



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

# Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

SUMMER 2021  
ISSUE 2



## A Word from the Headmaster

When he died in 1723, an epitaph for the brilliant English architect, Sir Christopher Wren, read "Not for his own but for the greater good." The same could perhaps be said of our beloved Headmistress, Mrs Deval-Reed, as she retires after a remarkable 34-year career as an educator. As is evident in the following pages, she deserves high praise for the manner in which she led our Preparatory and Pre-Preparatory Schools for the past two decades. The School she dreamed of has been realised through altruistic dedication to the flourishing of her pupils, with never a thought for her own aggrandisement.

Like Wren, she has been an architect with a grand vision, yet who has never been afraid to get her own hands dirty in the building of it. Ever the elegant and refined public face of the School, she has been equally happy

down on the floor of a Reception Art class or perched on a log in Forest School, as she has been on the Cobham stage, leading an assembly. Similarly, her extraordinary knowledge of every child in her care came from many more hours spent chatting with parents on the Concourse or in the car park, than locked away drawing up plans in her office. Mrs Deval-Reed has always understood that the relationship between home and School was the foundation stone for anything she desired to build at Bromsgrove.

And build she did. Not only classrooms and facilities, but curriculum, culture, and reputation. Her eye for excellence and an unrelenting determination to see every child realise their potential have been at the heart of Bromsgrove's success over the past 20 years. Hundreds, if not thousands

of children have benefited directly from Mrs Deval-Reed's vision, not to mention her warmth and personal encouragement to be their best.

Unsurprising then that, despite the best efforts of the pandemic to thwart a proper send-off, she was still inundated with gratitude and a huge show of respect in her final weeks at Bromsgrove. Parents and children of all ages, including many OB's who had long since left her care, paid homage to the impact that she had on their lives. And thankfully for coming generations, her ideals of educational excellence endure in all that she built. Like Sir Christopher Wren, Mrs Deval-Reed's legacy is enshrined in the schools that she envisioned.

Peter Clague  
HEADMASTER

# Fond Farewells



Pupils, parents and colleagues (current and former) all wished Mrs Deval-Reed a happy retirement. She was showered with gifts and messages of goodwill.

We aren't quite sure how she managed to keep her composure during her last week as Head of the Prep and Pre-Preparatory Schools, but she will be forever remembered for her serenity under pressure and her genuine love of all the pupils in her care. We wish Jacqui many happy and rewarding years ahead.



# Confirmation



After almost a year and a half waiting five of our students were finally confirmed in early May: the service was

conducted by the Bishop of Worcester, the Right Reverend Dr. John Inge. Confirmed were: Tundun Soyebó, Bolu

Adegbonmire, Jamie Lewis, Joseph Boardman and Jonathan Odebiyi.



## Prep Poets

Earlier in the year, the Prep School English department invited the children to take part in Worcestershire Libraries Young Poet Laureate Competition. Some of the children were brave enough to take on the challenge and received an academic commendation for their efforts.

Vanshika Sopariwala in Year 4 received a further accolade as her poem was short listed; she then performed her poem online to the judges and was the youngest competitor in the final selection-well done Vanshika.

# In His Stride



Well done to Ollie Dieppe who has been selected for the Year 9 Herefordshire & Worcestershire county team to compete at the prestigious English Schools' track and field championships. He will compete in the 80m hurdles.

Ollie becomes the first Prep School boy ever to be selected for a track event at these championships, known for having very high entry standards in order to be eligible to compete. We wish Ollie the very best for the competition.

## Archive Help

The School Archivist is very grateful to IB students Jolene and Anna (both Oakley House) who, having finished their exams, offered their help with any chores. They spent some time de-framing photographs in the School Archive. This is a careful, painstaking job which takes time and patience but is so necessary for long term storage and conservation of our images.



# Cricket

The U12 boys' cricket team were crowned County Champions in spectacular fashion, beating King's Worcester by an unbelievable 133 runs.

Batting first and with an incredible opening partnership of 153 between Alfie Higgins (59) and Seth Benjamin (78), our boys posted a formidable total of 198 in just 20 overs.

Bromsgrove bowlers then continued the professional performance with some accurate bowling, dismissing the under pressure King's batsmen for just 65 in the 15th over, hitting the stumps an impressive seven times.

The team will now play in the prestigious U13 Bunbury Cup next season.

The U11 cricket team made it to the final of the County Cup. They finished as runners up, losing to The Elms by only six runs.



The U13A and U12A girls' cricket teams played against King's High Warwick in their final matches of the season. They were both amazingly close games, with the U13A game being decided in the last over of the match. Fortunately, the game went in Bromsgrove's favour, seeing them narrowly win by just two runs 247 – 245.

The U12As also had a very close match with the final score being 224 – 228 to King's High.

# Sunflowers



Bowen Cheung, Alex Cheung, Joseph Boardman and Gabriel Brown set up and run The Sunflower Project, a charity

which supports a school in rural China. This term's Own Clothes' Day raised £1350 for the charity.

## Singing Success

Congratulations to Charissa Brobbey-Sarpong who has successfully auditioned with the British Youth Music Theatre and has been offered a place to perform in the Legend of White Bear Lake musical this summer. Charissa has also been instated as a Chorister at Worcester Cathedral.



## Shine On

Congratulations to Elizaveta Vasilyeva who who has wone a Shine Media Award for "best illustration and artwork" for the pupil led **Two Zero One** Magazine. Click on the image to read the latest edition.



# IB Results

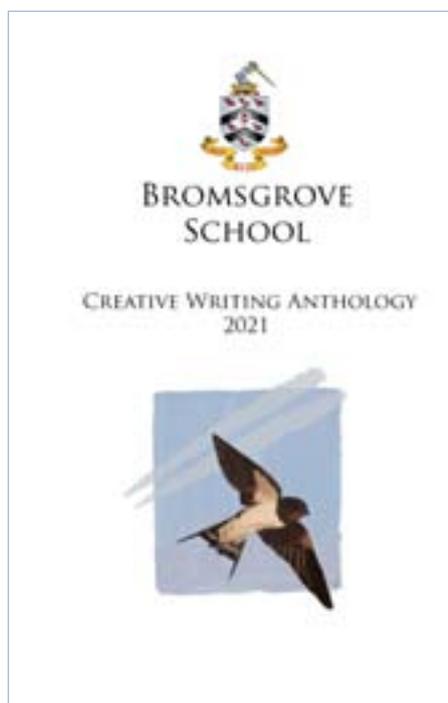


Congratulations to all our students who have just completed the IB Diploma. Results have just been received and we are delighted that 10% of the group achieved 44 or more points (the highest score available is 45).

Four students achieved the coveted 45 point maximum; Leonie Sackers, Jolene Koh, Lucia Goodwin and Nic Bamberger. A further three students scored 44 points; Baris Cavusoglu, Eric Li and Philip Pietzsch.

Overall the average score achieved by our cohort of sixty nine students is 40.1: equivalent to better than 4 A\*s at A Level using the old UCAS tariff.

The worldwide average score for IB is 30 points and all Bromsgrove pupils scored above this with forty three students achieving 40 or more points.



## Anthology

Senior School pupils penned poems for the annual Housman Verse prize. The winning verse reminder was by Liza Vasilyeva.

Head of English, Mr Dinnen, has produced an anthology of the best poems and some additional prose. Liza also provided all the illustrations for the anthology.

[Click on the image to read all the contributions.](#)

## Camping Out

Lower Fourth Camp week was enjoyed by all. This was a great opportunity for pupils and staff to be outside enjoying the various challenges and each other's company.



## Young Enterprise

Congratulations to our Young Enterprise Team who won the Creativity in Business and Overall Winner prizes at the Worcestershire Company of the Year Competition. They now progress to the regional finals.



# Tennis

## Midland Tournament

The Bromsgrove School 1st pair of Latesha Grant and Lilli Boersch were triumphant at the Midland Girls' tennis tournament. This was the tournament's 109th season, with the historic tournament being played every year since the Second World War - with the exception of 2020 when Covid-19 hit all Schools sport.

This year's contest was keenly anticipated and even the extremely inclement British weather was not going to stop it. After five group matches the Bromsgrove pair played a strong King's High Warwick pair in the final. Having previously lost to this pairing in the group stages they knew that it would be a tough final match. Keeping cool under the pressure of the final the girls played some fantastic tennis to emerge victorious and claim the very large 109 year old trophy. This is the first time a Bromsgrove pairing has won this prestigious Midland Girls' tournament.



Farah Croce won an U14 tournament in Leamington recently. All players were older and ranked higher than Farah, and we are delighted to report that she she beat the tournament's #1 seed.

Henry Foster represented Hereford & Worcester in the U12 County Cup. Hereford & Worcestershire faced Derbyshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire over two days of competition. Henry won all of his matches, playing strong, tactical tennis. Overall Hereford and Worcestershire won the tournament. Well done to Henry for his part in this impressive win.



## Slater Boys Race On

Congratulations to Freddie Slater who won the first round of RGMCC champions of the future in Belgium.

Freddie has had a great start to the 2021 season and is now leading the FIA European Championship along with the Champions of the Future series. He is competing in the OKJ category, known as the most prestigious in the world for his age. Racing with Ricky Flynn Motorsport, Freddie benefits from some great support and encouragement.

Younger brother Alfie Slater also achieved his best results to date in the WSK Euros in the Mini category. He was battling in the top three but, unfortunately, there was a collision in the last lap of the final, which then put him down to 5th place. Nevertheless, this is a great result and we look forward to following both in further races in the coming months.



## County Selections

Well done to the following girls who have been selected to represent Worcestershire County:

Tennis – Farah Croce and Gina Obrey;  
Crickey – Ruby Broadhurst, Madison Falconer and Sammy Riley.



# National Tennis

Congratulations and good luck to the U18 girls Tennis team who have qualified for the LTA Youth Schools National Championships Finals which take place from 7 – 10 July at Nottingham Tennis Centre.

The Finals are taking place as this News Review is being sent out. We are waiting for an update from the team and wish them the best of luck.



## Major Prizes

Well done to the following Upper Sixth students who have won the Major Senior School Prizes.:

**Tony Limbert Award**

Imogen Vaughan-Hawkins

**The Kelly Bicknell Award**

Sadie Garnder

**The Paul Sawtell Trophy**

Laetitia de Belgique

**Housman Trophy**

Lucia Goodwin

**Ben Showell Memorial Trophy**

Max Wong

**Cookes Trophy**

Nik Gaur

To watch the recording of the Headmaster announcing the Senior School awards please click on the image alongside.



Recordings of the Prizegiving Ceremonies for **Year 8 and Year 2** are available to watch on these links:

**Preparatory Prizegiving**

**Pre-Preparatory Prizegiving**

## Fencing



Jasper Page and George Ascough travelled to Warwick School to take part in a Year 8 Team Epee competition. There were five teams in total, two home teams, King Edward's Birmingham and RGS Worcester. Age group bubbles have meant that Jasper and George have only been able to fence each other



for over a year, but despite this they put on a good performance. They lost heavily to RGS Worcester who went undefeated all day, they beat King Edward's solidly 20-14 but lost to both Warwick teams by one hit each 19-20! It was thrilling to watch.

When all the scores were counted, Bromsgrove finished in 3rd place.

Meanwhile the Lower Fourth boys team won the trophy at the KES invitational competition.

## Triathlon

William and Caitlin Pridden both competed at The World Triathlon in Leeds. William finished in 2nd place and Caitlin in 14th.

They have both also recently qualified to represent the West Midlands Regional Triathlon team at the British National Triathlon Championships in September.



# Bromsgrovian News

## John Gunton



It is with much sadness that we announce the death of John Gunton (Academic Staff 1956-1992). A much loved member of the Bromsgrovian community, John passed away on 18th June.

John taught at the School from 1956-1992. It is believed he assisted over 1000 pupils through their GCSEs and A Levels. During his time at Bromsgrove, he was a House Tutor for 19 years and House Master of Broom House, Wendron House and Wendron-Gordon House. John was also President of the Common Room for eight years and President of The Bromsgrovian Club in 1997.

John was Life President of OBEC (Old Bromsgrovian Expedition Club) and was always particularly proud to have been instrumental in introducing so many pupils to a life long devotion to the mountains both at School and beyond.

He died peacefully with his family nearby at his home in Oxfordshire, leaving behind his wife Elizabeth, two Children, Mark and Eleanor, and two Grandchildren. A funeral, which is by invitation, will be held at St George's Lower Brailles.



## Zach Jeacock Memorabilia

It was lovely to catch up with Zach Jeacock (S 17) and hear how he is progressing at Birmingham City FC where he is a goalkeeper with the club.

Initially, Zach took a two-year scholarship with Birmingham City's Academy in 2017. He went on to make ten appearances for their development squad team in the 2018-19 season.

In August 2019, he joined Gloucester City on loan for the season. His first inclusion in an England squad came at U19 level for friendly matches in September 2019 in preparation for the Euro qualifiers later that year.

Thank you to Michael Taylor (School/ Millington 43-47) who has kindly donated memorabilia from his school days.

