



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

MICHAELMAS 2023
ISSUE 3



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Wishing all of our families
and friends of the School
Peace and Happiness
this Christmas

West Side Story

The Senior production at Bromsgrove has become one of the undoubted highlights of the school calendar in recent years. This term saw forty-five students from the Senior school performing the iconic musical *West Side Story* to sell-out houses over four nights in the penultimate week of term. Those lucky enough to get a ticket for the production agreed that this year's effort was nothing short of outstanding in its professionalism, its vision and in the commitment of the entire ensemble. Bernstein's demanding but beautiful score was expertly conducted by Mr McKelvey; the extraordinary, multi-layered set and was designed and constructed by the Performing Art Technicians, Messers Jude & Poxon, while Mrs Whitfield once again created a magnificent collection of costumes for the entire cast thoughtfully suggesting with care the style, period and the character of each role.

Gabriel Brown sang the role of Tony with terrific confidence, accuracy and an apparent effortless charm that charmed the whole audience. He was ably matched by Olivia McKelvey as Maria, who broke hearts in the final dramatic moments of the play sobbing over the body of her dead lover. Joe Boardman, was a superbly intense Riff, while Ash Khachatryan brought a smouldering, panther-like energy to the part of Bernardo. Aaron Chan led an outstanding gang of Jets in the great crowd-pleasing number *Officer Krupke* almost bringing the show to a standstill on the last night, such was the strength of the audience's applause. Of Olivia Garrett's performance as Anita there can be no question of its maturity and power: she held everyone on the edge of their seat in the second half of the play and stripped open the brutal, dark violence of the piece.

The final plaudits must go to the cast as a whole; seldom have we witnessed such a uniformly strong and talented company, who sang, danced (what wonderful choreography from Mrs Arnold) and performed to an amazingly assured standard from the first menacing clicks of the Jets and Sharks, through the girls' Puerto Rican exuberance in *America* to the heartbreaking wail of Shusank Nembang's Doc. Every moment of this detailed and tightly rehearsed production was a highlight for its lucky audience, while for all on stage or in the crew, they clearly loving every moment; this was undoubtedly an experience they will never forget and a triumph on every level.



ESO

Congratulations to Gabriel Brown, one of seven ESO youth musicians, selected to play Shostakovich Symphony No. 5 'Side-by-Side' with the professionals of the English Symphony Orchestra.



Juiced

The Senior and Prep Eco-Committee decided to collaborate as they took part in apple pressing. They discussed food miles and the importance of sourcing food locally, as a perfect example the apples used were from our School orchard.



Fundraising

Well done to Makhan Athwal who arranged a fundraising event in aid of the Neonatal Unit at Birmingham Women's Hospital. This hospital is very special to Makhan's family as the amazing staff cared for him when he was born. Makhan's brother, Arjun Athwal, also helped to sell doughnuts, and together they raised £300.





Chartered Teacher

Congratulations to Dr West who recently attended his graduation ceremony after completing the Chartered Teacher Status course earlier this year.

Chartered Teacher Status aims to further develop your professional skills, practice and expertise in enhancing the learning experience and outcomes of students.

Dr West says that the pathway gave him an opportunity to engage in a variety of activities and assessments such as online debates, exams, literature reviews and critical reflections. The most powerful element was using evidence and research, for example in cognitive science, to understand more about how learning occurs and how different strategies can be used to maximise and reinforce learning.

BSRC

Dr Rimmer (Master of Scholars) hosted the sixth annual Bromsgrove School Research Competition. Students were asked to prepare to speak for five minutes, accompanied by a five-slide presentation, to answer the question: 'What piece of literature should be translated into local languages then distributed globally?'. Seven teams entered the competition: participants from Lower Fourth up to Lower Sixth all demonstrated excellent levels of research and public-speaking skills.

The judging panel was chaired by Dr Ruben accompanied by Mrs Bedford and Mrs Ashcroft.

The winning team comprised of Upper Fourth Form students Khai Nguyen, Samyam Rai, Oscar Gurung, Raymond Betiku, and Nathan Limb who impressed the judges with their pragmatic ideas on sharing 'Journey to the West' as an improving tale combined with comedy.



Gymnastics

Congratulations to Evie Ashurst who has been crowned British Gymnastics Women's Artistic Champion (British age group Level 2).

Evie has been training for six years, and she gained a place in the Great Britain squad after successful competitions, results and trials in 2022. After a year of competitions, she completed the compulsory gymnastics route and has now qualified for the British Championships in March. Evie is now classed as an elite gymnast.



Buddies

The Year 6 Buddies have completed their training and are looking forward to supporting and working with the children in Years 3, 4 and 5. They enjoyed talking to the younger pupils about kindness in the 'Make a Noise' anti-bullying week assembly.

Year 8 Buddies have played team building games with younger children at break time, encouraging trust and cooperation.



Critic

Kimi Fickert wrote a book recommendation on *The Castle by the Sea* for *The Week Junior* magazine and was delighted to see it published.

Financial Times

Congratulations to Alexander Lebedev and Celia Vanderweyen who have been selected to represent Bromsgrove School as advocates of the Financial Times. The pair will develop their communication and creativity skills by representing students' views of the FT and promoting the benefits of the FT to their peers and teachers.





IAPS Hockey

The U12 girls travelled to Clifton College to compete in the IAPS National Hockey Finals. They drew one, won two and lost two games. They won their last game of the group stage against Twyford, resulting in them playing in the quarter finals of the Plate competition against Repton. Despite our team's best efforts, Repton scored to win the match. The girls can be very proud of themselves for coming in the top half of the competition.

Many congratulations to the formidable U11A hockey team who became county champions. They played some impressive hockey to dominate throughout the tournament and thoroughly deserved their gold medals.

Cross-Country

The Junior girls, Junior boys and Inter boys travelled to Suffolk to take part in the ESAA National Cross-Country Finals. It was a terrific achievement to qualify for this event as only the top twenty-six schools across the country are invited from the qualifying rounds. All of the teams did extremely well under very cold conditions.



Governors' Visit

We were delighted to welcome the Chairman of Governors, Michael Luckman and members of the Governing Body, to spend the day with us at Senior, Prep, Pre-Prep and Winterfold. Governors visited lessons around the four campuses, interacted with pupils over lunch in the dining hall, enjoyed a lunchtime concert in Routh Hall and took part in after-school activities.



Kindness

The whole School community decided to spread some extra kindness during Anti-Bullying week.

The Reception children created 'Kindness High-Fives', choosing a friend they wanted to gift the High-Five to and wrote kind words about them

In the Prep School, Kindness Week was celebrated several ways, from being treated to delicious 'Kindness' treats, to being read stories by Year 6 Buddies and creating a friendship recipe, recording all the ingredients needed to make a special friend.

In the Senior School the Peer Mentors put smiles on staff and colleagues' faces, by handing out sweets with the message 'Spread kindness like confetti'.

Odd Socks

As part of Anti-Bullying week pupils and staff from the Prep and Senior School wore odd socks to celebrate the diversity in our community as well as raise some smiles. The theme this year was 'Reach Out'.





Bird Boxes

Year 1 designed and produced bird boxes as part of a DT project linked to their creative curriculum topic 'Into the Woods'. The children showed enthusiasm, determination, creativity and independence in producing their beautiful boxes.

Organists

Five young Bromsgrove School organists were invited to Worcester Cathedral to play on the fabulous Kenneth Tickell organ. This was a great opportunity and was enjoyed by all of them.



Art Work

Upper Fourth Art students have been developing their skills using acrylic paint basing ideas on Vorticism. This has challenged their skills in colour, tone and composition.



Oxbright

Congratulations to Sofiia Mikhonicheva and Lauren Baker who took part in the Oxbright Essay Competition 2023. OxBright's mission is to inspire students to succeed, find their purpose and make a difference in the world.

Sofiia wrote a brilliant essay answering the question "How can long-term thinking in the field of Psychology foster optimism about the future?" The panel of judges were very impressed with Sofiia's essay, shortlisting it within a competitive field of over 1000 entries. Sofiia's prize is a free place at an OxBright academic conference.



Lauren's essay was titled 'Historical Pandemics: How Looking Back at the Past Can Create Optimism For the Future'. The judges commented that her

work reflected a deep understanding of the historical context and that her arguments were well-structured. She was awarded highly commended by

the judges, ranking in the top 20% of entries.



Geographers

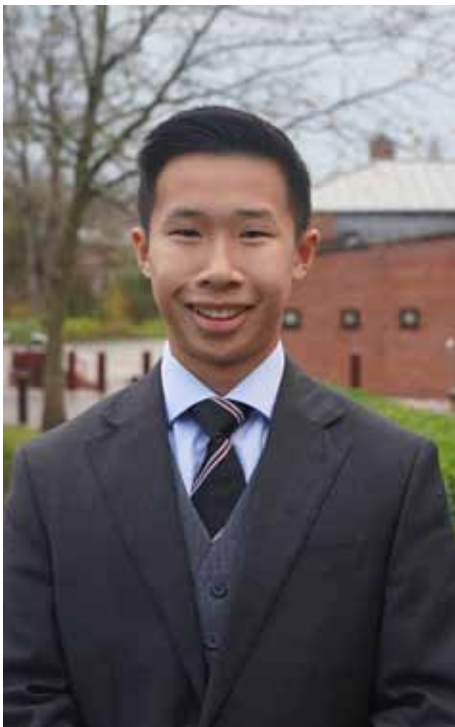
Year 8 Geographers enjoyed a visit to Stratford-upon-Avon to undertake some primary data collection for their geographical enquiry on tourism. The visit allowed pupils to collect data to investigate various impacts of tourism in the town. Pupils gained experience of five different fieldwork methods including pedestrian counts, land use surveys and environmental quality assessments. The results gained were of really high quality and will be very interesting to present and analyse back in the classroom.

Royal Albert Hall

Year 6 pupils travelled to London to take part in the 'Earth Wonder' concert to celebrate our Land, Sea, Sky and Nature. The event, organised by the children's charity Barnardo's to raise funds for vulnerable children, was held in the prestigious Royal Albert Hall.

Over twenty choirs from across the UK came together to perform as part of a massed choir; the schools performed six songs alongside the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra. The concert was hosted by Natasha Kaplinsky OBE, Broadcaster and Barnardo's Vice President together with artistic director/

conductor Ben Pope for the RPO. The Prep School was delighted to be announced as the winner of the Barnardo's fundraising competition, raising £881.73 through the non-uniform day held in November.



John Locke Essay

Well done to Bowen Cheung who received a High Distinction (top 5% of 19,000 entries) in the John Locke essay competition. His essay questioned 'Which characteristics distinguish successful movements for social change from unsuccessful ones?'

His approach consisted of applying Resource Mobilization theories, dimensioning characteristics, periodising movements, and analysing the concept of agenda seeding in a stratified bipartite society whilst looking at success as a relative continuum.

Winter Song

Well done to Henry Shirley who has been chosen to sing with Birmingham Symphonic Winds in their concert, A Winter's Tale. We wish him the best of luck.



Swimming

The U13 girls competed in the ESSA National Finals at the Commonwealth Games swimming pool in Birmingham. Lacey Sutton, Ella Cunningham, Merry Bird and Evie Beckley represented the School in the Freestyle Relay. Initially seeded 23rd from the qualification round, the team finished 20th overall improving both their overall time and position.



Life Skills

Fifth Form boys made cakes and desserts in Life Skills lessons. It was an enormous success: the pupils were an amazing group to teach and their cakes were delicious.



Golf

Huge congratulations to Lili-Rose Hunt who has been crowned European Junior Golf Champion. Lili-Rose's score was five under par; she was the only girl under par and thirteen shots clear of second place, a truly amazing performance.

We were delighted to hear that Lili-Rose has been now chosen for the England Women's Golf Squad. What a fantastic achievement.

Well done also to Mack Jones who was awarded a trophy at Edgbaston Golf Club for winning the Junior Medal Competition. Mack is relatively new to golf and we have been delighted to see his progression over the past six months for both School and his Club.



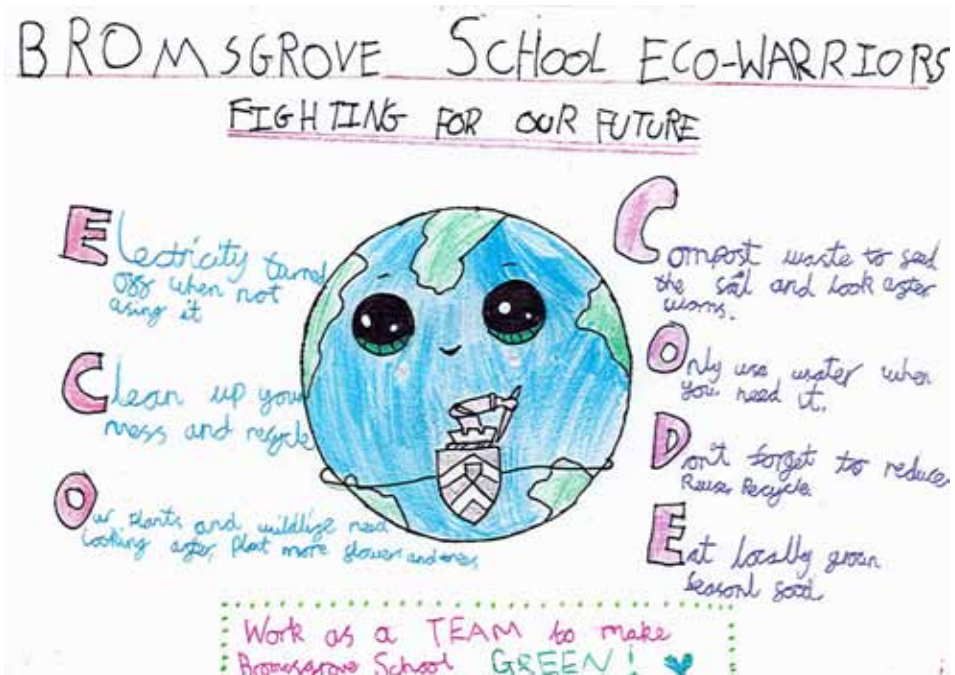


MMI

Our Lower Sixth Medics, Vets and Dentists set up MMI (Multiple Mini Interview) stations to give their Upper Sixth counterparts experience of this type of interview. We wish all Upper Sixth Applicants well as they await invitations to interview for places at top universities.

Webinar

Year 4 experienced a wonderful webinar with the Born Free Foundation and artist, John Dyer from Last Chance to Paint. The children were connected with the environment of orcas using art, working alongside John Dyer as they painted these incredible creatures.



Eco Prep

Prep pupils have been working hard to design a new Eco Code for School. We are pleased to announce that the winner was Nancy Morgan with Harper Coates, Nia Roberts, Summer Dad, Max Morgan, Isabelle James and Miksha all highly commended.

Fencing

A group of fencers travelled to Worcester to take part in the Gala Teams Competition.

In the U10 Foil, the Prep School fielded two teams. Ben White and Theo Williams finished in third place, with Summer Dad and Matilda Wilkes finished in fourth. All four of our pupils were attending their first competition.

In the U12 Foil, Toby Nuttall joined a Warwick fencer to form a team that finished eleventh in by far the largest event of the day.

In the U14 Foil, Kristy Liu joined with fencers from Warwick and Birmingham

to form a team that finished sixth. Meanwhile Ed Coote joined with an Evesham fencer to form an U14 épée team and finished second.

In the Senior épée, George Ascough, Jasper Page and Oliver Gowen fenced well to finish a very close second.

Well done to all of the pupils who took part, it was particularly pleasing to see some new fencers trying their hand at competition for the first time.



Santa Cycle

Mrs Punt recently spoke to Page House children about her experiences running and raising money for Cancer Research UK.

The pupils then started planning a 2K run, but because the weather was icy, they instead went to the Dance Studio to do a 'Santa Cycle'. Medals were awarded for the fastest and prizes handed out for the best attitude and determination. The Headmaster and Mrs Punt came along to support, which delighted everyone. In total £100 was raised.

Netball

Congratulations to the 1st Netball team who won all six matches in the County Tournament to be crowned County Champions.

This means that School is now County Champions in all three age groups: U19, U16 and U14.

The teams look forward to representing the County in the Regional Finals in January.



Pop and Jazz

On a chilly November evening there was a warm atmosphere made by the sell-out crowd at this year's Christmas Pop & Jazz.

Groups such as Orchestra and Mixed Voice Choir opened the evening with film music from *Spirited Away*, and ABBA wishing everyone a pre-emptive Happy New Year. There was plenty of Prep representation, with the Jazz and Rock Bands taking to the stage with

tinsel-clad trombones. The student bands, For Magonia and Impulse, led the way with polished performances worthy of a professional arena. We also heard from star soloists performing for the first time, including Charissa Brobbey-Sarpong singing Alicia Keys, Jack Hobson with *Maneater* and Thomas Shaw bringing the house down with Slade's *Merry Xmas Everybody*. Without a doubt the act everyone was talking about was the A-Cafellas, a

fantastic barbershop troupe, arranging their own twists on songs by Fleet Foxes and Billy Joel.

The finale was a Christmas Pop & Jazz swan song for our two Upper Sixth Big Band vocalists, Joseph Boardman and Olivia Garrett. Singing *Blue Christmas* and *This Christmas*, they filled everyone's hearts with enough Christmas cheer to last through the season.



Orchestral Concert

The Orchestral and Soloists Concert highlighted the enormous range of musical talent at Bromsgrove. Soloists from all disciplines delighted the audience with a variety of beautifully played pieces, then the larger ensembles presented a programme ranging from a Disney Medley to orchestral classics by Smetana and Mendelssohn.



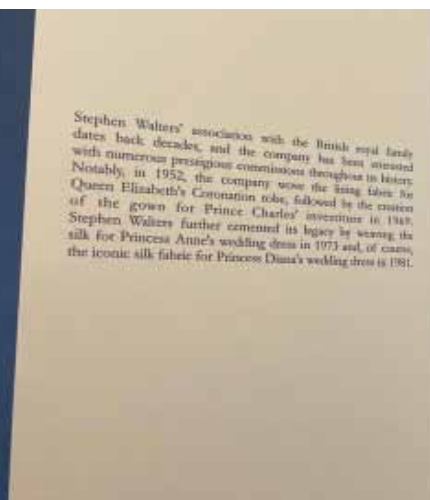
Rugby

The 1st XV produced an excellent performance to overcome a strong Radley side in the National Quarter-Final, setting up a Semi-Final in March against Kirkham Grammar school at Aylesbury RFC. The boys produced one of their best defensive efforts of the season to hold Radley to two tries while playing some following rugby with the ball in hand to score five tries of their own.

The 1st XV finished the week off with a dogged performance in some very challenging weather conditions to beat Warwick school 12 points to 5, finishing the Michaelmas term unbeaten. This is a significant achievement and has only previously been achieved twice before in the school's long history of playing rugby.

Speical Silk

The Art Department has been gifted some beautiful silk by Stephen Walters & Sons, who produced the silk for Queen Camilla's Coronation dress and Princess Diana's wedding dress. The Art Department are looking forward to putting the fabric to great use.



Activities

Prep School children are always busy enjoying themselves in Saturday Activities. Craft is a popular activity where pupils have the chance to create gorgeous toys and decorations as well as having a go at computer animation.





Tea and Carols

Bromsgrove Service students welcomed elderly guests from Burcot Grange, Burcot Lodge and Chandler Court for an afternoon of tea, quizzes and song all with a Christmas theme. The students served tea and coffee to our guests while the School's saxophone group serenaded the visitors with a variety of Christmas tunes. There was a festive quiz hosted by Ayushma Thapa, Sayana Rai and Ashna Ghale. The afternoon was rounded off by singing a few Christmas songs together.

A brilliant time was had by all, and our guests commented on the fantastic hospitality and excellent manners of the students. We look forward to welcoming them back in the Lent term.

Christmas Joy

Pre-Prep pupils enjoyed a couple of festive activities towards the end of term. They all enjoyed a visit from Santa, a Christmas themed KAPLA workshop and a Christmas party.



Bromsgrovian News

Remembrance

This year our Contingent Commander, Major Farnes, had the privilege of spending Remembrance weekend in London. On the Saturday he attended the Centenary Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall, and on Sunday Morning joined fellow veterans of the Royal Signals Association for the Act of Remembrance at the Cenotaph, and participated in the march through Whitehall and taking the Salute from the Princess Royal.



(Photo credit: Tristan Harris, Bromsgrove Standard)



Visit

We were delighted to welcome back Jenna Kam (MW18-20) and her partner. Jenna enjoyed reminiscing in her old boarding House and the music school.



Talk

Old Bromsgrovian John Massey brought his knowledge and wit to Routh Hall stage for a talk on 'Gardening through Spring and Summer'. The audience enjoyed the occasional reminiscences about his school days, coupled with his unrivalled knowledge of plant life.

We are very grateful to all Old Bromsgrovians, parents and friends of the School who purchased tickets - the proceeds will go towards the Foundation's Life-Changing Bursaries scheme.



Farewell

The time has almost come to say farewell to our five Gap teachers who have spent the past year with us at Bromsgrove and Winterfold. The Headmaster and Mrs Punt invited them to Thatcholme to say farewell.

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.