



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

# Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

LENT 2026  
ISSUE 2



## A Word from the Headmaster

They say that the best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago, and the second best time is now.

Across the Bromsgrove sites, we are very fortunate because for decades, if not centuries, our grounds have been lovingly tended, both for the present and for the future, and that process continues today. Trees and hedges are continually being planted and nurtured to enhance our surroundings and support wildlife, even though many will reach their prime long after we have moved on.

In the meantime, those who spend their days living and working here do so in a beautiful environment, and that is particularly clear in spring as the campus bursts back into life. Each day that passes brings a new sign of growth: blossoms opening, fresh leaves emerging, and birdsong providing a gentle backdrop to the day-to-day hustle and bustle of a busy School.

Regardless of how much we may notice our natural environment and the way it changes with the seasons, it adds a calming backdrop to our daily lives. Moreover, it provides a sense of continuity and reminds us that we

are all part of something that grows and develops over time, just like the ancient trees that were planted long before us, and the ones we continue to plant for those who will follow.

Michael Punt  
**HEADMASTER**

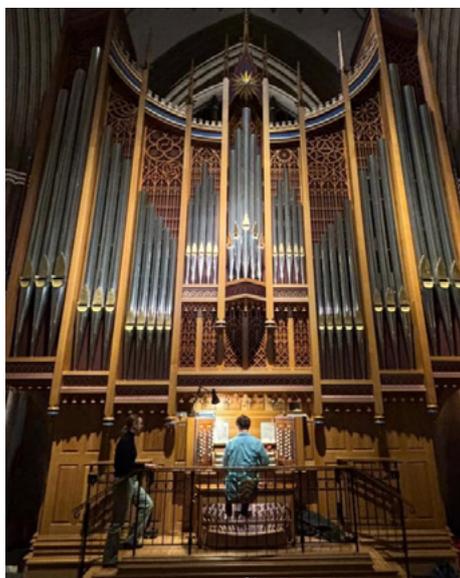
## Top IB School

Thank you to Education Advisers who presented the Headmaster with a 'Top IB School' trophy. We are pleased to maintain our position as a top five UK IB School (reaching #4 in 2025) and as a Global IB Co-Ed Boarding School, sitting at number three worldwide.



## Debating

Congratulations to Zoya Ali Baig and Emily Kesterton, winners of the inaugural Midlands IAPS Debate Event. Facing strong competition from schools across the region, they demonstrated outstanding confidence, teamwork and debating skill to secure a well-deserved victory. We wish them all the best in the final round at the National IAPS Debating Finals in London.



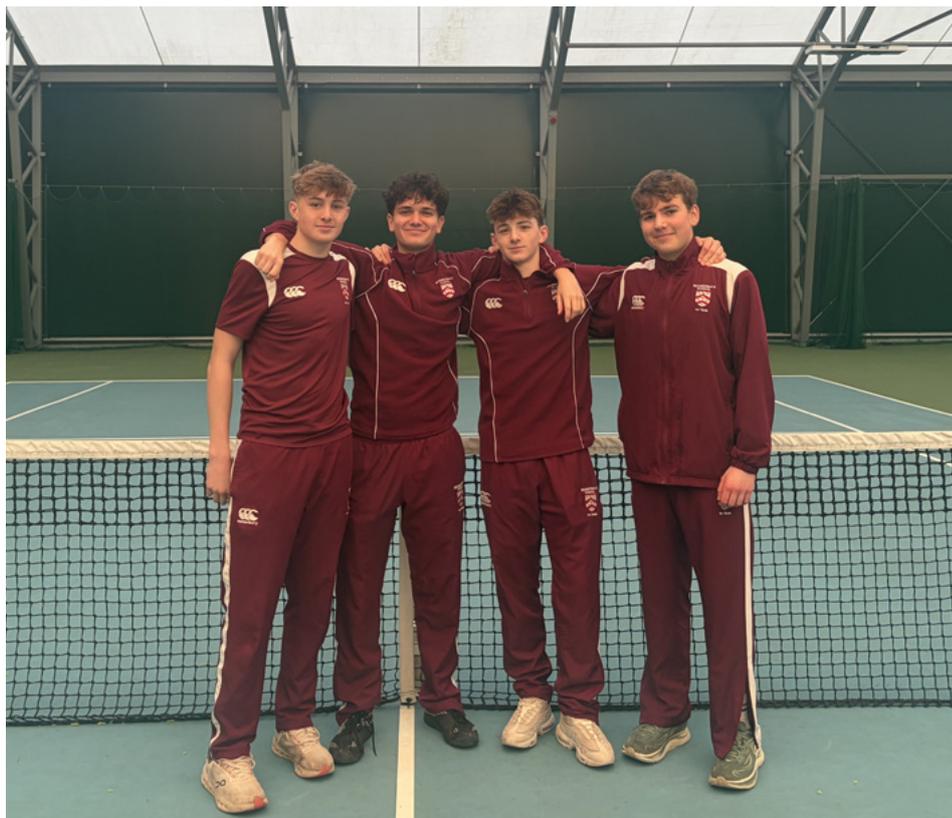
## Music Trip

Three of our musicians travelled to Merton College, where they sang Evensong, an incredible experience for them. Spike Bloxham even had the amazing opportunity to play the Dobson organ at the end of the day.



## Taster Day

Lower Sixth pupils Irene Ninjbadrakh and Rumer Evans were successful in applying for the “Molecules and Monkeys” day at Girton College, Cambridge. This is part of the College’s taster day programme for prospective students considering the study of Natural Sciences. The event featured academic lectures, admissions advice, and tours designed to boost application confidence.



## Tennis

Toby Ward has been battling hard on the international stage, competing in ITFs in France and Ireland, gaining invaluable experience against strong fields. Meanwhile, Callum Hooper produced a fantastic performance in Liverpool, progressing to the semi-finals of the ITF doubles event - an outstanding achievement. Despite missing the two boys, the rest of the 1st team were determined to progress through the 11-13 Cup. After a tough and competitive encounter at Ellesmere College, the team delivered a strong performance, securing a 5-1 victory, to book their place in the Regional Finals. They now join the 1st girls’ team at the Regional Finals on 12th March at Nottingham Tennis Centre.



## Young Pilots

As part of the British Young Pilots’ Club after-school activity at the Prep School, Henry and Toby Buckingham took to the skies for their very first flight from Wolverhampton Halfpenny Green Airport, each taking the controls and flying the aircraft themselves for almost the entire journey.



## Music Award

Congratulations to Nicholas Kwok who won a Silver Award at the FENIX music competition online. As one of the biggest international music competitions, we are very proud of Nicholas' achievement.

## Reading Buddies

Reading Buddies from the Senior School regularly visit the library to support our Prep School pupils. These sessions give younger pupils the chance to build confidence in their reading while enjoying stories alongside older role models who encourage, guide and celebrate their progress. Our Reading Buddies programme brings the Bromsgrovian community closer together. By connecting pupils across different age groups, it creates a strong sense of belonging that runs throughout the School.



## Book Buddies

Book Buddies has been launched in the Senior School by the Eco-Committee. The initiative is a part of the School's support for the National Year of Reading. Books that had been donated by students were given away - pupils were encouraged to read the book and then pass it on to others. A lovely way of promoting the circular economy and encourage the love of reading in our students.

# Cultures Week

Cultures Week began brilliantly, with Upper Sixth EAL pupils delivering engaging Chinese New Year lessons to Pre-Prep. They planned and led activities with confidence and were superb ambassadors for the Senior School.

During the week, pupils enjoyed Flamenco dancing, Culture Games and

themed lunches celebrating cuisines from around the world. A great deal of work happened behind the scenes, and a big thank you should go to the Cultures Committee for organising such a vibrant programme.

Ending the week, the Cultures Connect Concert was phenomenal – over fifteen nationalities were represented on stage

through poetry, dance and music, to a full house. Thank you to all the performers and everyone who came to support, and sincere thanks again to the Committee for delivering such a special week.



## More photos from Cultures Week





## Drumming

Year 2 children had a great time during their African drumming workshop. With big smiles and lots of energy, they explored rhythms inspired by traditional music from Africa, learning how to use their hands to create different sounds on the drums. The children worked together to copy patterns, lead their own rhythms, and perform as a team. It was an exciting and confidence-boosting experience.

## Mock Magistrates

The new Mock Magistrates activity rounded off its first half-term by welcoming Mr Busby, one of our Prep parents. Over recent weeks, Years 7 and 8 pupils have been learning about the workings of the Magistrates' Court, how to present and examine evidence, and how to build cases for both prosecution and defence.

Mr Busby's visit provided a fascinating insight into court life and the realities of working in the legal profession. We are very grateful to him for giving his time.



## Bromsgrove Service

Our students have continued their weekly visits to Burcot Grange Care Home and Chandler Court as part of Bromsgrove Service. Residents greatly enjoy the company of our pupils, and in turn, our pupils take great pride in supporting them with good conversation and friendship. Whether playing beautiful music, having a chat with residents or completing crosswords, the key is connecting with each other.



## Forest School

It has been a busy few weeks in Forest School, with pupils taking part in the RSPB birdwatch, and a national campaign set up to monitor bird numbers. Bird feeders were made and filled before carefully observing the bird species using the Merlin Bird ID app. They were delighted to see that a Greater Spotted Woodpecker has visited the area and it appears to be nesting nearby. The Winter Olympics inspired some pupils to create their own Forest Games with balancing, throwing and jumping events included.



## Handmade Cards

Over the past two weeks, pupils in Prep and Pre-Prep have been creating birthday cards for Amelia, a local child from Rowley Regis who has neuroblastoma and has required frequent hospital treatment since the age of two.

An appeal was recently launched nationwide to help Amelia celebrate her 8th birthday by attempting to break the UK record for the highest number of birthday cards received. In response, our pupils have created over 550 birthday cards. We send Amelia and her family our very best wishes.



## Gardening Club

Our 'Little Petals' Nursery Gardening Club proudly sold the daffodil bulbs they have been caring for over the last few months to families on their way into School. They worked so hard planting, watering, and watching them grow - even helping to count and collect the money. Thank you to everyone who has supported the club.

# Netball

## U12

Huge congratulations to our U12 girls who finished 3rd place at the IAPS National Netball Finals. A truly outstanding achievement and very well-deserved bronze medals.



## U13

Huge congratulations to the U13 team, who were crowned Regional IAPS Champions at Stamford School. In the final, Bromsgrove faced Spratton Hall for the first-place position. It was a high-quality contest, with both teams displaying excellent netball. However, Bromsgrove's determination, teamwork and calmness in key moments proved decisive as they secured a brilliant 13–10 victory.

It was particularly special that Old Bromsgrovian Corey McGlynn was there to present the medals and shield. Corey is the NXT Gen Captain for Nottingham Forest Netball Club, making the occasion even more inspirational for the girls.



## U15

Huge congratulations to the U15 team, who were crowned National Champions in the Independent Schools' National Final. Their teamwork, energy, exceptional defending and intelligent attacking play secured a well-deserved victory. Very well done to them all on this superb achievement.

## 1st Team

The 1st netball team played in the final of the Independent Schools' Cup and performed superbly, taking an early lead against Berkhamsted. Unfortunately, Berkhamsted edged ahead in the closing stages to win 62–59, meaning the 1st team were crowned national runners-up. The school is very proud of them all.



## World Book Day

Bromsgrove Pre-Preparatory and Nursery School was full of characters from fairy tales and children's stories for World Book Day. From Harry Potter to Cinderella, Luigi from the Super Mario Bros and Postman Pat, the children enjoyed dressing up and learning more about their favourite characters. Ms Frost from The Shakespeare Collective delivered a series of theatre workshops to Early Years pupils, as well as Years 1 and 2, where they re-enacted the story of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



### 1.2 Relays

Rain couldn't dampen the spirit of the annual 1.2 Relays. House pride was out in full force as runners were cheered on by fellow pupils and teammates. Otilie Hild won it for the girls, and Lyttelton for the boys.

## Volleyball

It was a great pleasure to host the England Volleyball National Bronze U18 Boys' Play-Off. The competition brought together the top teams, eight teams battled for the medals. While Bromsgrove played with determination and skill, they were unfortunately unable to secure a podium finish. The girls' 1st volleyball team also played in the final round of the Volleyball England Grand Prix. They secured two strong 2-0 wins, before narrowly losing to Leicester Athena Volleyball Club by just a few points. It was a great effort from the team to round off the season.



## Hockey

Well done to the U11A boys' team who have been crowned IAPS Regional Hockey Champions. Saving their finest display for last, the team produced a superb performance to defeat Millfield 2-0 in the final. Noah Clarke opened the scoring with a clinical strike, and Henry Buckingham added a well-taken poacher's finish at the back post to seal the Regional Qualifier title.

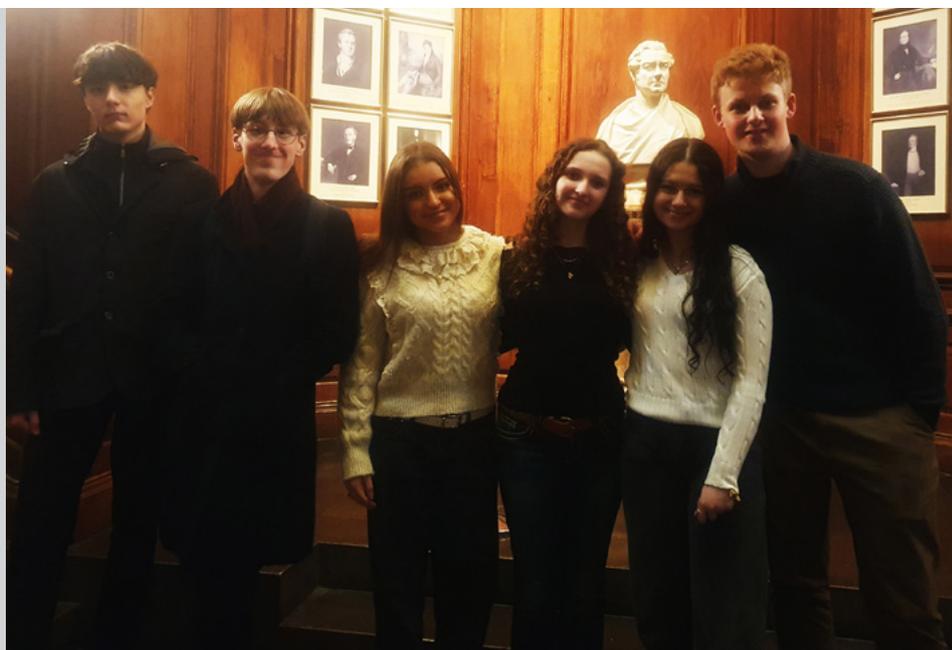


## BMH

We were delighted to welcome Dr Wall, Headmaster of Bromsgrove Mission Hills, who visited us from China - a reminder of the strong global connections across the Bromsgrove Family of Schools. Dr Wall met with our BMH students currently studying with us. They shared what they love most about boarding life, the GCSE options they've chosen, and the wide range of co-curricular opportunities on offer at Bromsgrove UK. Moments like this highlight the strength of our international community and the lifelong connections that unite the Bromsgrovian community across the world.

## Nehru Cup

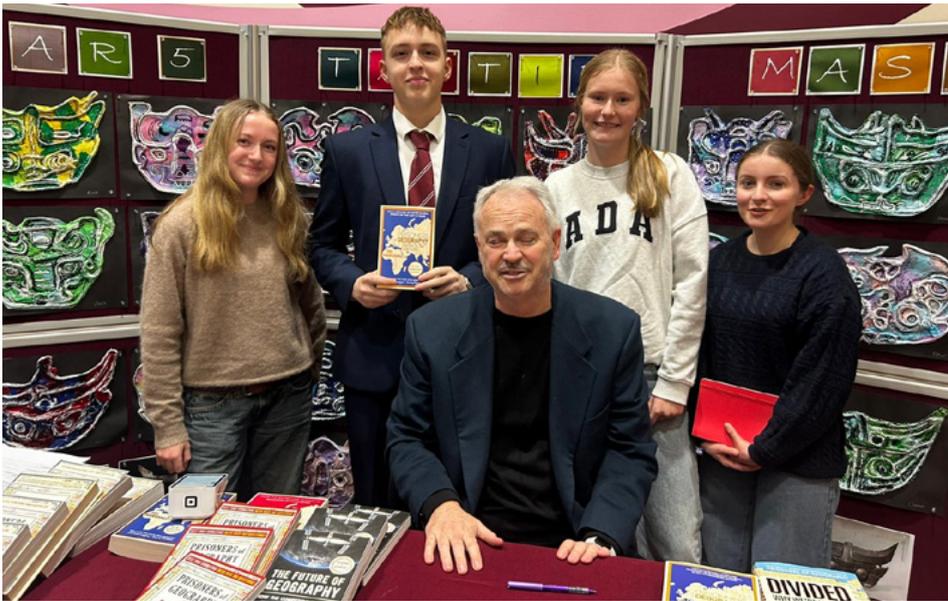
Six members of the School's debating team travelled to Harrow School to take part in the annual Nehru Cup competition. Across a day spent debating the monarchy, social media bans, and the 'wiser elder' narrative, Bromsgrove performed strongly amongst a large field of forty-four teams. A special mention goes to Eleanor Young and Matthew Hill who qualified for, and were then victorious in, the Bronze Final. A fantastic achievement that sets them up well for their appearance at the Oxford Union finals.



## PSHE Leads

Ella, Drishti and Maria are the Pupil Voice Leads for PSHE and Mental Health. For Children's Mental Health Week, they led a number of their own initiatives: creating and selling friendship bracelets to promote collaboration, mindfulness, and awareness, of mental health. Pupils were encouraged to make any donation where possible for the charity 'Mind'.

A competition is also running alongside this year's theme of 'This is My Place', and pupils can complete a week of 'Action for Kindness' bingo for prizes.



## Geography Talk

Geographers spent a wonderful evening just before half term listening to stories from author, journalist and broadcaster, Tim Marshall. He has written some fabulous books with a Geographical theme, including Prisoner of Geography.

## Chapel Choir

Chapel Choir travelled to sing Evensong at Bristol Cathedral in early March. Their uplifting sounds echoing through the magnificent building were appreciated by all in attendance. This annual tradition of our choir singing Evensong is very much a highlight of the music calendar, contributing to the Church of England's legacy of Evensong, dating back to Henry VIII's time.



## Swimming

Prep swimmers travelled to Shrewsbury School to compete in the IAPS Regional Swimming Round, with pupils from Years 5 to 8 representing the School with enthusiasm and determination.

All swimmers performed strongly across individual and relay events. Qualification for the IAPS National Swimming Championships at the London Aquatics Centre will be confirmed closer to Easter 2026. Well done to all swimmers for representing the School so well.

Rory Townsend and Lucas Yiend delivered excellent performances at the County Swimming Championships before half term. Rory reached the final in all ten of his events, achieving personal bests throughout and winning two silver medals and one bronze. He has also qualified for the Spring Regional Championships in nine events.

Lucas made the finals in all five of his races, winning the 400m freestyle and placing third in both the 800m freestyle and 200m backstroke, achieving Regional qualifying times in each.

Congratulations to both swimmers on their outstanding achievements



## Sailing

Mona Nygard has enjoyed a successful period competing in the 29er class. At the 29er Winter Championships at Grafham Water, Mona and her helm Charlotte finished 15th overall and 5th girls, followed by another 15th overall and 3rd girls at the 29er Grand Prix at Parkstone Yacht Club in very windy conditions.

Mona then travelled to Valencia, Spain for her first international event at the 29er Eurocup. Challenging weather meant racing was only possible on the final day, where Mona and Charlotte finished 58th overall and 18th female team out of more than 130 teams.



## Pupil Voice

Teachmeet training for staff is regularly held on a variety of subjects. Mr Palmer led a workshop on AI in education. Colleagues were delighted that Digital Pupil Voice members attended to co-work with staff and share their thoughts on this important aspect of education. Joint collaborations between pupils and staff are encouraged to support the whole community.



## Jiu-Jitsu

Congratulations to James Hoare who won Gold in his weight category at the Allstar UK Nationals in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, his first tournament.

## NYC Program

Antoine Dugain has been accepted on to a two-week NYC Residential Summer program at Columbia University in late July. This will take place at Dartmouth College on their Hedge fund and Private equity programme. He will be intellectually challenged as well as undertaking collaborative work as part of this prestigious programme offered by an Ivy League US university.





## Cross-Country

Pupils took part in the National Prep Schools Cross-Country Championships, competing against some of the strongest runners from across the country. The highlight of the day came from our U13 boys who achieved a remarkable 3rd place overall out of thirty-eight schools, earning themselves a place on the podium. Lucas Yiend led the way with an impressive 11th, followed by Rory Townsend in 15th, Anaadh Thandi 36th, and Monty Yiend 74th out of 152 runners. A truly outstanding team performance. Well done to all our runners for their hard work, resilience, and pride in representing the School on a national stage.



## Rugby

The U12A Rugby 7s squad enjoyed a successful day out at their first tournament, hosted by KES Birmingham. Despite the muddy conditions and a reduced format, Bromsgrove were crowned the winners of an excellent round robin competition made up of King's Worcester, Solihull, Old Swinford Hospital, Ysgol Greenhill and the hosts, KES Birmingham. We look forward to our next tournament at BVGS later this term.



## England

Congratulations to Oli Hewitt on his selection for the England Men's U18 training squad. He recently attended a four-day camp at Bisham Abbey as part of the preparations for the U18 Six Nations Festival. This is a well-deserved recognition for Oli who has worked incredibly hard throughout his time at School, impressing Bromsgrove's coaches with his performance across the 1st XV season.

## Classics Trip

Forty-one Classics students thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the Birmingham Hippodrome to watch "The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical". It was a fantastic night of captivating songs, mythology and ice lollies.



## RECORD BREAKER

**GILL PUNT**

Fastest ice marathon dressed as a mammal  
(female) is 4:58:29 hour(s):minute(s):second(s),  
achieved in Tromsø, Norway on 04 Jan 2025

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## Guinness World Record

Congratulations to Mrs Punt who is a Guinness World Record Breaker for the fastest ice marathon dressed as a mammal. Mrs Punt achieved this feat in January 2025, raising funds for Cancer Research UK.

## Bartlett Offer

Congratulations to Peter Yu on receiving his offer to study Architecture at The Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment (UCL). This is an exceptional achievement, with The Bartlett ranked number one in the world. We are also delighted to share that our current Upper Sixth cohort now holds thirty-one offers from UCL, ranked 9th overall in the 2026 QS World University Rankings and consistently a popular destination for Bromsgrovians.

London remains a top choice for our students, thanks to its world-class universities, rich cultural life, and vibrant multicultural community. In addition to UCL, offers have been secured at Imperial College London, London School of Economics and Political Science, and King's College London - bringing the total number of offers to these prestigious London universities to sixty-eight.



## 80 Years of Service

Congratulations to three members of our Support Staff who have amassed a total of eighty years of service to Bromsgrove School. Sally-Ann Williams (Housekeeping Supervisor), Kay Finch (Deputy School Shop Manager) and Steve Barnett (Security Caretaker). We offer our congratulations to all three valued members of staff - thank you for your service to the School.

L-R: Ian Williams (Bursar), Steve Barnett (20 years' service), Sally-Ann Williams (30 years' service), Kay Finch (30 years' service) and Michael Punt (Headmaster)



## LTA

We are delighted to announce that Bromsgrove School has been presented with the LTA H&W School of the Year award. This accolade is a testament to our tennis teams and coaches who have achieved so much over the year.

Tennis coach, Jamie Nolan, also received the 'Performance Coach of the Year' award. A fantastic achievement.



## Retirement

We bade a fond farewell to John Roberson, our Pre-Prep Caretaker, who retires from Bromsgrove School after almost thirty years of service. Thank you, John, for your loyalty, support and kindness to Pre-Prep pupils and staff, and the wider Bromsgrovian community teams.

Also, Diane Byng retires after giving more than 30 years of Service to Bromsgrove School as one of our General Catering Assistants. Diane has been a loyal employee to both Bromsgrove and Holroyd Howe, the School's catering partners. The School wishes Diane well for the future.



# Bromsgrovian News



## School Fair

Seb Adams (L 17-22) joined us in Montenegro for the Agency ISEM International Scholarship and Education Fair in February 2026. Seb spoke to prospective families about life at Bromsgrove School and the academic and extra-curricular opportunities available to pupils.

## Cricket

We are delighted to see Olly Davidson (Ly 17-22) making his debut in the World Cup for Scotland. Olly and his brother, Jasper (Ly 15-20), are both in India for the ICC T20 World Cup. Team Scotland picked up their first victory, beating Italy by 73 runs.



## Oxford Blue

Fin Dinnen (L 16-24) was recently selected for the Men's 142nd 'The Varsity Matches'. He came off the bench to be awarded his blue in Oxford's 37-25 win over Cambridge.

The Blue is the highest honour granted to sports players by the elite Oxford or Cambridge universities, who play in an approved elite sports. The universities play against each other in what is known as a varsity match.



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.