



Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

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A word from the Headmaster

It is a scientific fact that all schools shrink over time. Ask anyone who has returned to their old alma mater as an adult and they will tell you that the place has been rebuilt in miniature. The classrooms are somehow smaller, the length of the pitches less imposing. With age, buildings that were once daunting to enter become familiar and homely.

The phenomenon is not exclusive to adults. Each year our "Survivors," senior pupils who began their Bromsgrove education in the Pre-Preparatory School, make a final pilgrimage back to the campus where it all began. Invariably, they marvel at how tiny everything seems. Trees that once dwarfed them seem puny, daunting staircases are now scaled with ease, intimidating offices mellow.

Yet the most interesting aspect of

this warping of our childhood landscape is that there is an inverse effect on our memories of our teachers. Whilst playgrounds and classrooms may seem smaller when we grow up, the personalities of those who taught us seem to expand over time. Perhaps children are too curious about the world (or simply too self-absorbed) to realise just how influential a teacher is at the time. Or perhaps we just need a few decades of life experience to put that influence into perspective. Either way, the older we get, the more some teachers loom large in our memories.

In thirty years of this job, I have never met a person who could not instantly give me a name when I ask, "Who was your best teacher, the one who made a difference?" Often, the most immediate and impassioned answers come from older people. Time and distance seem

to magnify the ways in which a special teacher appears to have channelled a person's life for the better.

All of which makes the responsibility of being a teacher today both weighty and uplifting. We know that a timely word of encouragement, an empathetic ear or just response at a critical juncture may echo down through the years. As I browse through this latest edition of the Online News Review, I can't help feeling proud at the wealth of new memories that are laid down in Bromsgrove's Schools every day. Our pupils may eventually outgrow the facilities, but the impact of their teacher's will fit them for life.

Peter Clague
HEADMASTER



World Travel

Young explorers in Year 1 had an amazing adventure at the start of the New Year. With maps and compasses at the ready, they travelled around the world to cross the five oceans and saw some sensational sights in the seven continents. Their highlights included playing the didgeridoo, exploring under the sea and learning about famous explorers.



Tree Planting

Pupils from Prep School helped to plant twenty-seven saplings, which they hope will create a haven for wildlife.



Forest School

Year 3 had a very enjoyable time at Forest School. They all collected different sized sticks for a fire and watched how to make and light the fire.

They then enjoyed some delicious pancakes and a drink of hot chocolate.

Chinese New Year

Senior School pupils visited Pre-Prep to talk to the children about Chinese New Year. They also helped them to make lanterns, write their names in Chinese and handed out traditional lucky red envelopes.



Community Art

The Prep Art Department have been holding Community Art Club sessions where they welcome pupils from Aston Fields and St John's Schools. All the pupils have revealed a huge amount of creativity in their pictures which have developed steadily over the weeks.



Burns Night

The Prep Dining Hall was decorated to celebrate the life and times of Robert Burns. Pupils enjoyed trying the traditional fare of haggis with tatties and neeps.



Wizardry

Year 2 took part in Wizard School as a stunning start to their topic this term. They explored the Magic of Science in an interactive workshop with magic tricks and spectacular experiments. They enjoyed making magical fizzy sweets, gooey slime and attending a potions class.



Physics Quiz

Nine Lower Fourth students took part in the University of Birmingham's Big Physics Quiz. In teams of three they tested their physics knowledge against over 250 students in sixty-seven teams from across the Midlands.

All the Bromsgrove teams finished in highly respectable positions, with one team finishing in joint second place, just missing out on silver medals through a very close tie-breaker question.





Prize Photo

Prep School pupil William O’Nions has been awarded highly commended by the Geographical Association for his entry to their national photography competition. William took the photo when he visited Yosemite last year.

Musical Selection

Siblings Eleanor and Joseph Boardman have been accepted to join the National Scout and Guide Orchestra this summer. Eleanor is returning to play oboe for her third consecutive year and this year she will play in the Concert Band. Joseph has been invited to play violin in the Symphony Orchestra. They are both looking forward to the week-long residential in the summer and all the performances and concerts.



G'Day!

We are delighted to welcome our new group of Gap Student Teachers who are spending a year in the UK before returning to university in Australia. The student teachers help out in Pre-Prep, Prep, Winterfold and Senior School.

Music Makers

Prep pupils Darcy Dines, Teah Petrova and Josh Collett, and former pupil Jack, aka 'Split Second' performed at the MAC Birmingham as part of the 'Battle of the Bands: Christmas Special'. Playing in front of three prestigious judges they gave a spine tingling rendition of *The Chain* by Fleetwood Mac. 'Split Second' are hopefully going to a recording studio to lay down some of their music.



Running Success



Congratulations to Ollie Dieppe from the Prep School who is now the number one ranked U13 60 metres indoors hurdler in the UK. Ollie also holds top ranking in the region over 60 metres on the flat. Running is obviously in the family as shown by his sister Grace, who represented Bromsgrove School in the Worcestershire Cross-Country Championships. Running a distance of 5k in the U17 ladies category, Grace qualified in fifth place and has been selected to run for the County in the Inter Counties Cross-Country Championships in March.

U13 Netball



A huge well done to the Prep girls' U13A netball team who won the Foremarke Hall tournament, beating Foremarke 27-5 and Nottingham High School 20-3.

Rugby Cup



Congratulations to the U16 Rugby team who won the North Midlands Cup.



County Tournament

The girls' U13A hockey team finished as runners up in the County tournament. This qualifies them for the Midlands Regional Finals.



Harvard Bound

Congratulations to Siena Horton, who has been offered a place at the prestigious Harvard University. Siena will study for four years as the Class of 2024, majoring in Biological Sciences.

Netball



Congratulations to the 1st netball team who won all of their matches in the County Finals to be crowned County Champions. They followed this with success at the West Midlands Championships and have now qualified for the National Finals.



Well done also to the U14 netball team who have qualified for their National Finals and to the U16 team who played well in the regional finals but narrowly missed out on qualifying after being placed third in their pool.



Swimming Gold

Meghan Higgs competed in the County swimming championships where she finished with a gold medal in the 50 metres freestyle, with a time of 30.03.

Australia Day

Year 1 enjoyed a day filled with Australian themed fun, flags and food.



Mission Hills Visitors



Dr Catherine Chu, Executive Director of Mission Hills and OB Mr Charles Tsai (WG 89-94) visited Bromsgrove School in January.

After a tour of the Prep and Senior Schools, Charles and Catherine were invited to look through the Archives, with particular reference to photographs from Charles' time at Bromsgrove. He then recorded his own reminiscences on film. A visit to Wendron-Gordon House also brought back many memories.

The Era of Research

Bromsgrove School's Fifth Annual Research Competition, hosted by Master of Scholars, Dr Rimmer, saw six Senior School teams and for the first time, a Prep School team, competing for the title. They were charged with explaining how future historians would view our time by answering the prompt: *What era are we living in today?*

Each team impressed with their quality of research and argumentation, with teams variously proposing that we might be remembered as the Age of Intolerance, Chaos, Awareness, Global Milestones, and Carbon. However, the team from Thomas Cookes won the prize with their eloquent elucidation of the urgency we face in this *Age of Reckoning*.

Led by the Headmaster, the panel of judges praised all teams, but especially



commended the Prep School team for their impressive entry. Not only was this team the youngest ever to enter the competition, but they also bravely started the event by being the first to present.

This competition is the second event in the new Scholars' Programme which encourages academic excellence through extension activities.

Artist and Designer

Artist and designer, Pavneet Sembhi spoke to Years 7 & 8 about her educational and professional art experiences. Pavneet is a highly educated Law Graduate who always felt a burning desire to create. With her love of art, she spearheaded a highly sought after method of

art creation, something we all now recognise as mindful mandala colouring books and wall paintings, which have also been snapped up by multiple merchandise companies. Pavneet talked about how her strong social media presence gave her a platform to use her skills to work with

other world-renowned artists and designers.

All the pupils and many staff thoroughly enjoyed her engaging and fascinating talk.



Archive and Heritage Centre



School Archivist Nikki Thorpe was delighted to welcome Mike Rogers, Sector Development Manager (Transport & Schools) from the National Archives for a sneak peek of the new Archive and Heritage Centre.

The official opening will take place on Commemoration Day.

Bromsgrovian News

Worcester Warrior



Congratulations to Justin Clegg (Ly 04-15) on his two-year contract extension with Worcester Warriors.

Justin joined the Warriors Academy for the 2016-17 season and was promoted to the senior squad two years later. Despite a stress fracture of the back, he has made six senior appearances to date, including his first start in the European Challenge Cup victory over Enisei-STM.

Anya on Film

Mr Dinnan was delighted to welcome Anya Butler (HH 10-19) to the English Department to share her exciting news; the BBC have commissioned her to create a film accompanying her winning Housman Verse poem. The film will be broadcast later this year.

Huge congratulations to Anya for this very impressive achievement.



OB Visitors

Josephine Nip (MW 00-04) and her family visited the School in December. They live in Hong Kong, where Josephine is a full time mum to her children aged 5 and 3.



Housman Hallians Kiren Doyle (04-19) and Hannah Brock (17-19) made a surprise visit to Mrs Ashcroft in the Futures department who enjoyed hearing about how they have been getting on since leaving earlier this summer.

If you'd like to visit us for a tour, please let us know by emailing oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk