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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Term resumes today after an exceptionally mild half-term, with temperatures last Friday exceeding those of Athens, Barcelona and Rome. The balmy weather has delayed the progress of trees shedding their leaves by two weeks and the Horse Chestnut trees around the Green still retain some leaves. They will be bare by the weekend. From afar the stubborn oak trees still look very green but are finally succumbing too.

Just before half-term North Bromsgrove High School - one of our CCF partner schools - welcomed prospective new parents to their Open Evening. One of the more physically challenging displays of the evening was an obstacle course and CCF interest stands were run jointly by cadets from NBHS and our School. The evening was a great success and the Headmaster - Mr David Hadley-Price - passed on his thanks to CSM Ellie Ball and Sgt Klara Hunt and L.Cpls. Callum Stirrat and Theo Roberts who gave up their evening in order to support their fellow cadets at the event.

46 AS and IB Geography pupils travelled to Betws-Y-Coed in North Wales for their Field Trip and at Llanrwst constructed a case study of flood management strategies in the Conwy Valley. Saturday was spent in the Nant Peris Valley where AS pupils completed an investigation into fluvial characteristics and IBDP students carried out data collection for their Internal Assessment on how the features of a river change with distance from the source. On Sunday, AS pupils travelled to the beach at Harlech where they investigated the formation of sand dunes in addition to a case study of ecosystem succession. In the afternoon they then went to the sea-side town of Criccieth where they looked at coastal management strategies. It was a perfect day for studying sea defences as pupils were able to see at first-hand how strong they need to be - there were impressive large, destructive waves. IBDP pupils began writing up their Internal Assessment. After the evening follow-up session, there was a fun awards ceremony for pupils that had particularly impressed over the weekend; prizes were given for best poet on the trip, most impressive hat and rucksacks and best technical contribution. Pupils then participated in a range of team games. Monday morning allowed AS pupils to put their field work into practice by completing past examination questions. Studying the different environments and experiencing the various geographical skills in the field will be invaluable for the AS examination and the IBDP internal assessment. Pupils were a pleasure to be with and their enthusiasm throughout the trip was extremely impressive.

The Biology field trip was a great success. The students behaved impeccably, worked incredibly hard and staff often had to ask them to stop working well after 10pm each evening, after a full day in the field and classroom. They all seemed to enjoy the few days, despite missing the first three days of the holiday. Determining the abundance of periwinkles, organism identification from dog whelks to egg wrack seaweed, lots of application of statistical tests and pass the parcel were just a few of the activities the students completed, as well as the planning and completion of their own investigation. 26 students have now individually designed and completed their investigation into a different area of ecology, from rock pool diversity to dog whelks competition. They now have two weeks of classroom time to complete their report which often compares favourably to a university dissertation. Well done to all.

The success of Norbury Youth Theatre's production of the 'Sweeney Todd Shock'n'Roll Show' owed much to Olivia Wormald, Anna Rogers and George Bingham who volunteered their services in the Band. The Conductor commented: 'They were extremely professional and a pleasure to work with, entering completely into the spirit of the show. Rehearsals were long and tiring, and there were 4 performances.'

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At the start of their tour, the girls' U14 hockey team took on a strong Stourport Hockey Club team and despite a defeat it really stretched and tested the whole squad. At King's Bruton in Somerset the girls lost a very good match 3-2 and then 1-0 to their U15 team in a fine performance in a match that could have gone either way. The girls were a credit to the School both on and off the pitch; many commented on what great ambassadors they were. The tour provided the girls with excellent preparation for this week's Zonal competition.

Meanwhile, the U15 rugby team travelled to Dublin to play two games. They produced a superb effort to come from behind against The High School Rathgar, winning a tight game 19 - 17. Unfortunately the team could not make it two wins from two against a strong Castleknock College, although producing a pleasing performance. Whilst away the group managed to tour Croke Park, the largest amateur stadium in Europe, see the sights of Dublin and watch Leinster v Wasps in the European Cup (a match in which 3 Old Bromsgrovians were playing).

In hockey well done to OB Chris Griffiths (WS), selected for the England squad for the Champions Trophy in India in December.

Both the junior girls and the inter boys' swimming teams have qualified for the National Finals in November in the Olympic Pool at the London Aquatic Centre. Well done.

The annual Dyslexia Awareness Week runs from today to November 9th. Design Technology Graphic Design students have been working in collaboration with Curriculum Support to create some of the most engaging images to promote the week. The theme for this year was '*Dyslexia Matters*' and considered everything from creating a dyslexia friendly environment and supporting and encouraging those with dyslexia, whilst aiming to raise awareness of this specific learning difficulty. The theme strove to tackle the misconception that dyslexia only affects someone's reading and writing when in reality it can cause a range of difficulties and strengths including organisational and time management problems and creative vision. Pupils worked thoughtfully to conclude their posters over several lessons providing the judges with the arduous task of selecting the winning designs. Well done to Sunny Pattarada Prakaisriroj and Eleanor Childs Joint 2nd and William Nadin in 1st place.

Before half-term we enjoyed welcoming our German partner exchange School from Potsdam, the Gymnasium Hermannswerder. Their views of us were both interesting and moving:

'I think that the School is really nice. The people here are very friendly and there is a big cohesion between students and the staff'.

'My first impression was: "Is this a school or a whole city, because I had not expected such a big School. I think it is a traditional and beautiful School'.

'Boarding school is like a second family, you have the chance to meet new people and find new friends. Boarding is great'.

'Bromsgrove School is very big and traditional. It's like Hogwarts'.

'Boarding schools are very traditional and cool. The people there are like a big family and very good friends.'

NOTICES

- 1. The U4th Parents' Evening takes place this Thursday 6th November.** Please ask if unsure of any arrangements.
- 2. Remembrance Services take place for the whole School this Sunday November 9th** at 9.45 am (4th Form) and 10.55 am (Senior); parents are most welcome to join us at either Service. Pupils need to be seated no later than 5 minutes before their respective Service. **(U4th cadets meet at the Armoury at 9.00 am).**
- 3. The book 'Bromsgrove School at War 1914-19' is available from the School Shop.**
- 4. The termly meeting of the School Parents' Association Liaison Committee takes place on Thursday evening 13th November. Items to reach us by Monday 10th November.**

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5. **Choral Society Rehearsals for March's Concert commence tomorrow from 6.00-7.30pm in Routh Hall.** The programme is marvellous - Faure's 'Requiem' and 'Cantique de Jean Racine' and Vaughan Williams' 'Five Mystical Songs.'
6. **Tickets are now available for 'The Winter's Tale'** at the Artrix on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 25th to 27th November. They can be purchased from the Artrix Theatre <https://www.artrix-tickets> £10 adults and £5 concessions. The Box Office is open Monday-Saturday 10-4.
7. **The ever popular Advent Carol Service** (which brings together all three sections of the School) takes place on Sunday 30th November; please see the attached letter.
8. **India Trip March 2016.** There will be a meeting for all those interested in the LRC at 6.30pm on Thursday 13th November. If anyone would like to have more information before the meeting please email phedworth@bromsgrove-school.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Bowen



Deputy Headmaster

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On Saturday June 19th 'The School were delighted to act as hosts to a party of disabled soldiers, who made for their annual gathering, a visit to the School. The ex-Serviceman, numbering about a hundred and forty, arrived soon after three o'clock, and were each given a packet of cigarettes. Many of our visitors watched with interest a Colts' match, while others tried their hands at bowls on the Gordon lawn. Some were shown over the School buildings, the Chapel and Armoury proving the greatest attractions but the chief features of the afternoon were the swimming and P.T. displays already prepared for Commemoration. Condemned to spend their lives crippled by the loss of legs, the visitors were delighted to see a display of vigour and an activity of limbs long since denied them. Tea was provided by the Headmaster in Routh Hall, to the accompaniment of 'Tipperary' and other war-time tunes on the gramophone; and as the party prepared to go the O.T.C. band paraded outside the Hall. We were all sorry when they departed, but we hope that they took with them memories of an afternoon as happy as those they left behind'.