



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

COMMEMORATION DAY

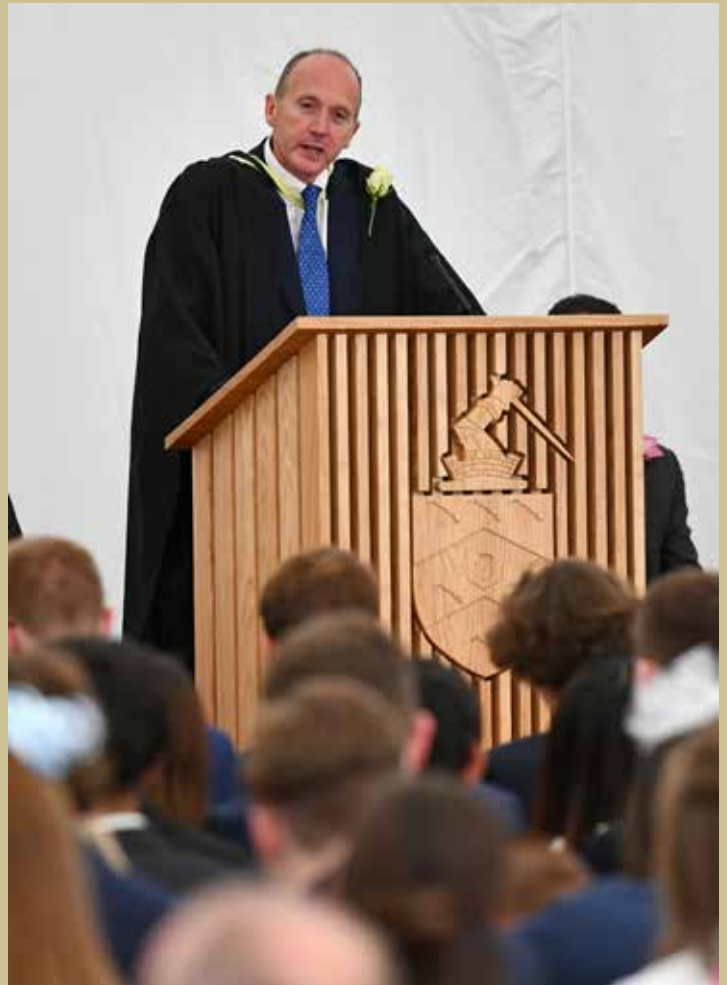
SATURDAY JUNE 27TH 2026

Commemoration Day is the Senior School's traditional end of year celebration. It is a very special day for the School and especially for our Upper Sixth Leavers. Commemoration Day is the most important day in our School year and all pupils are expected to attend. In 1693 Sir Thomas Cookes re-endowed the School and enjoined that once a year a sermon should be preached to the Scholars of the School in St John's Parish Church. It is this that the School commemorates as well as celebrating the end of the academic year with prizegiving.

Following a very small private ceremony in Cookes Room celebrating our founder Sir Thomas Cookes, the senior pupils (Fifth and Sixth Form) proceed to St John's Church for the Commemoration Service. Parents of Upper Sixth Pupils will be invited to apply for tickets for the Church Service from Mr McClure's office. As space is very limited in the Church, admission is by ticket only and is limited to two tickets per family. Upper Sixth parents will receive a letter with all the information required to reserve their tickets for the Service. If you have any queries about Church Service tickets please email commemoration@bromsgrove-school.co.uk

After the Church Service everyone returns to School and takes their place in the speeches' marquee. The School and parents are addressed by the President of the School and the Headmaster. Prizes are awarded to Upper Sixth Leavers and other pupils.

Lunch and various displays and events then happen around the School grounds and at 4.15pm all pupils attend Final Call-Over.



SPEECHES AND PRIZEGIVING

Speeches take place in the marquee on Routh Green, and all parents and friends of Bromsgrove are welcome to attend. Parents are asked to be seated no later than 11.50am - the Marquee begins to fill up from 11.30am.

During the Speech Day Ceremony the President, Vice Presidents, Governors and Trustees of Bromsgrove School are in attendance to witness the awarding of the end of year prizes including seven special prizes. Prize Giving finishes at about 1.00pm and is followed by lunch in your chosen venue.

WHAT OPTIONS ARE THERE FOR LUNCH?

After speeches, everyone enjoys lunch before Final Call-Over, and we very much encourage you to make the afternoon a family occasion.

The **School PA** organise an excellent **lunch in the Parents' Association Marquee** on Gordon Green. Pre-booking is essential. You will be charged for meals booked as an extra on your School fee invoice. A letter with information about making a reservation for the PA Marquee will be sent out after half term.

Many Houses have a **House marquee** on Lower Charford, by the Cricket pitch where you can take lunch. Your child's Houseparent will be able to give you information about arrangements for their marquee since all the Houses look after this through their individual House Parents' Association.

Many parents and friends **relax in pre-booked gazebos** on Lower Charford. Information about booking Gazebos will be sent to parents.

A picnic zone is available on the grassed area on Lower Charford for families who may either bring their own picnic or take advantage of one of the excellent outside suppliers who join us for the day. To fully enjoy this area it is advisable to bring your own seating/rugs.

This year we once again have some superb mobile catering from local suppliers for you to enjoy including: Burgers from the award winning 'Beefy Boys; Wood Fired Pizza freshly cooked by Pizza Heaven; savoury and sweet Crêpes by Isabel's Bakehouse; cakes and sweet treats by Brownies & more; Bayleys of Bromsgrove are bringing their popular prosecco, craft beer and cocktail bar; the Fizz Truck will be selling champagne drinks and the ever popular ice cream van will be serving chilled treats. All these options are reasonably priced and no pre-ordering is required.

Any unaccompanied pupils may have lunch in the Dining Hall at 1.00pm. They must sign up for this in advance through their House. Houseparents can advise about this.

At 3.30pm, afternoon tea will be served on Gordon Green for parents.

WHAT OTHER EVENTS HAPPEN ON THE DAY?

After speeches and lunch there is the opportunity to walk around the School grounds and enjoy some of the extra events we will be running.

The traditional **Challenge Cricket Match** of U15 v U14 XI teams starts at 2.00pm (weather allowing).

There will be an **end of year exhibition** of pupils work in the ADT building.

The **Heritage Centre** will be open with a display of historical artefacts and OB memorabilia and the opportunity to use the the interactive displays and to see exhibition work by our Archive Club students.

At 3.30pm the **Jazz Band** will perform in the Band Stand on Gordon Green.

The competitive **Gun Run** will take place on Lower Charford at 2.30pm. This fun race has become a firm favourite - not to be missed.





OLD BROMSGROVIANS

We are delighted that many Old Bromsgrovians choose to join us for the day and we welcome them to enjoy hospitality in the OB marquee on Lower Charford. *Please contact the Old Bromsgrovian Office to let us know if you are intending to come to Commemoration so that we can organise sufficient catering.*

Many OBs also bring picnics or purchase snacks and drinks from the street food stalls.



DRESS CODE

The dress code for parents is formal day wear – hats are not a pre-requisite but many of our ladies do wear them.

The dress code for pupils is summer uniform, with boaters required for the Lower Fourth, Upper Fourth, Fifth Form and for Sixth Form boys. Girls in the Sixth Form wear smart formal dress or skirt/trouser combinations with a jacket and a hat or modest headpiece. Some Sixth Formers wear their traditional national dress.

Guidelines regarding the Commemoration Day dress code for Sixth Formers are outlined at the end of this information, Houseparent or the Senior Master or Senior Mistress are happy to advise if you are unsure.



CALL OVER

At 4.15pm the Chapel Bell begins to toll, calling the School to Final Call Over. This traditional end to the year sees all the pupils line up in Houses on the Parade Ground between Kyteless and the Chapel with their Houseparents, Housemothers and Tutors. Each House in turn moves forward and every pupil shakes hands with their House staff, the Heads of School and the Headmaster. Boaters must be worn by all pupils (except Sixth Form girls), unless a School Cap has been awarded, in which case pupils may wear their colours cap.

The final ceremony of the day is the lowering of the School flag by the Heads of School. The flag is folded and handed to the Headmaster, who in turn hands it to the Deputy Head for safekeeping until the start of the next academic year. This is a fitting, traditional and moving end to the School Year.

WHEN DO PUPILS LEAVE?

Pupils are free to leave after Final Call-Over at around 5.15pm. Upper Sixth Leavers and their parents are invited to a brief farewell celebration after Final Call-Over in the Wendron-Gordon Marquee. This is an opportunity for them to say goodbye to their teachers and friends. Our photographer will be there to take group photos on request.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

If you have any specific questions about the day, please email commemoration@bromsgrove-school.co.uk or contact your child's House for more details. Useful documents about Commemoration Day can be found in the Resources section of the website.



COMMEMORATION DAY DRESS CODE SUMMARY



Fourth and Fifth Form

Pupils wear normal School uniform with a School boater. House ties may be worn for boys.

Sixth Form

Commemoration Day is a traditional and important part of our School year. It is a special day to celebrate academic success and to say farewell to our leavers. It can be likened to a graduation, and it should be respected as such, both by behaviour and appearance on the day. It is not a wedding, a cocktail party or a garden party – it is a graduation which requires formal day-wear. Whether in the service at St John's Church or in the formalities on the School's campus, the tone is set by the staff wearing full academic dress.

Sixth Form Girls

Please think smart, formal, respectful and appropriate for Church. The outfit should be a skirt/dress/trouser suit or a jacket and co-ordinating skirt/dress/trousers. Off-the-shoulder or strapless dresses/tops are not acceptable. Skirts and dresses should sit on or below the knee. As this is a formal occasion, a hat or fascinator is allowed. Equally, this is an occasion on which some of our international students choose to wear their National dress, which is an entirely appropriate option. Please remember that the day involves a good deal of walking to different venues, so do make sure that shoes are of a comfortable height. Trainers or flip-flop styles are not appropriate. If you have any queries, would like to see examples of appropriate styles or would like to check the suitability of your outfit, please email Miss Leech: zleech@bromsgrove-school.co.uk

Sixth Form Boys

Boys should wear a formal tailored dark grey, navy blue or black suit in plain material or with a faint pin stripe/check. Light suits are not acceptable. Shirts should be of a plain white or pastel shade (no dark colours). A School or House tie and a School boater or School Cap (if applicable) should be worn.

National Dress

Some of our international students choose to wear their National dress for this occasion, which is an entirely appropriate option.

Questions about the Dress Code

If you have any queries, about the dress code please email the Senior Master or Senior Mistress:

Mr Matthews: smatthews@bromsgrove-school.co.uk

Miss Leech: zleech@bromsgrove-school.co.uk

The smart turn-out of the Sixth Form is very important; please do not create any embarrassment by requiring us to ask you to change or even to withdraw you from an enjoyable day – it should be an occasion to remember, for the right reasons.

