



Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

SUMMER 1 2022

A Word from the Headmaster

Keeping Score

Each Term, I report to the Governing Body on the School's performance against a number of targets. There are fifty eight in total, ranging from examination successes to financial performance, roll composition to social media posts. Admittedly, I sometimes get teased about my over-enthusiasm for charts and graphs, but the Geographer in me likes to look for patterns. What is interesting in the latest tally is the clear impact of the pandemic. Nowhere is that more evident than in our sporting statistics and, given the wealth of sporting success contained within this edition of the News Review, I share three key graphs to make that point.

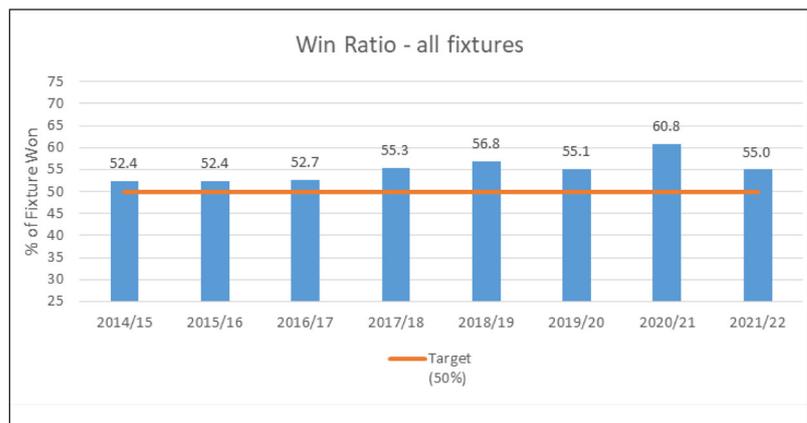
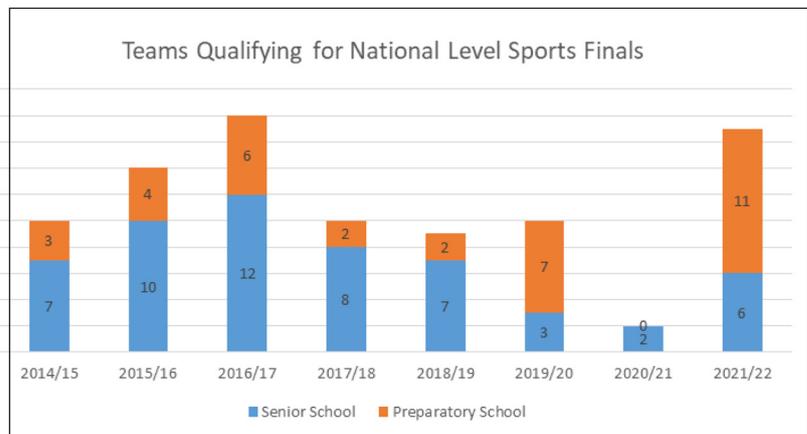
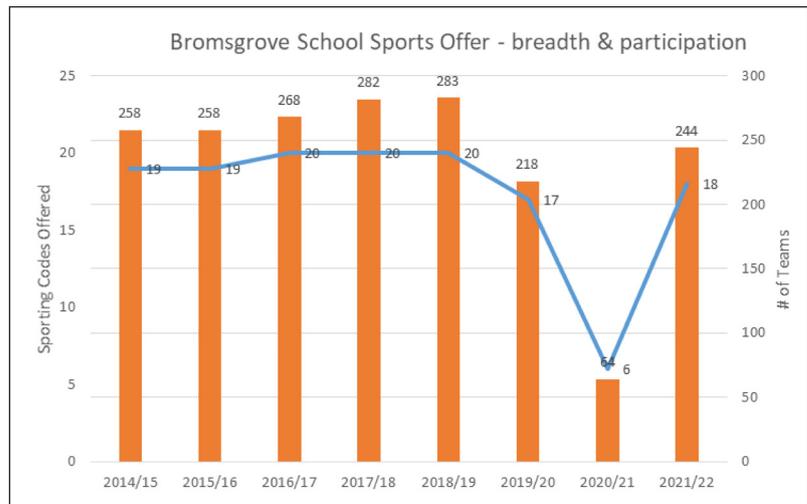
The first shows the number of teams fielded each year (orange bars) and the number of codes on offer (blue line). The COVID-dip of the past two years is striking. So too is the speed with which we have bounced back to our traditional levels, with new records expected to be set next year. It is of great credit to the Sports Departments in each of our Schools that pupils have returned so readily to the challenge and comradery of weekly sporting endeavours, whatever their age or ability.

The second graph shows that it is not just all about participation; top level performance matters too. Our reputation as a sporting force has also quickly bounced back, with seventeen teams qualifying for National Finals this year. Despite not being a specialised sporting academy, we have consistently ranked in the UK's Top six Sports Schools for the past decade.

The third graph tells another equally encouraging story, this one untouched by the ravages of the pandemic. Choosing teams and arranging fixtures in a School of our size is no easy task. We don't want our players demoralised by being the 'easy-beats', nor do we want them bored or cocky by only competing against weaker teams. Our challenge is to provide them challenge. Hence, we set ourselves an annual Win ratio target of 50%. Enough success to keep our players buoyant and proud, enough losses to spur their aspiration and desire to improve.

Collectively, these make for pretty impressive match stats, and proof that the School has beaten the pandemic hands down.

Peter Clague
HEADMASTER





Golf

Congratulations to our golf team who competed at the National IGSA Finals in Formby; James Humphries, Lili-Rose Hunt and Thomas Griffiths represented the School over two days of competition. Despite having the youngest team, they finished a very creditable 8th out of 21 schools, with Lili-Rose finishing 18th individually.

At the HMC Midlands Semi-Final: we defeated Cheltenham College 2-1 with wins for James, Thomas, Prin Waeruwatarn and Euan Choi to set up a Midlands Final v Warwick School leaving us one match away from another National Final.

Hockey

The U16 boys qualified for the England Hockey Tier 2 National Final at Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre at the Olympic Park London, where they played Dean Close. The boys played well creating opportunities to score while defending resolutely during the first half. Going into the second half behind, Bromsgrove had to push hard to get back into the game. Dean Close took advantage of this to run out 7-0 winners. This is not the score line the team would have wanted, but it was an excellent experience for the team and a great end the hockey season.





WellBeFun

Well done to our Young Enterprise team, WellBeFun who have been successful at the Company of the Year competition, winning Best Presentation and Best Company in the Area stage.

The judges were impressed with the students' engaging and professional style in their presentation. The team were also commended for their product, learning and goals for their business. Throughout the year, the students have demonstrated a real passion for their business concept and wanting to help others rather than make a huge profit.

Following this success we were delighted to hear that they team were announced as Worcestershire County Winners. Overall the judges felt that the product is an innovative idea and they could clearly see how the product could be used in multiple settings with very little adaptation. The team now progress to the Regional Finals.



Cheltenham Wins

Seventy-eight pupils from Years 6 to 8 went to Cheltenham Town Hall to take part in the Cheltenham Festival for Performing Arts. A Junior Choir, Senior Choir and Festival Ensembles took part, and we are very proud to say that each group came home with their respective trophies! Well done everyone; the effort pupils have put in to reach such an excellent standard has been phenomenal.

Eco Update



Our Eco warriors have been out in force again tidying up the local environment. The committee also celebrated World Earth Day, with this year's theme being to invest in our planet, because a green future is a prosperous future.



Multi Sports

Congratulations to Anna Ludwig, Rumer Evans, Maggie Middleton and Isabel Kingston who took part in the Combined Multi Events Athletics Competition at Hereford Leisure Centre against girls in the year above them.

Full results are yet to be published but all of our girls put in a fantastic effort and enjoyed taking part.

Romeo Romeo

After a term's worth of rehearsal the Fourth Form presented an Eighties-infused *Romeo and Juliet*. This challenging play requires sensitivity and huge energy, all brought by the expansive cast and crew. The audience in the Cobham Theatre were presented with moments of great stillness and impressive depth, from the candlelit Prologue to Juliet's mock funeral. These were countered with some expressive dance routines for the ball and the kinetic energy of the fights.

The challenging roles of Juliet (Isla Chattin) and Romeo (Hugo Blackwell) were impressively carried, with Juliet's independence and sense of excitement conveyed particularly well against Romeo's slightly more blinkered views of love.

Excellent comic relief was provided by Phoebe Dinnen's Benvolio, partnering with Olivia McKelvey's Mercutio, along with an assured performance of the challenging part of Nurse from Charissa Brobey-Sarpong. Tom Hunt brought some helpful gruff maturity to Capulet to provide a sense of threat. However, the effort was shared throughout the cast: Amelia Abraham had the comparatively small part of Servant and yet commanded the stage for her scenes.

Overall, it was a great achievement to have such a large cast working together so seamlessly. We look forward to more from this talented group of pupils.





Riding High

Congratulations to Amy Pinfield who won the Royal International Horse Show junior large breeds qualifier and was also crowned Champion Junior.

Also well done to Mia-Bella in Reception who was the winner of the Tiny Tots under 6 competition, first in the Working Hunter Competition and was Reserve Champion. Mia-Bella has qualified for the finals at Burghley Horse Trials in September.



Evensong

Chapel Choir visited Lichfield Cathedral to sing Choral Evensong. They sounded superb in this wonderful space, singing music by Brewer, Sanders and Balfour Gardiner's uplifting 'Evening Hymn'. The choir were also treated to a tour of the building before singing, learning about the history of the building and its significance in the West Midlands.



Olympic Visit

Bromsgrove Pre-Preparatory School have recently been visited by GB Olympic Modern Pentathlon athlete and Mintridge Foundation Ambassador Jo Muir OLY. The children had a fantastic time learning about what goes into being an Olympic athlete, and about her experience at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Jo's visit was perfectly timed ahead of the Pre-Prep Modern Pentathlon week. Jo spent the day teaching the children about her sport, in particular, fencing. The children were overjoyed to try out some fencing techniques, learning about the poise and positioning of the complex sport. The main takeaway

message from the GB athlete was to always try your best at every sport, because you never know what you may be good at until you try. As well as learning some techniques of fencing, they also tried on some of Jo's sporting kit for the Pentathlon, as well as seeing her medals.



Scotland Rep

Scotland have included 17-year-old Ollie Davidson in their squad for their first tour of the United States. The left-arm spinning all-rounder was part of Scotland's Under-19 World Cup squad this year and is involved in Worcestershire's academy. Ollie says it is a real honour to be chosen at such a young age. He impressed the selectors in the T20 trial games last year with the Scotland squad, and says he is looking forward to working with the coaches and players again on this tour. We wish him well.



Swimming

Congratulations to Maya Wingfield and Krystof Wood who have both been competing with their swimming clubs recently. Maya achieved a bronze medal in the 4x100m freestyle and has been crowned West Midlands regional champion with her 4x200m relay team. Krystof now holds the title of West Midlands U15 Champion in both the freestyle and backstroke. Krystof is now looking forward to the National Championships which take place in July.



Norway Day



Senior School's new Head of Art, Miss Blakely, has Norwegian roots – it's the country she grew up in and she shares its heritage with her parents. She was delighted to introduce students in Housman Hall to the traditions of Norway Day by making Norwegian waffles for everyone to enjoy.



Fencing

Bromsgrove's Fencers competed at the British Youth Championships in Sheffield recently. This was a fantastic experience for all of them as they fought against some tough opponents.

Ensembles

We enjoyed a concert celebrating senior ensembles recently with performances from the Orchestra, Big Band, Concert Band, Trumpet Group and String Orchestra.

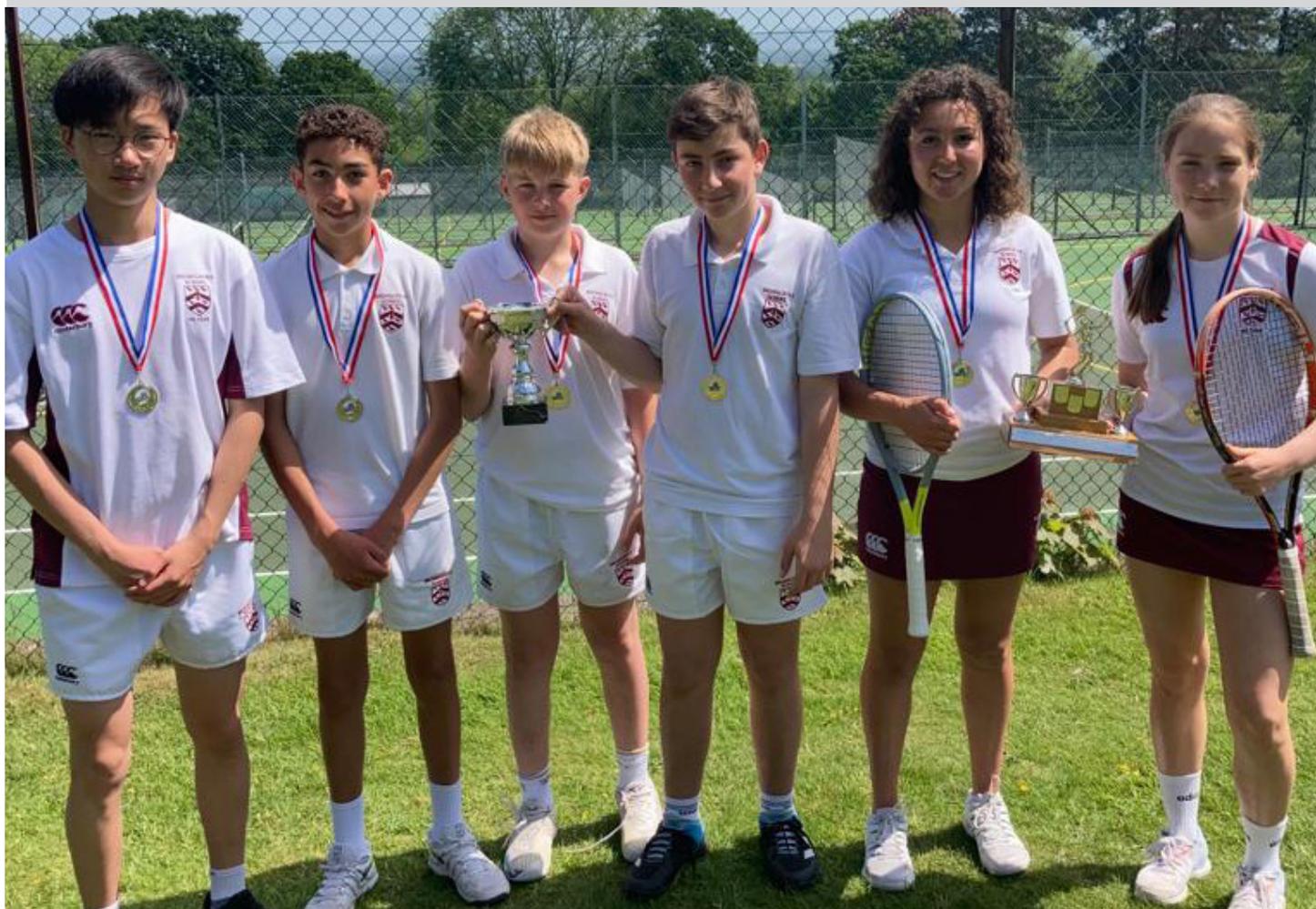
This was a wonderful concert, full of musical variety and it was great to see so many pupils sitting side by side, especially those who are now bound for public examinations.

Congratulations to all involved for a great concert.



Tennis

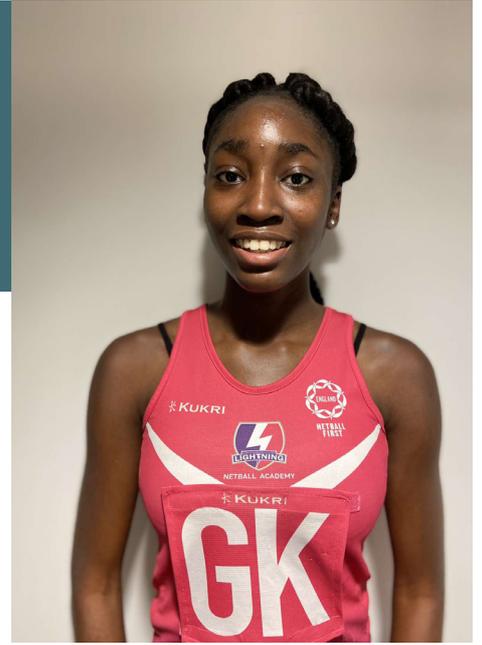
Our Tennis players have been in great form recently. Well done to the girls' first team who retained their title as Midlands' Champions for the second year running. The boys' U14 doubles, girls' U14 and girls' U16 teams have all won the County Championships. Finally, Latesha Grant and Stuart Shannon won the Scott and Smyth Cups for Boys' and Girls' U18 singles County Champions.





Netball

Congratulations to Issy Eaton, Alanna Pullen and Jess Monthe, who have all been invited to attend the 2022-23 England Roses Academy Netball Selection Camp in August.



Lambing Time

Many thanks to Mr Morgan who brought two of his new lambs to visit Year 1.

The children enjoyed meeting the lambs and learning how to look after them.

Forest School

Year 1 thoroughly enjoyed their recent Forest School session, they identified a variety of pond life and experienced the barefoot walk in the beautiful sensory garden.



Tooth Aware

Nursery and Reception classes had a fun interactive afternoon learning about oral health.

Dr Kenth and Hygienist Mandy spoke to the children about keeping their teeth healthy and the importance of learning good habits.

Everyone participated in some fun activities which involved teeth brushing and sorting healthy and unhealthy foods.



Sports Stars



Football

Well done to Matt Saunders on the extension of his contract at Aston Villa for further two years. .



Aquathlon

Prep pupil Caitlin Pridden achieved Gold at the Black Country Tri Aquathlon, part of the West Midlands Triathlon Series.



Athletics

William Hapgood has shot to the top of the National rankings and improved his own School 800 metres record by three seconds to 2 minutes 14.4 after winning the Buckinghamshire County Championships.

Confirmed

Well done to Sibylle Reboul and Eleanor Boardman who were both confirmed by the Right Reverend Michael Hooper in the School Chapel in early May.



CCF

Despite low temperatures, members of the CCF enjoyed the Brigade Military Skills Competition, where they took part in a series of stands to compete for the trophy.

The formal CCF dinner was the perfect opportunity to get together and say thank you and goodbye to some of our Upper Sixth pupils who have served the CCF so well over the last few years.



Fieldwork Finale

Mrs Turner has been at the heart of what has made Bromsgrove Geography so exceptional since her first trip to Carding Mill Valley with the School in 1989. Expert in her knowledge of physical geography, meticulous in her approach to fieldwork and incredible support of every individual student that has been lucky enough to call her their teacher, makes her irreplaceable. The recent Upper Fourth field day proved to be an excellent day out in the field, with pupils learning so much about both fieldwork and the physical landscape.

As a perfect final piece of Geography fieldwork Mrs Turner will be away with the Biologists conducting fieldwork for the IB Environmental Systems unit. Showing commitment to the end!



Bunbury Win

Congratulations to the U13A cricket team on winning their second round match in the national Bunbury Cup vs Northampton School for Boys. Captain Alfie Higgins won the toss and put Northampton in to bat. They scored 142 runs in their 25 overs.

In reply, Bromsgrove reached their target of 143 runs in the 21st over. The highlight of the batting came from opener Seth Benjamin 50 runs, Alfie Higgins 51, and a partnership of 38 runs from Edward Head 21 (only Year 7 in the team) and Henry Greaves 17 which saw the team to victory.

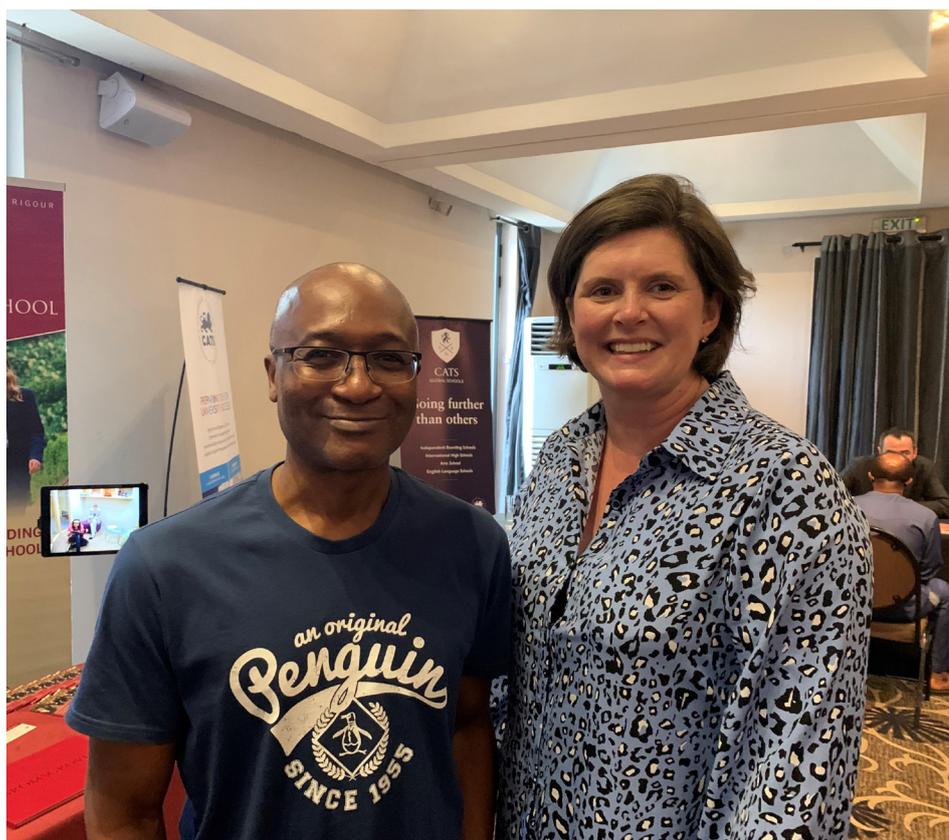


Bromsgrovian News

Rugby Drills



Thank you to Justin Clegg (Ly 04-15) and Beck Cutting (WG 08-17) who visited to lead a rugby training session with a group of Prep School pupils. Both Justin and Beck are now members of the Worcester Warriors squad. As well as taking the group through some training drills, they gave some sound advice on how to progress in the game.



Nigeria Meeting

Assistant Head, Miss Rachel Scannell has recently been at a UK boarding schools event in Nigeria.

Whilst she was in Lagos she was delighted to meet up with Old Bromsgrovian Jide Akinsemoyin (Cobham/Elmshurst 77-84).

Bromsgrovian News

OB Visits



On a beautiful sunny day we were delighted to welcome back some OBs who popped in to have a look around their old haunts.

Georgina (née Walters) (TC 03-10) and Hugh Westlake (Lu 02-10) brought their new son with them to have a look around. We hope he may be joining us some day!

Jacky Wong (HH 15-20) and Figo Man (E 16 -18) were very happy to meet up with some of their former teachers. Jacky is studying at Imperial College London and Figo is at Warwick.

