



SCHOOL HOUSE

Houseparent:

Mrs Judith Holden, MA (OXON) PGCE

BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

Worcester Road

Bromsgrove

Worcester B61 7DU

Tel: 01527 579679 ext 231

Email: Jholden@bromsgrove-school.co.uk

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Dear Parents and guardians,

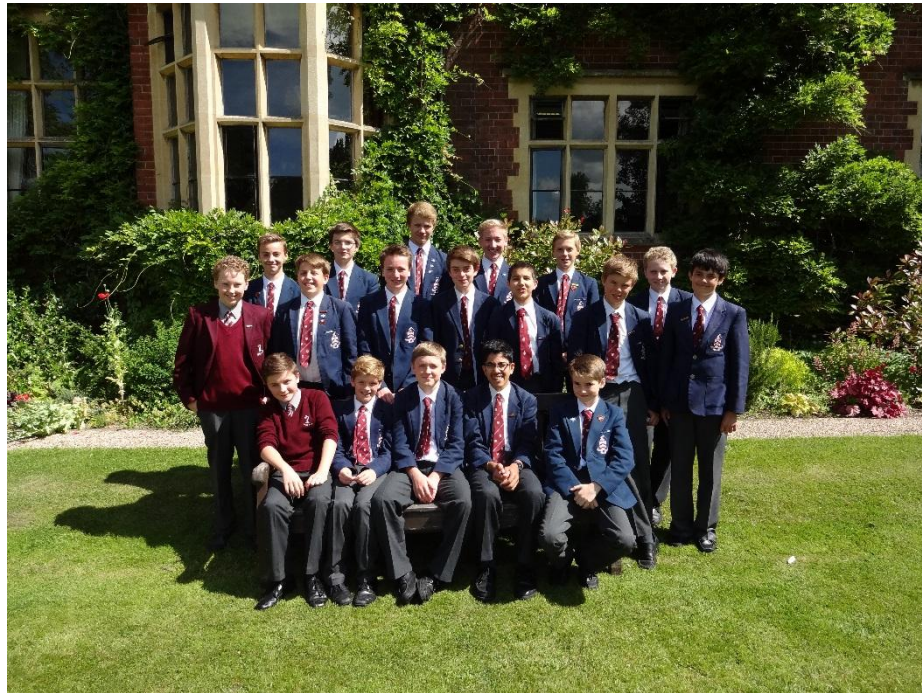
This has been a remarkable year for School House. The boys have made their mark in every area of School life and their achievements go far beyond trophies and mentions in assemblies. Our new House motto 'In Nomine Amicitiae' (in the name of friendship), epitomises the House spirit that the boys and staff have experienced this year. Every member of School House, whether academic, all-rounder, musician, debater, sportsman or actor can gain something from the spirit of the House and the departing Upper Sixth have encouraged everyone to take part and wear their blue shirts with pride.

Our academic successes have been numerous and our leavers have been offered places at some of the most prestigious universities, in a wide range of disciplines. Harry Gibbs, has a place to read Geography at Jesus College, Oxford and Declan Amphlett, will read Modern and Medieval languages at Trinity College, Cambridge. St Andrew's, Durham, Sheffield, University College London, Manchester and Exeter are just some of the esteemed seats of learning that our Upper Sixth will move on to in September. Many others are also making the most of their abilities across the year groups, including Oliver Hall who won the overall prize for best work in the whole U4th year group.

This half term saw the Lower Sixth return after their examinations to lecture week. A wide variety of lectures were on offer from external speakers and staff. This proved to be a great opportunity to broaden their knowledge in so many areas. The Lower Fourth enjoyed the camp in the Forest of Dean and I had great day accompanying some of the boys on their expedition, I particularly enjoyed their singing, including Bohemian Rhapsody as we walked!



We welcomed the new Lower Fourth for a two day induction this half term. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and I am very grateful for the Lower Sixth team who organised the croquet and toy soldier parachuting competition. The boys left with a greater insight into life in School House and hopefully a window on the fine House spirit that we have experienced this year.



The last House competition of the year took place in glorious sunshine and was a light hearted way to end the year. Having said that, the Inter-House bake off was fiercely competitive and we witnessed some excellent team work from School House as Miles Burke, Myles Pountain, Killian Ormonde, Jack Pitt and Thomas Muir worked under time pressure to create a 'Cookie Monster' cake. A well-deserved first prize and the 'golden spoon' will add to our trophies on the mantel piece!



In the final week of term. A small group of School House boys enjoyed a trip to Hagley Hall Park to view the conservation and renovation projects that the estate is undertaking. The pupils were greeted by Lord Cobham and then taken on an extensive tour of the grounds by Joe Hawkins the estates manager. Mr Hawkins treated the pupils to a fantastic overview of the symbolism of the landscape at Hagley Park, as well as giving them an insight into the excitement and complexities of trying to rediscover the secrets of the park that have been lost over time. Mr Hawkins, who is studying for his PhD on the park, enthused the students with his discussion of art and poetry. The students were also able to explore the rich biodiversity that the park has to offer and consider what makes up an authentic eighteenth century landscape.



In the end of term House Assembly and at the Hog Roast, I was delighted to award many awards which celebrated the successes of the boys this year. The Junior Achievement Salver was given to Harry Liversidge who has impressed us all from day one with his amazing time management skills, fitting in so much, yet still achieving fantastic results. The Senior Achievement award was particularly difficult to award this year as the work ethic amongst the senior boys has been truly impressive. The award was given to Harry Gibbs who is passionate about his subject, well read, a true scholar and yet one of the most modest people you will ever meet.

The Junior Sports Salver was awarded to a Joe Houlcroft who has worn the School House shirt no less than eight times this year, having taken part in every House competition. He is a fantastic team player and I was delighted to award him the Junior Sports Salver.

The Senior Sports Salver was awarded to Matt Lamb, a sportsman who it looks very likely will be “living the dream” and playing sport for a living. He follows in the footsteps of former School House boys such as Andy Goode, Andrew Langlands and Matt Mullan who have represented their country, but this young man has chosen the original “Beautiful game” (Neville Cardus) and having been part of the Warwickshire academy for a number of years, he was recently selected for Warwickshire 2nd team. I am sure that he has a glittering career ahead of him and we will all watch his progress with interest.

A new award this year is the Arts and Drama Salver. This year I have been immensely proud of the School House boys who have taken part in the Arts at Bromsgrove, the School for Scandal production, Pop and Jazz, Bromsgrove’s got talent, debating, House song, informal concerts, School and Chamber Choir the list goes on. There were so many contenders for these prizes, but after much deliberation I was delighted to award the Junior Arts Salver to Tom Muir for his commitment to House and school music.

The Senior Arts Salver was where it really was impossible to decide; I narrowed it down between two worthy winners: Robert Chapman and William Parkinson. Robert had the difficult task of accompanying the House as we struggled through Bohemian Rhapsody. He gave up hours of his time to learn the piece and play it in the style of Freddie. House music, Pop and Jazz and playing for the old peoples’ home, his contributions to music have been numerous. William, who could never be described as a shrinking violet. Leaves Bromsgrove to take on the position of Organ scholar at Worcester Cathedral and never has there been anyone more suited for this role. His charisma, excellence and ability to entertain and lead a choir were clear as he led our fantastic House Song; who else could have been Freddie!

The last award was a little more light-hearted. I spoke to Mr Stone in the last week of term and asked him to sum up the sort of boy he would like the Stone cup to be given to. He simply said “someone who adds so much to House...it would not be the same without him”.

If any of you had the pleasure of watching School for Scandal you will have witnessed a performance by Declan Amphlett which would not have been out of place on the West end stage. At Pop and Jazz he stole the show with his Ukulele medley, he won the Housman verse prize and spoke magnificently at Mr Bowen’s book launch. In the House he has lightened many a day with his quick retort and razor sharp wit. So for the fair trade disco, accompanied by the Moon walk, the plastic horse heads, the Stone Cup was awarded to Declan Amphlett.

In House Assembly on Friday I was delighted to award House colours to:

Juniors: Luke Michell, Samuel Bills

Seniors: Rob Lay, Tun Tha

I informed the boys that next academic year I will be introducing a Junior Distinction Certificate. This will be awarded in the Upper Fourth to those that earn enough commendations to have their House tie re-awarded. This will be a prestigious award and I hope that all of the current Lower Fourth will strive to achieve it.

We also celebrated the achievements of the boys in many areas of the school.

Bromsgrove service takes place on a Tuesday afternoon and the boys are involved in a wide range of activities including gardening, visiting an old peoples' home and the Biodiesel project.

Bromsgrove Service Awards: Niall Simmonds, Oliver Morland, Arthur Green, Rob Chapman x2, Myles Pountain, Michael Butler

Arthur green, Oliver Morland, and Killian Ormonde received a thank you present from Miss Nelson for their superb leadership and team work whilst on Lower Fourth camp.

Biology awards: British Biology Olympiad award : Bronze, Matthew Lynch: Commended

Society of Biology: Edward Mooney – Silver, Oliver Hall – Silver, Luke Alcock – Bronze, Tom Megyesi Schwartz – Bronze, Harry Liversidge – Bronze, Harry Ruben – Bronze

Chemistry Olympiad: Matthew Lynch - Bronze

Commended for cricket 14a : Anders Giles

I was delighted to award Duke of Edinburgh certificates to: Thomas Muir Bronze, Rob Chapman Silver. It was also fantastic to see Fraser Bales, Alex Thorpe and Ben Thornley go up on stage in Routh Hall to collect their Gold award. I hope that many of the younger boys will be inspired to work towards this award.

We also recognised the significant achievement of James Whitehead who will be the CSM (Company sergeant major) for the Army section and will have responsibility for the whole of the 5th form next year. This is a great honour and we are delighted that the House will be represented in CCF at this high level

This term's endeavour awards were given to Tom Megyesi-Schwartz and Michael Butler for their continued improvement and very good effort grades.

Next year's monitor team, which have been chosen from a pupil and staff vote, will be: Miles Burke, Arthur Green, Jack Ireland, Mathew Jones, Matthew Lynch, Oliver Moorland, Killian Ormonde and Jack Pitt. They follow in the footsteps of a superb team and I am sure that they will do a great job.



Commemoration Day was a very special occasion and we were very proud of all our leavers. Awards and acclaim were flowing for the School House boys: subject prizes were awarded to Ben Thornley- English, Samuel Rose - Religious Studies, Harry Gibbs - Geography and Classical Civilisation- Ben Thornley. Other special prizes went to Declan Amphlett- Housman verse prize, William Parkinson- Vivian Anthony cup for musical contribution. Declan Amphlett was also awarded the ultimate accolade – the Cookes Prize, for his outstanding contributions to so many areas of School life.



This has been a year of change for School House and I thank everyone who has supported me in my first year as Houseparent: the tutor team, Mrs Hibell, parents and, of course the boys who have accepted and worked with new ideas. The monitor team led by Alex Thorpe and Harry Gibbs have led from the front and have made the day to day running of the House so much easier. I am very grateful to them. I wish our leavers “God Speed” as they continue their journey. We will miss them all but look forward to hearing about their future successes.

Nelson Mandela once said ‘A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination’ our boys have clearly shown this during the year.

On a practical note I would like to remind all 5th and L6th boys that they must contact me by email following their results to confirm their subject choices for next term. Current Lower Sixth should email by Monday 18th August with their choices for A2 and the 5th year on results day, Thursday 21st August with their IB and AS choices.

I hope that you enjoy the summer break and I look forward to leading this remarkable House next academic year.

Judith Holden