their School days and meeting the current players.

If you are interested in joining OB hockey, please email [oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk)

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](mailto: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.