



Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

SUMMER
2020

A Word from the Headmaster

In 1710, the philosopher George Berkeley proposed a famous thought experiment, asking “If a tree falls in a forest and no one is there to hear it, does it make a sound?” I have pondered similar notions over the past three months of lockdown, as the delights of Spring on the Bromsgrove campus have blossomed with only a small handful of us who live onsite here to appreciate them.

There is no doubt that what we have all missed most during this enforced separation is each other. It is our social ties that bind us as a School family, and most of us are craving the sustenance of the hundred daily interactions we once took for granted. However, I know that many are also hungering for the familiar sights, smells and scenery of our magnificent estate, especially in the season when it shows off all its glory during the run up to Commemoration Day.

An OB wrote to me last week, offering words of encouragement in these trying times and wistfully reminiscing *“The beautiful campus encompasses the friendliness and warmth that represents all that is wonderful about Bromsgrove, and comes to life within it. I’m not sure I’ll ever find anywhere quite as special. I loved especially the mornings, the warm summers and the cherry blossom outside old chapel.”* I feel sure that she speaks for many.

The campus is still here of course, and will be when we all return in September. The riot of Spring colour and fragrant Summer breezes may have drifted on by then, but they will return soon enough, as they have done for the 500+ years of the School’s existence. So, too, shall we.

This has been a term without precedent, but just as Bromsgrove’s grounds have existed without pupils and staff to revel in them, so too has the School’s soul endured in isolation. For three months and in 2000 homes, our values, ethos and identity have been sustained and cherished by Bromsgrovians dispersed throughout Britain and around the globe. To all who have kept those ideals alive, supporting the School despite their own personal pressures and uncertainties, I offer



“The world is indeed full of peril, and in it there are many dark places; but still there is much that is fair, and though in all lands love is now mingled with grief, it grows perhaps the greater.”

Peter Clague
HEADMASTER

my heartfelt gratitude. This term has been an extraordinary test of our unity, yet we are the stronger for it. And just like the flora of the campus, we will blossom again next year. I close with words from Tolkien’s ‘Lord of The Rings’ that seem apposite right now:



Boarders in Lockdown



Thirteen boarders from Prep and Senior School have been living in one household with residential staff within the School campus since Easter. We are incredibly proud of how all of them have coped with being away from home, especially since many of them haven't been home since January. Their dedication, enthusiasm and cheerfulness have been wonderful. We also pay tribute to all the staff who have helped to care for these boarders, Miss Limbrick took up residence with them early on and has been their Houseparent throughout.

Miss Paling, who usually helps to look after our Prep boarders in Page House, has been in every day and many other staff have been involved with the care and well-being of this small group.



The boarders said a big thank you to Waitrose Bromsgrove for providing them with a selection of sandwiches, sushi and other lovely treats. They had extra cause for celebration as it was Nicole's 17th birthday, which they celebrated with cake.





1079
face shields
manufactured
and assembled at
BROMSGROVE
are now in use at
local hospitals and
healthcare facilities

290 GOGGLES

**GLOVES
AND MASKS**
donated by a Bromsgrove
family are now being used
by local medics and care homes

35
scrub bags
sewn and
distributed

BROMSGROVE SCHOOL
is proud to support the NHS
and frontline workers

Follow our #HealthcareHeroes story on social media [@BromsSchool](#) [@BromsgroveSchool](#)



PPE Help

The boarders, along with the Headmaster, spent their time over Easter making PPE face shields for local key workers. They supplied over 1000 masks to grateful recipients including hospitals, nursing homes, community nurses, local GPs, hospices, pharmacies, emergency dentists and even a lift company repairing lifts in care homes.



VE Day

There would have been so many VE Day events around the UK for the 75th anniversary this May, we were naturally very disappointed not to be able to celebrate VE Day at School as had been planned, but many Bromsgrove families celebrated at home and there were many online lesson activities for pupils to enjoy. This is just a small snapshot of the many stories and pictures we were sent.

The CCF's Captain Farnes asked the Upper Fourth Cadets to design a piece of work for displaying on VE Day. Sofia Neale made a poster about her Great Grandfather Group Captain Gerry Edge, DFC, OBE. He was a Battle of Britain pilot.

Pupils of all ages baked and created with great enthusiasm - there were cakes, biscuits, flags, posters and much dressing up in red white and blue as well as costumes that reflected the 1940s. Mr Price, (of the Estates team), dressed in his re-enactment costume of the Corps of Military Police, circa 1942.

Miss Davis from the Prep School told pupils about her grandparents in Austria. Her Grandpa was a soldier from Malvern, and her Grandma was an Austrian, they met during the occupation of the peace in Austria.



The Bridge

Our Upper Sixth pupils have been taking part in a new programme we call the Bromsgrove Bridge. The idea is to provide this year group with extension lessons and lectures that will help them in their future university lives.

The programme has included academic lessons and enrichment lectures on a huge variety of subjects. Pupils have been able to take part in StressBox and mindfulness sessions, they have had cookery and nutrition sessions from our caterers Holroyd Howe and they have joined panel

sessions with Old Bromsgrovians, which have given them an overview of university life courses and finance. The whole year group, whether here in the UK or further afield in the world, have been very engaged in this programme and we are proud of their enthusiasm to take part.

Will Edwards
+ covaid



An app that instantly links people in need of help with people willing to help out. Geographically linked to create local communities of online help for the vulnerable.



DT sessions used the theme was *Isolation Innovation*, with pupils tasked with designing something that would tackle a problem that they had encountered in the last few weeks of isolation. The results were thought provoking. One piece of work from Will Edwards is shown above.

Thank you to the many Old Bromsgrovians who have joined our Bridge Programme to educate and inspire our Upper Sixth Pupils. The list of contributors is long and the full line up can be seen on the School website's online learning link.

Pupils enjoyed joining the virtual cookery lessons, Ellie Johnson made these delicious kofta kebabs for her family.

Harvard

As reported in the previous Online News Review, Siena Horton has secured a prestigious sports scholarship at Harvard University in the States. She was excited to share this screen shot of their online welcome.



harvardfieldhockey
Cambridge, Massachusetts



Virtual Music

The Music Department have been putting on a series of Friday afternoon concerts on the Zoom online platform. These regular musical interludes have been very enjoyable and inspired many fantastic performances by pupils of all ages. Thank you to the Music team for organising these special mini-concerts.



Geography Finalists

Izzy Walters and Lucia Goodwin have both reached the Final of Warwick University's Sustainability Competition 2020. This competition was established to engage with talented Year 12 pupils and to provide an insight into the type of thought-provoking issues involved in studying GSD at Warwick. The competition themes are set by the GSD department; Izzy wrote a 4-minute podcast on the topic *Many influential figures deny that climate change is real. How would you respond to climate change deniers?* And Lucia chose to write a 2000-word essay on the subject of *To what extent is sustainable development about creation?*

Climate change is part of our everyday lives and this competition gives pupils an opportunity to research issues outside of their core Geography A Level and IB curriculums. Good luck for the finals and well done to both girls who have applied to study a geography / sustainable development next year.



Housman Verse Prize

The winner of this year's Housman Verse Prize 2020 is Miray Kose with her piece entitled 'A Choice'. The winning entry would usually be read by the author during Routh Assembly, so instead we have decided to publish it in full here.

A Choice

by Miray Köse

Sunlight strikes your skin
Like a distant force of reckoning,
You unfurl the ache all over your body,
Relentlessly pulling the covers over your face

Letting your passion die out like
A dead winter tree,
Leaving the leaves to rot
And the roots to dry.

Seconds bleed into minutes and
Minutes into hours,
The days blend into each other.
You allow time to lose relevance.

...

Sunlight strokes your skin,
Like a comforting source of familiarity,
You force energy into your body from within,
Pushing the covers off in complete clarity.

You force your passion to reignite,
A great spring tree,
Blossoming even at twilight,
Its branches growing into infinity.

Seconds lasting longer,
A great wealth of minutes and hours,
So many days and so much to discover,
Time is a gift that overpowers.

A look outside: stars and plains and hills,
Water still running,
The May morning thrills,
The heart of nature forthcoming.

So now you rise from sleep,
The curtains undrawn,
Within you dreams still deep,
And get drunk off the fresh taste of dawn.

Because even in uncertainty,
And in a lack of rejoice,
There remains the option of positivity,
And that's the beauty of choice.



Ottilie Hild House



Day girls from Oakley were due to take up their place in their newly created Ottilie Hild House, after Easter, with Houseparent Miss Hanson and her team.

Building work had to be delayed due to the School closure however, but it is now on-going again and the House is taking shape. We look forward to welcoming the House to the School family when we return in September.

Ottilie Hild is an important figure at Bromsgrove, being the founder of our present Nursery and Pre-Preparatory School.

Camping Funds

Prep pupils Daniel and Robyn Duffy camped out with their parents at home to raise money for the Sifa Fireside Charity (Shelter Birmingham).

To raise more money, they set up a stall on their front lawn selling home-baked goodies and lockdown games. In the evening, they enjoyed toasted marshmallows on a camp fire.



Young Enterprise



Following their success in the Area Final, where they won the Best Finance, Innovation and Creativity and Best Company awards, EcoVerse have gone on to win Best Use of IT at the County Final. Feedback from the judges in this round specifically referred to their “Excellent website and use of social media to promote

their products which displayed good customer focus”.

This year has not been easy for their business, like most businesses at the moment, with trade fairs cancelled and competitions not able to take place in person. However, the team has shown a huge amount of resourcefulness and

resilience to work remotely to submit an online presentation and still give their all to the competition.

We are sure they will have learned many skills that will help them in future life. Everyone at the School is very proud of their achievements.

Real Estate Success

Congratulations to Tom Martin, who has been successful in securing an apprenticeship with the Coal Authority in Nottingham. After carrying out plenty of groundwork to research and apply for apprenticeships, Tom has been offered a five-year fixed term contract and his university fees will be paid. The apprenticeship involves day release to Nottingham Trent University, where Tom will study Real Estate. At the end of the apprenticeship Tom will be a Chartered Commercial Surveyor and also hold a degree in Real Estate.

Any pupils interested in applying for apprenticeships to work or study after School should contact Mrs Ashcroft in Futures Department.

