



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

LENT 2019
ISSUE 1



A word from the Headmaster

Wishing the School *xīn nián kuài lè* (Happy Chinese New Year) last week made me painfully aware, once again, of my linguistic poverty. Saying this relatively simple common phrase aloud to the assembled pupils had me annoyingly anxious, but also grateful.

Anxiety because all of our pupils who speak Mandarin are equally fluent in English. As are those who speak Cantonese, Russian, German, or any of the other fifty languages represented in the School. Yet my meagre repertoire consists of a few stock phrases that I still struggle to get my tongue around. I value the rich cultural diversity of Bromsgrove highly, not least because of the mutual respect it engenders. Therefore, it is important that I show equal respect to those who have made the effort to speak my language, by trying to pronounce theirs correctly.

I'm sure a few of our Chinese pupils wondered what language I was greeting them in that morning.

Gratitude too though, because fortunately I was speaking to people who are tolerant of my stumbling over unfamiliar vowels. Whilst I may have foolishly ignored the opportunities to learn a second language when I was at school, our pupils have better luck. It is a core part of our curriculum and, in the Sixth Form, a defining feature of the International Baccalaureate Diploma. In a rapidly shrinking world, multilingualism is much more than a skill; it is a gold-plated investment. If someone offered us a bag of 1000 Euros, Yuan or Rubles, we wouldn't turn it away, saying it was of no value to us just because we couldn't spend it in Bromsgrove High Street this afternoon.

Language is a currency too, one that we should seek to acquire and treasure once we do.

I am constantly in awe of the colleague who translates for me when I speak at our School in Shenzhen. Indeed, he not only translates, he interprets. His ability to convert not only my words but also my Western ideas, whether they be metaphors, jokes or turns of phrase, is deeply humbling. To switch easily between two languages is a great asset. How I wish that I had equal insight into a culture other than my own, for that is real wealth. *Yīmén xīn de yuán shì yīzhong xīn de shēnghuó* (A new language is a new life).

Peter Clague
HEADMASTER



Coffee Concert

Congratulations to members of brass group and the boys' choir, as well as many soloists who took part in the recent coffee concert at St John's in Bromsgrove to raise money for the church. They all performed brilliantly to an appreciative audience of local residents and church congregation, before devouring plenty of the coffee and cake on offer!

Prep Gardeners

Prep gardening club were thrilled with their harvest of purple sprouting, shallots and leeks. The new raised beds are a real asset to the club's gardening area and the young gardeners have been busy planning what to grow throughout the year.



Dogs' Trust Talk

Prep pupils had a highly informative and valuable set of lessons, delivered by a representative from the Dogs Trust charity. She taught pupils when and how to interact with dogs safely to keep the dog happy. They were also taught what to listen and look for when a dog is trying to tell us they are unhappy.

All of Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed learning about dogs and how to treat them well.



Cricket

Congratulations to Jasper Davidson who has been selected for the Scotland U19 World Cup Qualifying Squad. The 16 year old all-rounder and Bromsgrove School Cricket Scholar impressed for Scotland last year averaging over 50 with the bat, despite being hampered by injuries which saw him bowling only a few overs.

Scotland will join five other nations in the European Zone qualifying tournament this summer in Holland, with the winner earning a place at the Finals Tournament in South Africa in January/February 2020.

Good Luck Jasper!

Police Info



Pupils in Years 3, 4 and 5 enjoyed a very informative visit from Detective Inspector Doak of West Midlands Police, who spoke to them on the subject of who to trust. DI Sharp also visited Years 6, 7 and 8 to talk about *Who to trust* and *Don't be a bystander*. These are very important issues and pupils were given clear definitions with advice and methods to follow if they feel in need, either at home, in the local community, at school or online.



Explorers

Young explorers in Year 1 had an amazing adventure when they used maps and compasses to travel around the world in hot air balloons, aeroplanes, submarines and boats. They crossed the five oceans and saw some sensational sights in the seven continents along their way.

They especially enjoyed playing the didgeridoo, exploring under the sea and learning about famous explorers.

Triathletes

Siblings William and Caitlin Pridden competed in the 2018 Castle Triathlon series in Yorkshire, France, and Kent.

Well done to William who came first in his age group, winning the series, and to Caitlin who finished third in her age group, in what was her first year of competing in triathlon events.



Football



Daisy-Mai Clements continues her progress in football, having been selected for the ISFA National Football Squad for a fixture in March. She recently played Worcestershire Schools Representative Football against Shropshire and scored two goals to help secure a 4-0 win. Daisy-Mai has also received a call up from The England FA to attend a three-day Regional Training Camp in February.



Fencing

Our fencers travelled to Packwood Haugh School in Shropshire to take part in the West Midlands Age Group Epee competition. George Ascough fenced in the U12 event. George had a good pool and only lost one fight, seeding him third. Sadly he lost in the quarter finals to finish in fifth place, just outside the medals. However he still qualifies for a place in the British Youth Championships Finals at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield in May.

At Senior level, Elsa Tsai, fencing in the U16 girls' event, finished fifth overall; Artim Veprev, in the U18 boys' category, won all of his fights in the pool competition but despite seeding first, he lost in the quarter finals to finish fifth; Tatiana Morikova, competing in the U18 girls' event, fenced very well all day to finish in third place. Well done to all three who have also qualified for a place at the British Youth Championships Finals.

Netball News

Bromsgrove's 1st and U14 netball teams have both been performing to a high standard recently, with both teams winning their Regional County Competition.

The U14 team also beat RGS Worcester 40-39 in the Regional Final of the Sisters N Sport National Cup. They now look forward to the National Semi Final.

The U19 team also won their Sisters n Sport regional final beating Bramcote College 61-30. They are now in the last 4 in the country and look forward to their National Semi Final.



The U19 netball team have also been successful in the Independent Schools' cup where they beat Guildford High School 49-35 in their national quarter final and are once again in the top 4 teams in the country and look forward to their semi-final.

BIST

Headmaster Mr Clague was delighted to welcome the Head of Bromsgrove Thailand, Dr Moore with Tien Hom and Melody, students from BIST who will be studying at Bromsgrove UK this term.





House Drama

Over eighty-five students took part in the 2019 Fourth Form House Drama competition on Tuesday. This was a most impressive and very slickly presented evening and a great example of teamwork, talent and excellent stagecraft by all involved. With a very diverse range of ten plays offered and cast sizes from three to fifteen, this was a most entertaining event for the audience who were gripped throughout the seventy minutes of efficiently presented extracts.

After a very effusive and generous adjudication from Mr Mike Perry, himself a former Head of Drama of Bromsgrove School in the late 1990s, the winner for Best Play was a very popular choice with audience and fellow competitors, and went to Wendron-Gordon for their mesmerising, highly focused piece of physical theatre based on *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.



Football Camp

The 1st and 2nd team football squads attended a training camp at St George's Park, home of the English FA.

Over an intensive two-day programme, the players toured the world class facilities and enjoyed coaching sessions with top FA staff, including

an introduction to the fast transition game, futsal. They utilised state of the art 4G surfaces to hone core skills and strategies for the season. The trip concluded with time in the hydrotherapy recovery unit. A real test of mind over matter, as the players endured alternating between

freezing cold and hot tub bliss. This was a weekend of living, training and practising as professional footballers. Follow @BromsFootball on Twitter for more photos from the weekend.

Dramatic Ideas

We welcomed multi award-winning theatre company Spies Like Us to Cobham Theatre. The cast of five actors performed their production of *Woyzeck* after delivering a series of workshops to drama students in Years 8 and 9. The cast then spent some time talking to the audience and answered questions about their devising process, and their approaches to developing an idea from the page to the stage.



Gap Teachers

We are delighted to welcome our new group of Student Gap Teachers, who all come from Australia.

All the students will be working in Pre-Prep, Prep and Senior Schools as well as helping out with sports teams and boarding in Page House. Welcome to Molly Rex, Claudia Meehan, Edward Thompson, George Goodman and Hannah Roworth.



U16 Rugby

Our U16 team retained the North Midlands U16 Cup after a hard fought 24-3 victory over Solihull School at Stourbridge RFC. Both schools played some excellent rugby, in bitterly cold conditions. The Bromsgrove boys defended very well to repel the Solihull attack and showed excellent accuracy and pace, to score four well worked tries. This was a very pleasing conclusion to what has been a positive season for the team.



Cricket

Congratulations to all the pupils who have been selected for county representative cricket for 2019. Pupils have gained Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Scotland recognition. A good winter of skill development and strength and conditioning work will hopefully pay off. Good luck to all for the year ahead.





Prep Hockey

The U11A girls' hockey team competed in the County hockey tournament. The team played well and finished the tournament with eight points but had to wait nervously for the final games to be played before finding out if they had qualified for the regional competition. Bromsgrove and King's Hawford were drawn on points and unfortunately our girls lost on goal difference, scoring just one less goal. The girls should be very proud of their performance, finishing as County runners up and will now compete in the regional finals in March.



Congratulations to the boys' U13 hockey team who won a bronze medal at the Dean Close tournament in January. Amazingly the team did not concede a single goal throughout the tournament. Well done to Robbie Bayliss, our captain, who was voted player of the tournament.

Bromsgrovian News

London Dinner



Over 80 Old Bromsgrovians joined the Headmaster for a dinner at the Lansdowne Club in Mayfair, London on Friday, 18th January. Thank you to Old Bromsgrovian Charles Byrne (Ly 79-85) for an entertaining and enlightening speech about his time at Bromsgrove, and in his current role as Director-General of the Royal British Legion.



Futures

Thank you to Ellie Robinson (O 15-17) for visiting to help current students with their applications to university and apprenticeship schemes. If you'd like to help the Futures department by offering careers advice, undertaking mock interviews or delivering a lecture, please contact the Alumni Office – oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk

Bromsgrovians Visit



Mr Fallows of Elmshurst House welcomed back Old Bromsgrovian Stoyko Mekushin who left in 2012.

After completing a BSc in Economics and Economic Development at Manchester, he went on to do a Masters in Innovation Management and Entrepreneurship. He will be spending the summer hiking across the UK and exploring his homeland, Bulgaria, before starting on a graduate scheme with Vodafone.



Mengmeng Yan (O 05-08) returned to Bromsgrove at the start of the Lent term, accompanied by her parents. She was keen to see the changes around School and was delighted to meet up with Mrs Ascough along the way.

Mengmeng has just completed her PhD in English Literature at Durham University.

We were pleased to welcome back Edward Tang (WG 02-05) for a tour of the School at the end of January.

As it was Chinese New Year, Edward and his wife were travelling around the UK; they decided to stop by the School, as he hadn't been back since leaving over ten years ago.

