



Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

MICHAELMAS 2020
ISSUE 1

A word from the Headmaster

Among the numerous restrictions that have descended upon the School this term, the curb on most live music performances has been particularly unfortunate. However, where there is a will, there is a way. A determined group of Sixth Form musicians have managed to rehearse together whilst still following all health guidelines, culminating in an uplifting performance to each year group bubble in the final week before Half Term.

They could hardly have picked a more uplifting finale, as they belted out the Seventies empowerment anthem "I Will Survive." Nor could it have been more fitting. Firstly, because of the diversity of talent, with ten musicians from

across the School's proud spectrum of nationalities, playing in complete harmony. This was surely the first time ever that a solo on the traditional Chinese instrument, the erhu, has featured in a disco classic.

Secondly, the band's obvious joy in playing to more than an empty room for a change, was matched by the audience's equal appreciation of something other than Zoom. The performance was a powerful reminder of what we all hunger to regain once the restrictions are lifted. The live performance may have been socially distanced, but it still succeeded in connecting us all.

And finally, the message itself. Survival is not just about saving lives, it is also about saving life. About continuing to live with comfort and confidence in the face of threat and challenge. By that measure, the School has certainly survived this first half term, despite the restrictions and impositions. The heavy boot of COVID-19 may have come down on many of the normal joys of the Michaelmas Term, but we are still standing and the music plays on.

Peter Clague
HEADMASTER



Monitors

Our new Upper Sixth Monitors received their leadership training in the Old Chapel at the start of the Michaelmas Term. After a brief talk on the History of the School and the importance of stewardship, by Mr McClure, the new Monitors enthusiastically took part in a team building exercise.



Eco Commitment

We were delighted to find out that the Prep School has achieved the Eco-Schools Green Flag status. This is an internationally recognised award for excellence in environmental action and learning and is a tremendous achievement for Mrs Dakin and her

team of pupils on the Eco Committee. It is a true reflection of the School's determination to make a real difference in this area.

The new Prep Eco Committee members were announced at an online assembly. They are keen to

encourage everyone to recycle old pens, crisp packets, stamps, plastic bottle tops, toothpaste products and ink cartridges. One of the main topics of conversation in the meeting was the use of reusable face masks and how damaging to the environment the disposable masks are.

Riding High

We have a keen horse riding activity at School, which offers a good range of competitive opportunities. Whilst the School was closed to pupils, and during the summer holidays, a number of our pupils have continued to take part in horse riding competitions.

Chloe Chan came second in the Eland Lodge qualifiers (Hunter Trials) and qualified for a national championship. At the BSPS Championship Show Chloe came 2nd, 4th and 6th in National classes Hunter Trials. At the Pony Club inter regionals dressage competition,

Chloe came 2nd out of 200 competitors scoring 76.25%.

Chloe and her horse, Doc, already have a busy 2021 planned, with the aim of competing to qualify for Horse of the Year Show, the Royal International 2021 and to be selected to represent the central region for the under 21s for British Dressage - we wish Chloe luck to achieve her goals.

Well done also to Madeleine May who competed in an Area competition and became the 2020 Area Novice Arena

Champion in Dressage. Madeleine was representing her Pony Club, Worcestershire Hunt Pony Club.

Amy Pinfield qualified on her horse, Hisley Silversmith to compete at Horse of the Year Show in October in the Junior Mountain and Moorland Pony of the Year section. Amy then competed on a bigger Highland pony, Clandon Precious, at a local horse show and BSPS Area 6. She won on both occasions and she is looking forward to more competitions with Clandon in the near future.



Photo credit: emmpix.co.uk

Kidnapped!

Year 2 had an exciting start to the year when they received a ransom note from The Evil Knight asking them to pay 50 groats to free Princess Arabella who was locked in a tower. After much searching, they found 50 groats buried in the School garden and quickly sent the ransom by special delivery. They were relieved to receive a video message from Princess Arabella who thanked them for paying the ransom and setting her free.



Motor Racing

Freddie Slater has been busy racing over the summer. Freddie is signed by Ricky Flynn Motorsports who support him in his endeavours. He is looking forward to competing in a variety of International competitions this season.



New Style

We are delighted that a number of girls, in both Prep (Years 7 & 8) and Senior School, have chosen to wear the new uniform trousers this year - they look smart and comfortable.

Cricket

Well done to Daisy Apperley who was awarded the Coaches' Player of the Year (U11 girls) by her club - Astwood Bank. Her team also won the league. We are delighted to hear that the cricket training she received from Miss Evenson during the Lent Term made a real difference to her game this year.





Forest School Adventures

Many pupils have been enjoying Forest School since School returned in September. Year 3 loved sitting around the fire drinking hot chocolate and toasting marshmallows. They thoroughly enjoyed exploring their new Forest School area, hunting for minibeasts and playing in the mud kitchen. They planted crocus bulbs which we look forward to seeing bloom in the Spring. They also practised tying a clove hitch knot, using a conker clamp to drill holes through the conkers, digging, hunting for minibeasts, climbing and making dens.

Year 4 agreed that with everything that has been going on in the world, it has made us all appreciate the natural world even more and they enjoyed spending time outside in Forest School.

The Page House boarders also enjoyed getting outside for an activity in Forest School, they cooked s'mores and made hot chocolate after completing a range of woodland adventures.



Gardening Club

The Preparatory School Gardening Club has been busy pulling out the 'lockdown' weeds.

They are looking forward to getting some plants in the ground once it has been prepared and are going to be planting onion sets in the greenhouse to give them a head start.

The Year 6 Gardening Club were amazed to see the size of the sunflowers that had grown from a tiny seeds. They were also thrilled to visit the orchard and see the pears and apples ready to be harvested and the bees very active in our four hives.



Photography Skills



Year 7 Photography Club enjoyed making the most of their beautiful surroundings in their year group bubble during the Michaelmas Term. They have worked on close-ups of nature and portraits over the last few weeks and are now honing their digital editing techniques.



Well done to Year 4 pupil Edward Sollars, who won first place in the nature photography competition (Junior section) at St Michael's Church in Stoke Prior; his prize was a Sony digital camera. His winning photograph 'Tree Trunk' is shown above. The church held an exhibition and competition of local photography for their Heritage Open Day, and to raise money for the church tower renovations.

Basement Support

The Prep Heads of School and their Deputies delivered the Prep and Pre-Prep Harvest Festival donations to The Basement Project. The School has been supporting this local charity for a few years and are delighted to be able to do so again, particularly at this difficult time.



We are proud that our young pupils choose to support the Basement Project, which is based in Bromsgrove but provides support across the whole of Worcestershire to homeless and potentially homeless young people between the ages of 16 and 25.

Scrubs

Harmonie Daniel-Umoh used her spare time this summer to design and make many wonderful scrub bags for health workers. The bags are beautifully made in an array of amazing colours. Huge thanks to Harmonie for selflessly using her time to help NHS staff.



Walking the Hills

Lower Fourth pupils were delighted to be able to undertake the annual year group walk to Malvern. The weather was kind to them and the fresh air did everyone good. The walk is challenging but all the pupils managed to finish the course and there were plenty of happy smiles along the way



Enriching Activities

The Sixth Form enthusiastically took part in their first set of Enrichment Activities. This programme is designed to give pupils a range of skills beyond the classroom that will help them in life beyond the School gates.

All pupils took part in a carousel of activities which included Car Safety & Maintenance, First Aid, Self Defence & Conflict Resolution, Food Tech (food preparation and food on a budget), Healthy Relationships, Bike Safety and Maintenance, Leadership & Resilience Skills. The sessions were led by our staff with specialist skills in these areas and with external experts contributing to the sessions.



Bromsgrovian News

Vet in Japan



Congratulations to Momo Watanabe (HH13-15) who has just graduated from the Royal Veterinary College in London and is back in her home country of Japan to study for her licence to practise there. Momo is now advising one of our current pupils, also from Japan, who wishes to study at RVC in the near future.

Fraser Returns



Fraser Foster (Lu 05-16) came back to School to meet with his former Houseparent, Mr McClure. Fraser will be supporting students who want a career in construction management through the graduate programme at Balfour Beatty.

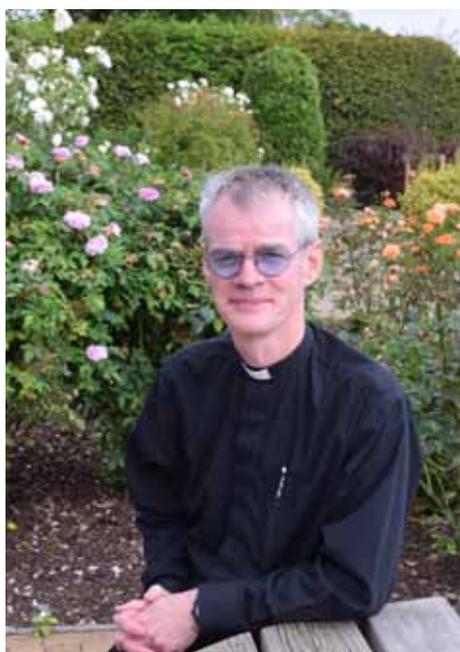
If you'd like to tell us your news, please let us know by emailing oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk

Media Award



Congratulations to Emilie Birks (O 01-06) who has been announced as a finalist in the Media category for the Women of the Future Awards 2020. Emilie's impressive CV has seen her develop skills and competencies in all the major areas of marketing strategy, planning and implementation, whilst working with UK, international and global companies. Emilie currently leads the Marketing Channel Strategy in Europe for Yamaha Music Europe GmbH, as well as sitting on the Global Brand team at Yamaha Corporation in Japan.

Theological Work



Dr Sean Loone, the School's Assistant Chaplain, used any spare time he could while the School was closed during the Covid lockdown to help others in need. As well as volunteering to be an NHS responder, he organised donations for the Saint Chads Sanctuary in Birmingham. He also returned to a project he had been working on before lockdown, writing his new book, *'Only in the Crucified God – Questions and Answers on Faith, Hope and Love.'*

Dr Loone explains; "Many of the questions were asked of me and inspired by pupils in the Pre-Prep and Prep Schools. The project provided me with the opportunity to answer many of the questions I have been asked over the years by using the Bible as my main resource. Equally, the book helped me during such a difficult time for the country to explore the 'darkness' many people experienced by giving a message of comfort, consolation and hope. At the same time it was important for me to write a book reflecting one of my core beliefs that God includes everyone and excludes no one. I made the decision to donate all of the profits from the sale of the book to charity, specifically to one dedicated to helping people in the poorest parts of the world least able to cope with COVID-19. In this way I felt that I was able to make a small contribution to making the world in which we all live, a little better, for those who needed the help most".

The book is currently available in dual format from [Amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)

Staff News Llanwrtyd Ride

81 years ago Bromsgrove School moved to Llanwrtyd Wells after the School buildings were requisitioned by the Ministry of War on 7th September 1939. By 30th September, 240 boys were in their temporary home and Llanwrtyd Wells became Bromsgrove School's main home for four years during World War Two. As the War intensified and the threat of invasion grew, parents of younger boys asked for their sons to be taken under Bromsgrove School care. Bombing raids on major towns and cities across the country led Headmaster Walters to believe that a Prep School was needed to accommodate the growing need. On September 20th 1940, Bromsgrove Junior School opened its doors. Our Junior School was founded with just 16 pupils, but from these small foundations the School has flourished and Prep School now has over 500 pupils.

In this year when nothing has been able to be celebrated as might have been planned, Bromsgrove School had hoped to come together with the town of Llanwrtyd Wells to celebrate their combined history, 80 years on. Sadly the celebrations that were being planned had to be postponed, but some of the School's intrepid staff decided to commemorate the anniversary in their own way.

Organised by Gareth Jones, the Prep School's Head of Boys PE, fourteen cyclists, all members of School staff, took on the challenge of riding from Llanwrtyd Wells to Bromsgrove, with four riders even completing a round trip of 180 miles.



Gareth commented, "This is a day that will stay long in the memory. To cycle from where we were based in Llanwrtyd Wells back to Bromsgrove was a symbolic thing to do and I first thought about the idea during lockdown as it was reported that 1.3 million people bought bikes, and it also coincided with the founding of the Prep School in Wales, my home country. The team of riders set out from Llanwrtyd on a glorious sunny day. Cycling through the countryside either side of the border was beautiful and this certainly helped to ensure that the day ran smoothly."

