



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

MICHAELMAS 2025
ISSUE 2



A Word from the Headmaster

Recently, I came across the proverb: *In time of test, family is best*. Although we are preparing young people at Bromsgrove School to make their own way in the world — to live happy and fulfilled lives, and to make a difference to others — all of us need the support of those around us, just as we, in turn, support others. That is what families do, both when things are going well and when times are more testing.

Families come in many shapes and sizes. They may live together or be separated by great distances, but few are quite as large, or extend as far, as the Bromsgrove School family. Nevertheless, we hope that the School has a family feel and embodies family values. In response to the recent whole-school survey, one pupil wrote of their House: “I have only been in [my House] for about a year but I have loved every moment of it. The teachers are so kind, I get along with so many others in [my House], and it is very homely and comfortable.”

As in any family, bonds are formed when we do things together. At this time of year, one such example is the Senior School House Song competition, when members of each House work together to combine their individual musical and dancing talents into a performance, in front of over a thousand peers, staff, and, of course, an adjudicator who has the unenviable task of picking winners. House Song this year was excellent, as always, and it was wonderful to see the joy on the faces of everyone involved.

I was also reminded of the enduring nature of family ties when I met Old Bromsgrovians in London recently. Although they have each followed different paths beyond School, memories and friendships were instantly rekindled when the OBs came together again. We hope that once young people join the Bromsgrove family, they remain connected, even long after they have left School.

And then, of course, there was the tragic loss of Namsong Rai, who passed away so young in early October. His death touched us all deeply and reminded us, once again, of the importance of those close to us, particularly when we are going through the toughest of times.

A school should be like a second family — a place where we are known, supported, and encouraged to grow. Like a family, it brings together people of different ages, backgrounds, and talents, bound by shared values and genuine care for one another. Most importantly, it is where we belong.

On the pages that follow, I hope you enjoy reading a selection of highlights from the last few weeks across the Bromsgrove family.

Michael Punt
HEADMASTER

In Memory of Namsong

On 6th October, at the age of just fifteen, Namsong Rai sadly passed away. He had been unwell for some time, and he will be deeply missed by his many friends, by staff, and of course by his family.

Namsong joined Bromsgrove School as a boarder in the Prep School when he was ten. He was a much-respected member of the community - kind, talented, and always eager to make the most of the opportunities available to him. This enthusiasm continued when he moved into the Senior School and joined Wendron-Gordon House, where his huge potential was clear to all who spent time with him.

At his very moving funeral, held at the start of half term, parents, friends, and several staff who had known him especially well came together to pay tribute. Some of Namsong's friends took part in the service in a fitting reflection of the warmth and affection he inspired in others.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Namsong's parents, sister, and wider family. He was, in every sense, a Bromsgrovian through and through.

Celebrating
THE LIFE OF



NAMSONG RAI

28.01.2010 – 06.10.2025

Saturday 18th October 2025 at 10.30am
Holy Trinity Church, Attleborough, Nuneaton

Computational Challenge

Congratulations to Marley Sohna and Spike Bloxham who were recognised for their exceptional skills in Computational Physics, achieving the Gold Award in the British Physics Olympiad 2025 (Computational Physics Challenge).



Pumpkins

Max Morgan continues with his pumpkin business, producing some beautiful pumpkins and squashes despite the challenging growing year. The lack of rain meant the pumpkins didn't get the start they needed and the sizes have suffered. However, Max used this to his advantage and decided to make 'Artisan Pumpkin' hampers to sell.



CCF

During a recent CCF session, two Upper Sixth Cadets were promoted to Senior Cadet ranks: Isabel McDouall to Cadet Regimental Sergeant Major (Army Section) and another pupil to Cadet Warrant Officer (RAF Section). The Headmaster presented their new rank slides and pace sticks in recognition of their achievements.

We are also delighted to announce that our Contingent Commander, Mr Farnes, has been promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. Congratulations to all on these well-deserved promotions.



Stone Age

Year 3 had a very exciting day of hands-on learning that enriched their understanding of the Stone Age. They investigated how people used bones, created cave paintings on slate, tried their hands at making arrows, and even practised archery to simulate hunting for food. Many thanks to Historic Workshops for providing such a brilliant and engaging experience.

Netball

Many congratulations to our U13 netballers who beat Trent College in a competitive first round draw of the Sisters N Sport National Cup. We wish them the best of luck as they continue through the competition.



Pupil Voice

The first meeting of the Prep School's Pupil Voice Committee took place at the start of October, bringing together representatives from every class to share ideas for the year ahead. Chaired by Monty Yiend and Emily Kesterton, the group discussed how to make School life even better – from enhancing playground experiences to suggesting new clubs and ensuring everyone feels heard. Pupil Voice continues to promote democracy, teamwork and shared responsibility across the School. We look forward to seeing their ideas make a real difference this year.

Church Helpers

Building bridges between St John's Church and Bromsgrove School, pupils are supporting one of Bromsgrove's most historic landmarks. Pupils are raising funds, creating information booklets, and finding ways to promote and preserve the rich heritage of St John's Church.





Charity Run

Sixty-five boarders and three staff laced up their trainers for the annual Oakley House 5km charity run. This year, the House raised money for the Wonder Foundation, empowering women and girls to get the education they need to exit poverty for good.

You can read more about their challenge here: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/victoria-adams-5>

Rugby

Our girls' rugby team trained with Bromsgrove Rugby Club. The School team is preparing for their first full season, so being able to gain some hints and tips from BRFC was much appreciated - thank you to the club for taking time out of their evening to meet and train with our pupils.



Eventing

Chloe Chan, riding Trinity Cavalier, put on a brilliant performance at Moreton Morrell British Eventing. Their hard work and dedication shone through, with Chloe showing a real partnership and determination. This is an exciting step forward in their journey together into Juniors.

Pottery

The Prep School Art Department was thrilled to welcome ceramicist Stephen Parkes, who also happens to be the School's AV Technician. He worked with some of our Year 7 and Year 8 pupils during a hands-on clay workshop.

We were also delighted to welcome pupils from Winterfold School for these special enrichment sessions. Together, students learned the art of sculpting clay pumpkins - just in time for autumn.

We can't wait to see how these creative pieces turn out once they are glazed and fired.



Competition

The Headmaster judged the Senior House Pumpkin Competition. The winners were:

- 1st place - Lupton
- 2nd place - Ottilie Hild
- 3rd place - Housman Hall

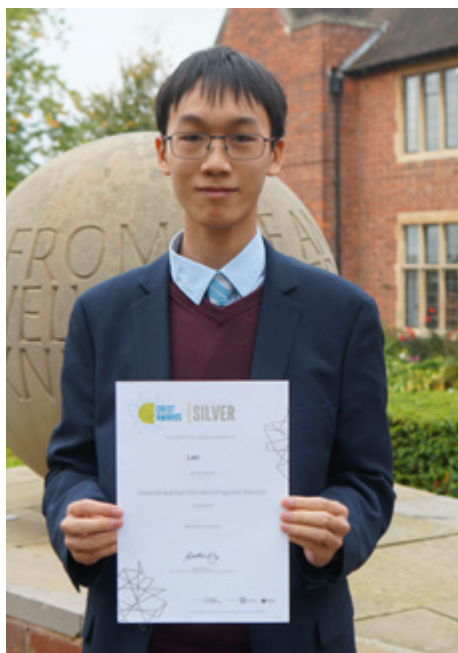


Sustainability Week

As part of Pre-Prep Sustainability Week, Reception pupils were introduced to the concept of recycling. Working together, they collected various items and began sorting them into different categories. This hands-on activity sparked conversations about the materials the items were made from, such as plastic, paper, metal, and glass, and why it's important to recycle each one. The children showed great curiosity, asking thoughtful questions and sharing their own ideas about how we can help protect the environment.

CREST Award

Congratulations to Leo Chan who has achieved his silver CREST Award, a UK STEM initiative that encourages young people to tackle real-world problems through research, design, and practical projects. It develops skills such as problem-solving, teamwork, and communication.



Debating Competition

Six members of the School debating team travelled to London to take part in the LSE Schools' Debating competition. Tackling a range of motions from the centralisation of the feminist movement to the privatisation of the NHS, our students performed extremely well in securing a number of first place finishes in their respective debates. It was also great to catch up with current LSE students, and debating team alumni and Old Bromsgrovians, Armstrong Dong (W-G 20-23) and Jakob Kreidl (HH 23-25, pictured).



Diwali

Our Reception children had a wonderful visit from Isha's Mother, who shared how her family celebrates Diwali. They enjoyed hearing the story of Rama and Sita and asked lots of questions about the traditions and celebrations.



Poster Competition

Well done to Sakura Wang who was awarded Best Design for her poster entry in the St John's College, Cambridge Poster Competition 2025.

The academic judges and Competition Chair, Professor Tom Hynes, reviewed over 400 entries this year. The panel concluded that Sakura's political analysis showed clear ambition and a willingness to interrogate contemporary politics in a provocative and original way. The judges agreed that Sakura demonstrated a confident and imaginative political voice, with strong potential for a future scholarship.



Pizzas

After harvesting tomatoes during Pre-Prep Gardening Club, the children enjoyed making pizzas to take home and share with their families.



Scarecrow

Reception classes have brought 'The Colour Monster' to life with a vibrant and imaginative scarecrow creation. Inspired by the beloved story, the scarecrow is decorated with bright paints and colourful fabrics, each representing a different emotion - such as yellow for happiness and blue for sadness, just as in the book.

As part of PSHE lessons, the children explored a range of emotions, discussing what each one feels like and sharing personal examples of what makes them feel that way. This hands-on project provided a fun, creative, and collaborative way for the children to express their understanding of emotions while developing their teamwork skills.

Rugby Tour

During half-term, Mr Windo and Mr Colson took twenty-six Upper Fourth boys on a short rugby tour to Wales for a rugby packed weekend. The group stopped at Abergavenny RFC for a training session and some lunch before heading to their first game against Newport School. The purpose of the tour was to challenge the boys on the field and prepare them for the remainder of the season ahead, and the Newport game certainly did challenge them. The boys worked hard against a skilful and physical Newport team but lost the game 12-28.

On Saturday morning the boys travelled to the Principality stadium for a guided tour of the Welsh National stadium. The boys enjoyed spending time in the changing rooms, media room, hospitality box as well as getting to stand pitch side. After lunch the boys were given free time to enjoy Cardiff city centre before travelling to Newbridge to watch The Ospreys URC game against Glasgow Warriors that evening.

The following day the squad travelled back up to Bromsgrove RFC. As several of the boys also play for the club, Mr Windo agreed they could

represent the club on Sunday morning for an important cup match. All the remaining boys on tour that do not play for Bromsgrove RFC, played their final game against Luctonians RFC. The boys played some excellent rugby in attack while defending heroically at times resulting in a 33-14 victory. It was also pleasing to see the boys from School perform well for their club in the cup match, helping secure a 50-point victory.



Music Tour

A forty-strong senior orchestra toured Belgium and the Netherlands during the half term break, enjoying sight-seeing in Brussels and Gouda as well as performing three concerts in Noordwijk, Utrecht and Amsterdam.

The musical standard was as high as Mr McKelvey can recall in his thirteen years at Bromsgrove, and the group was received warmly at their concerts; none more so than at Utrecht Cathedral (the Domkerk) with a 300+ audience. The group was presented with a candle in thanks of their performances, the

churchwarden citing that they had “brought light into the building” with their music. All were praised for their manner too.

It was lovely to also go on some fabulous excursions, including a group selfie-tour of Brussels city centre, a cheese farm and clog factory, a canal cruise and of course, enjoying plenty of waffles and pancakes.

Free time in various places saw an inventive array of hats, local delicacies and souvenirs being purchased.

The group was pleased to be supported by some parents who made the trip out, and we feel sure that another tour might be on the horizon soon, based on this one’s success.

A small selection of pieces performed on the tour will be performed again at the St Cecilia’s Concert in Routh on November 20th; please do come along.



Volleyball

We are delighted to announce the inauguration of the Independent Schools' National Volleyball Cup, with the National Finals to be hosted at Bromsgrove on Tuesday, 9th December 2025. With particular thanks to Head of Girls' PE and Games, Mrs Buckingham.

The event will feature both boys' and girls' teams, with sixteen teams from across the UK competing in an open age group. Matches will take place on both the arena volleyball courts and the old sports hall court.

We are proud that the School consistently ranks among the top five schools for sport (out of 26 different sports). We offer a broad range of sporting opportunities, combining traditional sports with a variety of newer options, including, of course, volleyball. Our goal is to provide every pupil with something they enjoy. Volleyball has been part of our programme for several years and has grown particularly popular, especially among our international boarding students. We look forward to hosting the National Volleyball Finals in December.



Internet Safety

We were delighted to welcome Mr Karl Hopwood, a leading expert in online safety, in to School to work with the Prep pupils.

Karl, a former headteacher, supports schools, families and young people as they navigate the digital world; he is part of the UK Safer Internet Centre and regularly advises national organisations on how best to protect children online. Well known to Bromsgrove School, Karl visits us each year, and we are always thrilled to hear from him as the ever-evolving online world continues to change so rapidly.

Karl delivered age-appropriate sessions to pupils in Years 3 to 8, encouraging them to celebrate the many positive aspects of being online, while also recognising potential risks and learning practical strategies to keep themselves safe. His talks developed in depth as the children grew older, ensuring that each year group could engage with material that was relevant and meaningful to them.

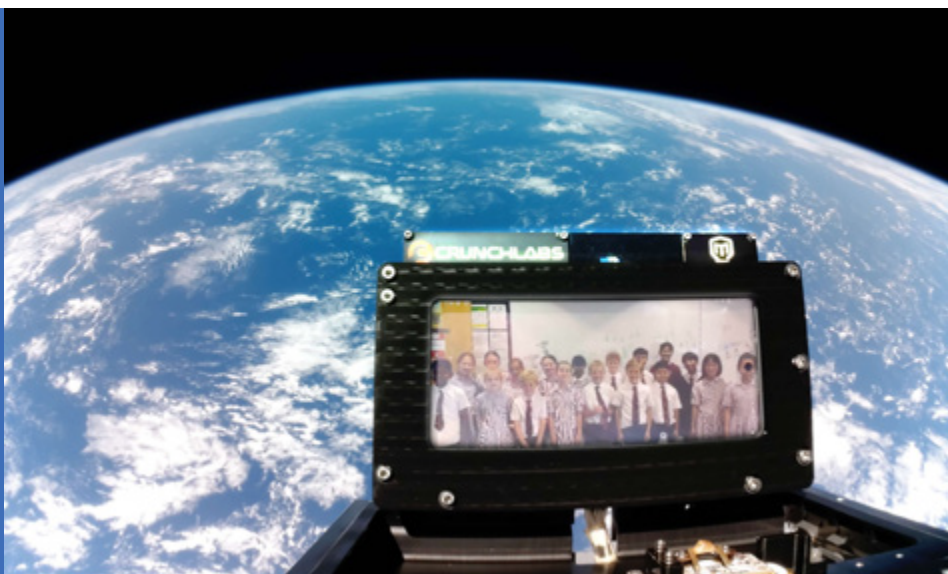


Shoebox Appeal

Christmas preparations have already started at Bromsgrove. Prep School students have been busy wrapping shoeboxes for our Teams4U Christmas Shoebox appeal.

Space

Last year, to celebrate the completion of their mathematical activities, Year 6 were awarded with a Space Selfie, organised by Crunch Labs. The photograph was sent into space and captured, showing the Earth behind it. Well done to everyone involved.



Mosaic Workshop

We were delighted to welcome Artist Ellie Sandall to Pre-Prep for a wonderful creative workshop. Every child was involved as each year group collaborated to design and create two stunning mosaic woodland animals, which will soon brighten the fencing around Forest School.

The children completed the project with care and enthusiasm, thoughtfully

selecting colours and shapes before carefully placing each piece to bring the animals to life. Ellie also shared insights into her work as an artist, sparking the children's curiosity and inspiring thoughtful questions.

We can't wait to see the mosaics installed in the coming weeks, where they will be enjoyed by our whole school community.

Reading Challenge

Well done to Krishnan Madhavan who completed the Summer Reading Challenge 2025. He received his certificate and medal from Droitwich Library.





Cross-Country

Well done to all the boys and girls who participated in the District Cross-Country event, which was hosted here at Bromsgrove School.

Congratulations to Anaardh Thandi, Monty Yiend, Evelyn Quinn, Eleanor Ballard and Rose Thompson who have all qualified for the next round of the competition.

Tennis

Raaed Ahmad, Leeya Kalidas, Lamiya Esmailji and Marnie Yiend all competed in the H&W LTA 8&u county league in Malvern at Manor Park Tennis club. For Raaed, Lamiya & Marnie, this was their first time playing competitive tennis matches.

Congratulations to Jake Webley, winner of the U9 Grade 4 event at Coventry and North Warwickshire Tennis Club.

Starting tennis lessons at a young age builds more than just skills on the court; it teaches discipline, focus, confidence, and teamwork. Plus, it's a fun way for

children to stay active and make friends.

If you are interested in tennis lessons for your child, please contact the Director of Tennis, Mr Richard Lawton - rlawton@bromsgrove-school.co.uk



Harvesting Potatoes

The Nursery children had a fantastic time harvesting potatoes from the Pre-Prep garden. They proudly took their crop to Mrs Collins who kindly roasted them for everyone to enjoy at lunchtime. A lovely farm-to-fork experience.



Sustainability Guest

Mr Jason Smith, a Sustainability Consultant from ERM, visited the Prep School to deliver a talk to all our Years 7 and 8 students. Mr Smith shared the important work that ERM is doing in helping brands and companies become more sustainable.

ERM is the largest pure play sustainability consultancy, partnering the world's leading organisations to create solutions to climate change. The talk coincided with our Prep School Sustainability Week, and the pupils gained a valuable insight.



Demonstration

Head Chef Ben treated the Senior Gardening Club to a fantastic cookery demonstration using fruit and vegetables the students have grown in the School garden. They learnt tips about preparation and sampled the delicious parsnip soup and apple and rhubarb crumble that Ben made from the ingredients.



House Song

The annual House Song Competition took place just before the October half-term. All twelve houses took part, performing a wonderful variety of songs inspired by the theme of Halloween.

Every house performed brilliantly, but the following prizes were awarded:

Overall Winner: Oakley
Runners-up: Mary Windsor

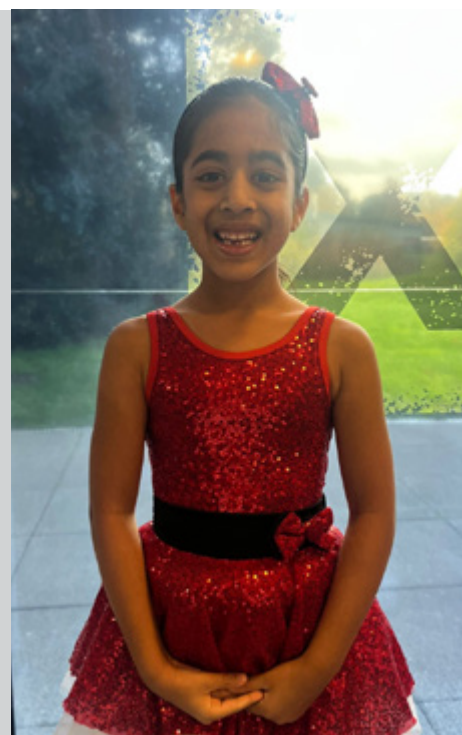
Accompanist's Prize: Spike B (Walters)
Conductor's Prize: Linnea D & Isabel M (Hazeldene)
Best Creative Performance: Housman Hall



Dance

Ariya Oozageer took part in her first dance competition over October half term and won a silver medal for her Classical ballet piece on pointe. She really enjoyed the day, and loved the experience.

Her sister, Avara, also performed in her first dance competition. She was awarded a bronze medal for her confident jazz solo.



Autumnal Activities

Reception children enjoyed a wonderful day full of autumnal activities with a highlight being Pumpkin Soup making. Pupils began by sharing the story 'Pumpkin Soup', bringing the characters to life with role play and masks. Next, they explored the recipe together before the children got hands-on, carefully preparing the vegetables for the soup. Once everything was ready, the children watched the cooking process with great excitement and finally, enjoyed a warm spoonful of their very own pumpkin soup, served with a slice of bread.



The Answer Run

Two members of our School Shop staff recently took part in the BBC quiz show, The Answer Run hosted by Jason Manford. Sue Gould, along with her daughter Laura, filmed the show in Glasgow in March 2025. Their episode can be found on BBC iPlayer, Series 2: Episode 20.



Apple Pressing

During Prep School Sustainability Week, Mr Marie tried his hand at apple pressing, and helped to produce some delicious fruit juice with apples from the School Orchard.



Crafts Club

The Diamond Art and Felt Crafts Club is just one of the many exciting Saturday activities available to all Preparatory School pupils, both day and boarding. Pupils enjoy experimenting with colour, texture and design as they create beautiful pieces using diamond art kits and felt materials.



Hockey

Congratulations to the U13A girls' hockey team who have just qualified for the IAPS National Finals.

They finished top of their group, winning five matches and drawing one. Bromsgrove then won their quarter final and semi final but narrowly lost 1-0 to Repton in the final.

Well done to the team on finishing as regional runners up.



EAL Support

The School welcomed trainee teachers from the North Worcestershire Teacher Training Hub for a session on delivering effective EAL support.

Mrs Rehana Parveen, Head of International Education at Bromsgrove School, led the workshop and discussed strategies such as scaffolding, explicit vocabulary teaching, visuals and modelling, talk rich routines, and formative assessment.

Organists

A brilliant workshop was organised by the Worcestershire Organists' Association (WOA). Mr Ollie Neale from WOA demonstrated the Tamburini and the pupils loved having a look inside the case. It was a real eye-opener for them to see and play a mechanical instrument.



Bromsgrove Service

One of the co-curricular activities offered through Bromsgrove Service involves visiting residential homes. Our students particularly enjoy spending time at Burcot Grange, where they engage in conversations with the residents.



Peer Mentors

Mrs Boonnak led a safeguarding training session with the new cohort of 'Bring Your Whole Self to Bromsgrove' Peer Mentors.

The Peer Mentoring scheme enables younger pupils to have a point of contact with older students who are trained to offer wellbeing support, foster a sense of community, and complement the existing House and tutor system at Bromsgrove.

Dance-a-thon

Thomas Cookes recently completed a 24 hour dance-a-thon for the children's cancer charity 'Neath's Nails', Neath was a family friend of one of the Thomas Cookes girls, and she sadly passed away after a brave battle with a rare form of lymphoma. Neath was just 12 years old and dancing was something she adored and continued to do even throughout her treatment, making this challenge a fitting way to honour her.

During her treatment, Neath's nails became discoloured, a common side effect of chemotherapy, she loved painting her nails in bright colours which caught the attention of doctors and nurses. Neath's family have set up Neath's Nails, now a registered children's cancer charity. The charity provides nail care packages, gifts, vouchers and special experiences to children on the oncology journey, helping to bring joy and smiles during

the toughest of times.

The girls have currently raised £3,300, if you would like to find out more or further support please follow the link - https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/teagan-guilfoyle?utm_medium=CR&utm_source=CL



Charity Cycle

Over the first week of half term, Mr Jones cycled the length of Spain from Santander to Malaga to raise money for Birmingham Children's Hospital accompanied by five other cyclists from Stourbridge CC. The total distance was just under 700 miles, 36,000 feet of climbing and nearly 1/4 million pedal revolutions.

Mr Jones is very grateful to all the Bromsgrove colleagues and families who sponsored him.



Moon Festival

Our boarders came together to celebrate the Moon Festival. Thank you to our friends at Bromsgrove International School Cambodia for their generous gift of mooncakes, which made the evening even more special. A wonderful opportunity to celebrate tradition, community, and friendship.

The Oakley girls also invited Page girls for a home cooked meal to celebrate the Moon Festival



Visit to BISC

The Headmaster, Mr Punt, and Assistant Head, Miss Scannell, spent two days at the beginning of October at Bromsgrove International School Cambodia, which opened in September. The impressive new building is now complete, and they met with staff, pupils, and parents.

Phnom Penh is developing rapidly; the newly opened Techo International Airport, a vast 6,400-acre site, began operations just four weeks ago.

We will continue to explore opportunities to work with the new School, as we do with other members of the Bromsgrove family of schools.



Bromsgrovian News

Musical Reunion

Old Bromsgrovian Simon Williams (69-72), now living in the Netherlands, came to see our musicians in concert whilst they were on tour in Utrecht. Simon was in School House and played trumpet and piano at Bromsgrove - here he is pictured with a current pianist, a trumpeter and Director of Music, Mr McKelvey.



Visits

Old Bromsgrovian Joseph Hong (E 18-23) met up with his IB Economics teacher, Mr Bell. After Bromsgrove, Joseph went on to study Engineering in London and is now looking forward to successful year in industry after fulfilling his military service back in South Korea. Joseph also enjoyed reconnecting with his Houseparents, Mr and Mrs Giles, and Miss Heard (Elmshurst Housemother).



Thailand Reception

We were delighted to host a warm and welcoming evening reception in Bangkok for our current and former parents, as well as Old Bromsgrovians. Hosted by the Headmaster, Mr Punt, the event was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect, reminisce, and celebrate the enduring Bromsgrove spirit.

Thank you to everyone who joined us – your continued support and shared memories are what make our global Bromsgrove community so special.



It was lovely to see Old Bromsgrovians Harriet Eales (Hz 00-08) and Edward Eden (S 97-08) with their daughter at our most recent Prep Open Morning. A wonderful full circle moment for our Bromsgrovian community.



London Event

In October, Old Bromsgrovians gathered at The Fable in London for a lively alumni networking reception. From medicine to investment banking, journalism, AI and technology, guests represented a wide range of professions across the generations. The evening provided a wonderful opportunity for OBs to reconnect with old friends, share memories of their School days, and make valuable new connections within the Bromsgrovian community.

The Headmaster, Mr Punt, joined the

occasion and gave a brief update on life at the School today, highlighting recent achievements and developments. He expressed his gratitude to everyone who attended for their continued support and enthusiasm, noting how inspiring it was to see the enduring strength of the Bromsgrovian network.

The event was a warm reminder of the lasting bonds forged at Bromsgrove and the shared pride that unites its alumni around the world.



Cricket

Jasper Davidson (Ly 15-20) has been named in the MCC squad for their tour of Zimbabwe. The team will play seven games at the start of October.



Photo Credit: Cricket Scotland

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.

Marathon

We've just heard from Freddie Meredith (Ly 15-17) who will be running the Brighton Marathon in April 2026 for the charity, Alzheimer's Society. He is in training now, and we wish him the very best of luck for next year's challenge.

You can find out more about Freddie's story and the charity he is supporting here: <https://2026brightonmarathonweekend.enthuse.com/pf/freddie-meredith>

