



# Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

LENT 2021



## A Word from the Headmaster

Exactly one year ago, I wrote of the Spring blooming across the School with nobody here to appreciate it. Those were the days when the word Lockdown didn't come with a number after it. This March, the easing of our third enforced isolation has at least allowed pupils and staff back on campus to witness Nature painting the School in all its glory. The legions of daffodils nodding their heads in unison along Masters' Walk seem to say, "About time."

It is about time. About time that we were reunited, able to converse without first having to unmute. About time that our pupils were released from the strict segregation of year groups and able to mix in the more natural family structures

of their Houses again. About time that we were able to read joy and mirth on each other's faces once more, to stop trying to interpret greetings from behind the muffling of masks. As the veil of Winter has lifted, so too should the drab covering of faces. We need to see each other once more, in every sense of the word.

It is a cliché, but I shall restate it anyway; if the pandemic has taught us anything, it is the importance of relationships. The School is founded, not so much on bricks and mortar, nor traditions and history, but on an enduring web of relationships and shared experience. And whilst it is true that those ties have been tested during our separation and are now the stronger for it,

there is no doubt they now need to flourish once more.

As with the daffodil bulbs, which lay dormant and hidden over the Winter, so too must our connections with one another, in person and in earnest, now blossom again. Easter heralds resurrection and new life. When we return for the Summer Term, that shall be our focus too. Whatever the restrictions that still remain, our priority will be the renewal of bonds and a rekindling of the friendships and fraternity. Bromsgrove will bloom again, and not before time.

Peter Clague  
HEADMASTER

# Back to School - Again



Pupils and staff are excited to be back together in the classroom after many weeks of virtual lessons. Year 7 pupils enjoyed practical lessons in Design Technology, using fretsaws to create a tangram puzzle.

Year 1 have been learning the names of the continents in class and literally had the whole world in their hands!

Prep pupils enjoyed viewing Orion Nebula in the School Observatory. The Orion Nebula is a Diffuse Nebula around 1000 light-years from Earth.

Lower Fourth pupils learnt about degrees of the scale with Mr McKelvey.



# Eco Leaders

Senior pupils Elisabeth, Elena and Lilly represented the Midlands network during a national meeting of Eco-Schools. Both were involved in launching the Midlands Schools Eco-Network, and they have done well to create a network of local schools from nothing, feeding into the national momentum, and especially encouraging other schools.

They had the honour of representing the Midlands at the national network meeting. All three are fantastic ambassadors and we can't wait to see what initiatives they come up with at Bromsgrove.

Meanwhile, boarding pupils enjoyed taking part an Eco Day at School over half term, planting trees around the grounds under the supervision of the School gardeners.



# Combined Forces

Lower Sixth Cadets enjoyed their first parade night back in School. They completed an 'egg and spoon' obstacle course with just a few cracked eggs left on the ground, but all the chocolate was soon eaten.



# Planet Aware

Lower Sixth student, Elena Lopez Hemsing has made a thought-provoking video to encourage others to think more carefully about looking after the planet. Created as part of a digital storytelling workshop run by a PhD student at Oxford, Elena's '*A Letter to Myself*' is essentially a letter from the future, warning of the damage and destruction that will be caused to the planet if we don't act now.

Elena says, "It is important to spread awareness and be more eco-friendly because we are deteriorating our planet every second. We pollute with greenhouse gases and plastic, we consume and use up our resources like forests and freshwater while thinking it will only affect the animals and trees around us. However, that is very wrong since the world surrounding us is an interconnected ecosystem."

To watch all of Elena's inspiring video click on this link:

***A Letter to Myself***



## Chinese New Year

Page House boarders enjoyed a banquet in celebration of Chinese New Year and the year of the Ox.



## Video Stars

Thank you to our Nigerian pupils who gave their time freely to film interviews for an online event attended by Miss Scannell. If you would like to see the full video please click this link: [Pupil Interviews, Nigeria](#).



## Photo Club

Year 8 pupils have enjoyed being back at School and participating in Photography Club - the Spring sunshine has definitely helped. Kalash R took an amazing daytime photo of the moon.



# Easter Fun



The girls in Hazeldene House enjoyed an Easter egg hunt around the grounds during the last week of the Lent Term



and the Easter bunny visited the children in Page House for a special Easter Egg hunt on the last weekend of

the term. In Pre-Prep, the PA organised a raffle with some lovely Easter themed prizes.



## Red Nose Day

Year 1 had a fund raising Red Nose hunt in Forest School.



## Characters

Nursery had fun dressing up as their favourite characters for World Book Day.



# Bromsgrove Badge



Lower Fourth pupils keenly took part in the Bromsgrove Badge programme during the first week back at School. They all the team building exercises at Upton Warren, despite the slightly murky conditions.

# Musical Notes



Well done to two talented Year 6 musicians who are delighted to have been invited to join the National Children's Orchestra.

Amina Muldasheva and Tallulah White will take part in the programme that will be running over the next three months, covering instrumental workshops, orchestral and creative challenges and multi-track online performance.



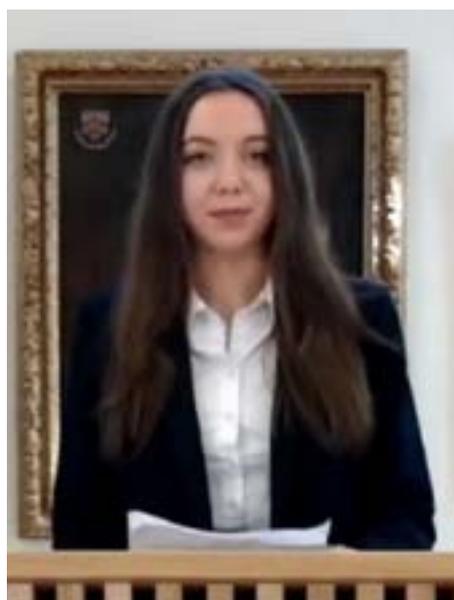
# Running for CAS



IB students Zoe Law, Esme Ellwell-Thomas, Sophia Eaton, Iris Tang and Isobel Scott – came together virtually during lockdown to discuss how they could still achieve something in a meaningful way, even though they were spread across the country. They decided to complete a distance of 534km with activities such as walks,

runs and exercise on treadmills and bikes. The total distance travelled is almost half the length of the UK – the exact distance is the equivalent of going from Edinburgh to London. They chose to raise money for the charity, Cancer Research UK as everyone will be affected by cancer in some way during their lifetime.

IB students are required take part in Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS), the aim is to enable them to demonstrate the attributes of the IB learner profile in real and practical ways, to grow as unique individuals and to recognise their role in relation to others



## Staff Reading Prize

Well done to the finalists of the Senior Staff Reading Prize; Isabelle Benson, Polly Dakin and Lily Zeng, whose readings were broadcast live to the School and parents. This year the standard of entries was incredibly high. With the theme of 'Youth', entrants read extracts that explored its excitement, naivety and frustration. Staff voted the winner of the senior competition to be Polly Dakin. A big congratulations also to the junior winner, George Hastings.

To watch the video of the competition readings, please click on this link: [Staff Reading Prize](#)

# Bromsgrovian News

## Diamond Wedding



Congratulations to **Nigel Sisson** (School 46-50) and his wife, Jackie who celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 5th April 2021. Due to the restrictions in place by the Covid pandemic, they are not able to celebrate as much as they would like, but special prayers will be held in the London church where they were married, and at their local church at Sandringham, Norfolk.

## MBE Awards



Congratulations to two former Mary Windsor pupils who have been awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours List.

Our congratulations are extended to **Dr Fiona Dempsey** (nee Gibson, 96-98) for her services to the NHS during the COVID-19 pandemic and to **Sarah Cowley** (89-98) (pictured above), Vice Consul, British Embassy Montevideo, for services to British Nationals Overseas.

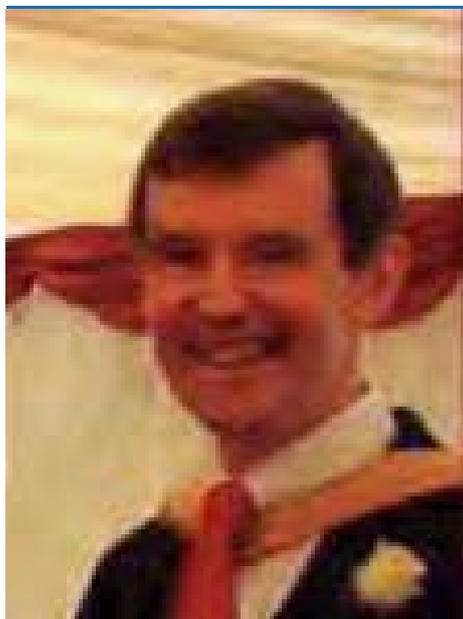
## Candy Lockett



Congratulations to **Candy Lockett** (Hz 12-17) who has been unveiled as one of the finalists for the 2020-21 Murphy Osborne Award as part of the Conference Carolinas. Each college university has one candidate. They then choose one woman from Conference Carolinas to exemplify the best in character, athletics and scholarship. It is the highest honour for a woman athlete to be nominated as the only one from UMO - to read more click this link: **Finalist Panel**

# Bromsgrovian News

## Peter Lee-Smith Rugby News



It is with great sadness that we learned of the death of **Peter Lee-Smith**, former Headmaster of Bromsgrove Prep School (2001-2008).

During Peter's time, the Prep School underwent significant improvement and growth – pupil numbers increased and the long-awaited Maple building for Years 3-5 was opened. He was also one of the driving forces behind the Saturday activities programme.

His colleagues will remember him as a leader with great determination, care and consideration for all. His sense of responsibility for the welfare of the children was always a priority and he took great pride in greeting children every morning and supervising their departure each evening.

Following retirement, Peter was never going to fully give up school life completely, and so he took on a role within IAPS, an organisation which supports and maintains the highest standards in prep schools.

We say goodbye to a true gentleman; our thoughts and prayers go to his wife Sue and the rest of the family.

We were very proud of **Ollie Lawrence's** England debut against Italy from the bench in the final round of the re-arranged Six Nations last October. He was also in action vs Scotland in the Six Nations in February 2021.

At School, Ollie (Ly 16-18) was the 1st XV captain and was called up to the England senior squad in the summer of 2018 ahead of their tour to South Africa. He made his Worcester debut in the Anglo-Welsh cup in 2017. Known as a line-breaking midfielder, Ollie has developed into a regular in Worcester's backline.



Ollie Lawrence photo credit: England Rugby



Congratulations to former Head Boy, **Seb Atkinson** (E 15-20) on his selection to the England U20 EPS Squad. This player pathway programme is a vital development tool for future full international rugby; of the 31 players selected in England's 2019 Rugby World Cup squad, 81% had played for England U20s.

## Honoured



We offer our congratulations to **Vice Admiral Ben Key** (Cobham/Wendron 79-84) who received a KCB in the New Year Honours List. One of the Navy's longest serving and most senior officers, he is knighted for his "outstanding contribution representing the Royal Navy and the UK's defence".

Now Commander of Joint Operations at Northwood, Vice Admiral Ben Key commanded frigates HMS Iron Duke and Lancaster, carrier HMS Illustrious and served as Fleet Commander between 2016 and 2019.