



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

COMMEMORATION DAY

WHAT IS COMMEMORATION DAY?

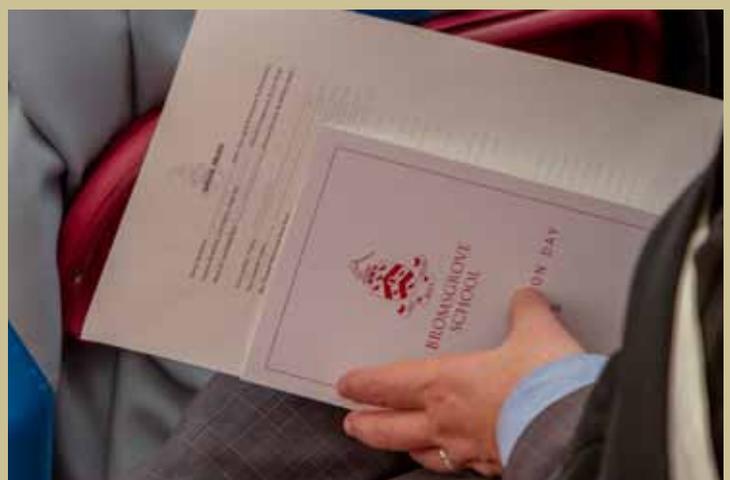
Commemoration Day is the Senior School's traditional end of year celebration. It is a very special day for the School and especially for our Upper Sixth Leavers. Commemoration Day is the most important day in our School year and all pupils are expected to attend. In 1693 Sir Thomas Cookes re-endowed the School and enjoined that once a year a sermon should be preached to the Scholars of the School in St John's Parish Church. It is this that the School commemorates as well as celebrating the end of the academic year with prizegiving.

WHAT HAPPENS ON THE DAY?

Following a very small private ceremony in Cookes Room celebrating our founder Sir Thomas Cookes, the senior pupils (Fifth and Sixth Form) proceed to St John's Church for the Commemoration Service. Parents of Upper Sixth Pupils may apply for tickets for the Church Service from Mr McClure's office, please contact events@bromsgrove-school.co.uk to apply for tickets. Admission is by ticket only since space is very limited.

After the Church Service everyone returns to School and takes their place in the speeches' marquee. The School and parents are addressed by the President of the School and the Headmaster. Prizes are awarded to Upper Sixth Leavers and other pupils.

Lunch and various displays and events then happen around the School grounds and at 4.15pm all pupils attend Final Call-Over.



WHO ATTENDS COMMEMORATION DAY?

All Senior School pupils are expected to attend the day. Fourth Form pupils do not attend the Church Service but instead report to their Houses by 10.00am. All other pupils attend the Church Service and then speeches. All parents are invited to speeches and for the remainder of the day.

WHAT SHOULD WE WEAR?

The dress code for parents is formal day wear – hats are not a pre-requisite but many of our ladies do wear them. The dress code for pupils is summer uniform, with boaters required for the Lower Fourth, Upper Fourth and Fifth Form and for Sixth Form boys. Girls in the Sixth Form wear smart formal dress or skirt/trouser combinations with a jacket and a hat or modest headpiece. Some Sixth Formers wear their traditional national dress. Guidelines regarding Sixth Form dress for Commemoration are published on the Parent Portal and on the School website.



AND WHAT ABOUT LUNCH?

After speeches, everyone enjoys lunch before Final Call-Over. We very much encourage you to make the afternoon a family occasion. The School PA organise an excellent lunch in the Parents' Association Marquee on Gordon Green. Pre-booking is essential, you can find the booking form on the School website, or contact the Chair of the PA by email at seniorpa@bromsgrove-school.co.uk.

Some of the Day and Boarding Houses have a marquee on Lower Charford by the Cricket pitch where you can take lunch. Your child's Houseparent will be able to give you information about arrangements for their marquee since all the Houses look after this through their individual House Parents' Association.

Alternatively, many parents and friends picnic either in pre-booked gazebos on Lower Charford or, as at other summer events, in the designated picnic areas. This year we will have a picnic zones on the grassed area on Lower Charford. There will also be a variety of street food type stalls such as wood fired pizzas and an ice cream van where snacks can be purchased.

Unaccompanied pupils may have lunch in the Dining Hall at 1.00pm. They must sign up for this in advance through their House.

At 3.30pm, afternoon tea will be served for parents on Gordon Green and on Lower Charford.



WHERE AND WHEN DO SPEECHES TAKE PLACE?

Speeches take place in one of the large marquees on Gordon Green and all parents and friends of Bromsgrove are welcome to attend. Parents are asked to be seated no later than 11.50am - the Marquee begins to fill up from 11.30am.

During the Speech Day Ceremony the President, Vice Presidents, Governors and Trustees of Bromsgrove School are in attendance to witness the awarding of the end of year prizes including seven special prizes. Prize Giving finishes at about 1.00pm and is followed by lunch in your chosen venue.

WHAT OTHER EVENTS HAPPEN ON THE DAY?

There is a display of historical artefacts and OB memorabilia in the Heritage Centre. Weather allowing, there is usually a cricket match on Lower Charford. The Jazz Band perform on Gordon Green and there are several exhibitions around the School - details will be in the Commemoration Day Programme which will be available before the event on the School website.

Old Bromsgrovians can enjoy a hog roast and a glass of Pimms in the marquee on Lower Charford.



WHEN DOES THE DAY END?

At 4.15pm the Chapel Bell begins to toll, calling the School to Final Call Over. All the pupils line up in Houses with their Houseparents, Housemothers and Tutors on the Parade Ground between Kyteless and the Chapel. Each House in turn then moves forward and every pupil shakes hands with their House staff, the Heads of School and the Headmaster. Boaters must be worn by all pupils (except Sixth Form girls), unless a School cap has been awarded in which case pupils may wear their colours cap.

The final ceremony is the lowering of the School flag by the Heads of School who then hand it to the Deputy Head who hands it to the Headmaster for safekeeping until the start of the next academic year. This is a fitting, traditional and moving end to the School Year.

WHEN DO PUPILS LEAVE?

Pupils are free to leave after Final Call-Over at around 5.15pm. Upper Sixth Leavers are invited to a brief farewell celebration after Final Call-Over on the Green outside Wendron-Gordon (or if the weather is inclement in the Kyteless Marquee), where they will be able to say goodbye to their teachers and friends.



ANY QUESTIONS?

If you have any specific questions about the day, please email enquiries@bromsgrove-school.co.uk or contact your child's House for more details.

Useful documents about Commemoration Day can be found in the Information and Resources section of the website.



