



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

# Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

LENT 2024  
ISSUE 2



## A Word from the Headmaster

As the following pages show, once again over the last few weeks there have been a wide variety of activities and achievements with pupils of all ages taking advantage of the opportunities available to them. As you will read, some of these have been supported by teachers but also driven to a large extent by enthusiastic pupils. An example was the stunning Pop and Jazz concert, which took place just a few days before the end of Term. Senior School pupils entertained a large audience to performances of all kinds,

ensemble and solo; it was a real treat to enjoy the result of so much talent, creativity, and hard work.

It goes without saying but even though it is the School holidays, there is still plenty going on here. As I write, many older pupils are in School to participate in the Easter revision courses, the Gold Duke of Edinburgh expedition in the Lake District has just returned, the Spanish trip to Salamanca is still away and children are enjoying the

activity camps. All of these opportunities enrich the experience available to pupils and provide memories that will last long after their time at School has ended. However, for now, amongst everything else that is taking place, I hope all Bromsgrove families have a very happy Easter.

Michael Punt  
HEADMASTER

## Bebras Competition

Following on from the recent Bebras Computational Thinking Competition entered by 121 Senior School students, twenty-eight students achieved a result in the top 10% nationally; qualifying them for the Oxford University Coding Competition. Three students achieved a Merit, which places them in the top 18% nationally; Moses Kwong, Spike Bloxham and Ethan Woo.

Gleb Sovetkin achieved a Distinction and a score in the top 7% of entries nationally.



## Arts Festival

Well done to Nancy Morgan who competed at Worcester Competitive Arts Festival, playing her Harp in the novice class. She won the class and came away with a distinction gold award and the trophy.

## IB Top 10

We are delighted to have been presented with a crystal award as one of the Top 10 IB Schools for 2023, awarded by Education Advisers.





# Cultures Connect

The Cultures Connect concert treated the enthusiastic audience to an enchanting tapestry of performances that transcended borders and celebrated cultural diversity. In the end, the concert left us spellbound - a delightful evening where boundaries blurred and hearts connected. Well done to everyone involved.



## Football

Boarders from Wendron-Gordon and Elmshurst enjoyed a football match in aid of Doctors Without Borders. There was an enormous amount of support from the whole Boarding community, and even some live pitchside commentary by one of the pupils.



## Essay

Well done to Agneya Dhingra who, out of over 4,500 entries, is a finalist in the Northeastern Essay Competition. His Economics essay questioned whether the expanding gig economy contributes positively to sustainable economic growth.

Agneya has been invited by Northeastern to their London campus to celebrate this achievement.

## IAPS

Congratulations to all the Prep School swimmers who took part in the IAPS Regional Swimming Championships at Blue Coat School. The following pupils are through to the National Finals:

Boys: Rory Townsend, Lucas Yiend, Noah Noakes., Sebastian Raine and Harry Helmore.

Girls: Darcey Hackett, Phoebe Lloyd, Ella Cunningham and Evie Beckley.

The Finals will be held at the London Aquatics Centre during the Summer Term.



## Bath and Otter Relays

Well done to all the swimmers who competed at the Olympic Pool, in London. Over eighty schools from across the UK were competing for meaning the standard was particularly high.

Congratulations to the girls' team, led by captain Maya Wingfield, who came an impressive 6th place in the Medley relay and 8th place in the freestyle relay.

The boys' team also swam well, competing in what is the toughest race of the year - the 4 x 100m Freestyle relay - with many of our swimmers turning in personal best performances. The boys also performed well in the Medley relay finishing 24th out of eighty schools.



# Sustainability Demo

Anna from the Holroyd Howe sustainability team spoke to Prep pupils about the 'weight of waste' during a recent Assembly. There was also a tasting table in the dining hall to show the pupils how to effectively re-use food.



## Garden Show

Prep School is very excited to have a show garden at the forthcoming Malvern Spring show. Their garden has the theme *The Wizard of Oz*. Prep pupils were helped by students from the Fifth Form and Lower Sixth with some design aspects for their garden. They worked in small groups to start the manufacturing process of the elements that will be used to decorate the garden.



## Equestrian

Chloe Chan, riding Ruby, competed at Onley in the Working Hunter 143 Royal International qualifier, winning their class. Chloe and Ruby have now qualified for the prestigious Royal International Horse Show at Hickstead in July.

Congratulations to Mia-Bella Long who, at age 7, was the youngest competitor in the U11 category. With her pony, Mini Mouse, they jumped clear and qualified for the final.







# Netball

Congratulations to the 1st team who got through to National Cup Final Four, they put in a impressive performance but lost out to Milfield in the semi-final and to Cheadle Hulme in the 3rd/4th play off.

We are very proud of the U15 netball team who gave Withington Girls' School a tightly contested match in the Independent Schools National Netball Cup Final. Withington pulled away in the last quarter to win but it is a fantastic achievement for our team to be the second best Independent School team in the country.



Congratulations to the U13A netball team who became County netball champions at King's Worcester. As well as coming 3rd in the IAPS National Finals, only losing one game all day.

Congratulations also to the U12A netball team who were IAPS National runners up. The girls dominated their group convincingly, beating Taunton, Millfield School, Hoe Bridge, Crosfields, Mill Hill and Belmont, and qualified through to the quarter finals top of their group, they perserved in the semi-final against King's College.



In the final against Heath Mount, the girls fought hard for every goal, and both teams were ahead at different points of the game. Despite the girls' best efforts, the game ended 9 - 10 to the opposition. The girls should be very proud of themselves for playing well throughout the day; their silver medals are well-deserved.



## Senior House Drama

The theatre was bursting at the seams with excited supporters and performers for this year's annual Senior House Drama competition. Over ninety students took part, many of whom were new to the stage, but some were giving their final performances at Bromsgrove after several years of acting at the School. There were many truly outstanding acting performances; it was evident that much care, emotional investment, and rigorous preparation had gone into ensuring the whole evening was a resounding success. Everyone deserves our congratulations and, according to the adjudicator Mrs Stark, Head of Drama at Winterfold School, it was a very difficult task to make decisions.

The 2024 Performing Arts Award - Olivia Garret (Hazeldene)

Best Play - Elmshurst House for *The Trial*

Best Play Runner Up - Thomas Cookes House for *A Streetcar Named Desire*

Best Actor - Zeman Woo (Wendron-Gordon)

Best Actor Runner Up - Tanvir Biran (Walters)

Best Director - Boris Belov (Wendron-Gordon)

Adjudicator's Special Prizes - Tom Hunt (Lyttelton) and Hannah Sutherland (Hazeldene)





## Sumdog Competition

All pupils in Years 3 and 4 took part in the Sumdog Mathematics Competition for the West Midlands region.

Seventeen classes took part from a range of schools, and we are very proud of all of our Bromsgrove Junior

Department classes who finished within the top ten; well done to 4SD, who finished in 4th place overall in the final class group rankings. 4RI, 3CG, 3RI and 3SG were all 'Daily Winners', having earned the most points on different days.

Five Prep School pupils earned places in the top ten for their individual final scores; well done to Kimi Fickert, Jake Webley, Bertie Bainbridge, Matilda Fowler and Olivia Cox.



## Fundraising

Beau Langford, along with his sister Megan (TC 22), helped to raise £500 for the Critical Care Unit at Russell's Hall Hospital in Dudley. The unit is where his grandpa received treatment before sadly losing his battle at the end of January.

Beau presented the cheque to CCU with his mum and grandma.



## Tennis

A fantastic effort from Macklin Coalter who won the U12 Grade 3 tennis event. Macklin had a bye and went into the quarter finals. In the semi-final he won 6-1, 6-0 and the final was equally impressive, coming out on top 6-1, 6-2.





## Exhibition

We are incredibly proud of all the Prep and Pre-Prep pupils whose work was exhibited at the Malvern St James Art Exhibition. The overall standard of entries was incredibly high and so we were happy to see so many of our entries awarded prizes - Elva Tang won the Year 7 section, and we received highly commended in Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 6 and Year 8.



## Illustrator

Art Scholars and members of the pupil-led 201 magazine were treated to a visiting illustrator in ADT. Jonathan Dukes held a mini masterclass demonstrating to students some of the techniques that he uses in his work.



## Projects

Pupils were challenged to create a maths project at the Prep School. The results were creative and fantastic, the overall aim was to make alien projects that were constructed out of nets.



## Debating

Over three weeks before half-term, all twelve Houses took part in six debates as part of the House debating competition heats. Motions ranged from whether children should be entitled to divorce their parents, to whether 'woke' culture had gone too far. The standard was extremely high, and a number of

those who were entirely new to debating impressed with their skilful and eloquent speeches.

The Final was between Wendron-Gordon and Hazeldene. Debating whether the use of torture could be legitimate in order to ensure public

security, the teams jostled verbally over the effectiveness, legality, and morality of state-sanctioned torture. The quality of debate befitted the occasion, and in a tight-decision Wendron-Gordon were declared the winners of House Debating 2024.



## Hockey

The U13A team competed in the IAPS final, excited to test themselves against the best schools. The boys played well in the group stages to qualify for the quarter final where they lost to Hall Grove School. To qualify for the finals is a great achievement, and the team should be proud of themselves.

The U12A team competed in the In 2 Hockey tournament where they won two of their group games and lost one. The team narrowly missed out on a place in the semi-finals on goal difference.



## Pop and Jazz

Spring Pop & Jazz was overflowing with talent of all styles this year, from the established large ensembles down to debut soloists who enchanted a sell-out crowd of parents, staff and students.

The Big Band opened proceedings with the spotlight on Beau Vaughan-Hawkins who owned the drums like Gene Krupa in Benny Goodman's *Sing Sing Sing*.

Later we heard Xanthe Matthews

singing solo for the first time with a gorgeous rendition of Adele's *Skyfall*, ably accompanied by the Music Soc. Even the seasoned pros sought to break new ground with Ed Thompson performing music from Mario Kart 8 to the rapture of four competitive youngsters who battled it out on the track in real time. DJ Toby Roberts got the party started in the second half by laying down some phat beats for Charissa Brobbey-Sarpong and Tilly Richardson to sing the club classic

*Lola's Theme*.

The evening wasn't without poignancy, with swan songs from many UVI, including the Acafelas barbershop quartet who delighted everyone with a self-penned arrangement of The Beatles *All My Loving*. And finally, Impulse took the liberty of a cheeky encore, playing Eric Clapton's *Layla* to leave everyone with a lasting memory of a night jam-packed with high-standard performances.







## Computer Science

Computer Science students enjoyed an excellent day at the University of Birmingham. They learned about Computer Science in Medical Research, AI and motion tracking. This was great for inspiring careers in STEM and gave a real insight into university life.

## DofE

In the first week of the Easter holidays, Gold DofE students took part in the practice expedition at the Lake District. They were met with a mixture of glorious weather and bursts of icy rain, but despite this they stayed in high spirits and smiled through, looking after each other.



## Roman Classics

Latin and Classical Civilisation students enjoyed an amazing day at Corinium's amphitheatre and Museum, followed by a visit to the Roman baths in Bath.



# Rugby 7s

After two tough days of Rugby 7s at the Howden Rosslyn Park National Schools Sevens, the 1st team progressed through to a semi-final, losing to a superb Millfield side. Bromsgrove gave everything and the team should be proud to have made it to the last four in the country.

We give a big well done to our Upper Sixth boys who have played their last games for the School. As a team they made it to the semi-finals of both the 15-a-side and 7-a-side National competitions; a credit to their efforts throughout School. Thank you to Ben Yeo, Brendan Colley, George Hastings, Harrison Osborne, Toby Lewis, Kingsley Reid and Markus Townsend-Ford.

Congratulations to the U12 and U13 rugby 7s teams who took part in the Bishop Vesey and Maidwell Hall tournaments. The U13 squad continued to play excellent 7s, beating Shiplake College, Maidwell Hall and Old Swinford Hospital in their group matches. The boys then came up against a very physical Long Bucky Rugby Club side and found the going tough, eventually losing 3 tries to 1. This meant that the team finished in third place - a great achievement. Well done to the whole squad.

Bromsgrove U12s enjoyed a successful day out at the BVGS 7s tournament. In a very tough group they beat Northampton School for Boys, Manchester Grammar School and Monmouth School before just losing to Old Swinford in a close game. Unfortunately this meant that the team missed out on the cup final due to of points difference, but they did go on to win the plate comfortably - beating Queen Mary's GS and King's Worcester. Well done to the whole squad for their hard work, commitment and improvement over the season.







## Red Nose Day

Reception enjoyed a Red Nose Day phonics scavenger hunt around their outdoor area, they searched high and low and managed to find and recorded lots of their Level 3 sound.



## Fencing

The U18 boys team represented the School at the Public Schools' Fencing Championships at Lee Valley Athletics Centre. At what is believed to be the largest youth fencing tournament in Europe, the boys were up against tough competition but they rose to the challenge putting in brave performances in both Epee and Foil over the two days. Achieving more points on the first day than we did in the whole of the tournament last year, we finally finished 10th Boys' team out of 24 Schools. Our best performance of the competition came from Archie Wilson who, in his first major Fencing competition, finished 16th but each of the boys achieved positions to be proud of.



## CAS Celebrations

During the last week of term, IB students celebrated the end of their CAS element of the IB Diploma programme with the Headmaster, Mr Punt, and Head of CAS, Dr West.





## Science Week

As part of British Science Week the children in Nursery participated in simple Science Experiments which have included floating and sinking, colour explosion and exploring the properties of water and plastic.

Year 1 conducted an experiment to compare how long it took different flavour jellies to set. They learnt that lime and orange jelly set the quickest, followed by jelly with berries, and they were fascinated to find out that jelly with pineapple never sets!



## 201 Magazine

Volume 8 Issue 1 has now been published by the 201 pupil-led magazine team. The editors Annika Koch and Dmitry Molchanov, have pulled together an interesting and thought provoking edition of pupil work.

This issue is available to read on the School website - <https://www.bromsgrove-school.co.uk/pupil-magazine>



## Egg Challenge

Year 3 had great fun when they participated in an Egg Challenge - they designed a package to protect their 'penguin' eggs from a throw down a hill!

## Eisteddford

This year's Prep Eisteddford day was separated into three main events – Year 3 & 4, Year 5 & 6 and Year 7 & 8 – with categories for Poetry Recitation, Music Performance and Art. The music performances from pupils were exceptional, capturing a depth of expression unparalleled in such young performers. Winners of the Music categories performed pieces by Eionadi, Schmitz and Schonberg. Poetry recitation featured dynamic performances across modern and old with poems including *I think mice are rather nice* to *The Jabberwocky*. The Art exhibition in the foyer of Routh housed wonderful pieces of work featuring ceramics and textiles and visitors were able to view these before the recitals. Pupils demonstrated unprecedented skills in all areas and were superbly supportive of each other. The winners were:

**Music Category:**

Years 3&4: Chloe Ho

Years 5&6: Shushir Gurung

Years 7&8: Joshua-Austin Schirwing

**Recitation:**

Years 3&4: Nancy Morgan

Years 5&6: Rory Townsend

Years 7&8: Theo Lewis

**Art:**

Year 3: Jude Xu

Year 4: Isabelle Holland

Year 5: Elodie Wallington

Year 6: Sangmu Lama

Year 7: Siyon Rai

Year 8: Brisha Gurung



## Spring Recital

Beginner musicians gave a beautiful recital with performances ranging from a gusty Tuba rendition of *My Favourite Things* to an evocative cello recital of *Arabian Nights*. Pupils were universally excellent, and the concert was outstanding. Parents and teachers were very proud of the children, and they show much promise for the future.





## Global Politics

Students from the IB1 and IB2 Global Politics programmes joined together for the annual 'speed-dating' evening. Over pizza, IB2 students shared their hard-won lessons and advice on coursework, oral presentations, and exam tips; as well as reminiscing about their educational trip to Belfast and picking out some of their favourite moments from the course.

This was a highly useful and informative evening for the IB1s, and a lovely way to round off the course for our IB2 GloPo students.



## Marmite

Year 7 and 8 members of the Marmite More Able Society have met with Dr Ruben and discussed this term's theme 'What would I do in a Zombie Apocalypse?'. Nothing scary (although they did take a detour to discuss whether zombies can swim); rather an allegorical means of reflecting on

skill sets. Often, when infrastructure has been affected, the less glamorous, more specific or unusual gifts and talents can be the ones which change the world. Various means of framing and celebrating diverse skills were considered, as were responses to specific crises and disasters.

Dr Ruben reports that students were gloriously enthusiastic and knowledgeable and as ever a privilege to teach, worthy of the 'George A Romero Anti-Zombie Award' - and genuinely a bright hope for the future.







## Visitors

We were honoured to welcome visitors from the Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. The group of student teachers and their professors enjoyed observing a variety of lessons, toured the School facilities and met some of our students.



## Easter in Nursery

The Nursery children immersed themselves in a range of Easter inspired activities. From arts and crafts to making paintings and even dressing up in costumes. They each received a chocolate egg.



## Litter Pickers

Prep School pupils joined forces with the Senior School Eco Committee to clean up the local environment.





# Bromsgrovian News

## Cabin Crew

Jamie Lewis (S 16-23) fulfilled his life-long dream of becoming Cabin Crew, recently joining Jet 2. Miss Smith, Head of Spanish, was invited along to join the family for Jamie's Wings Ceremony. He studied Spanish at Bromsgrove and finished his A Levels last year.



## Foundation Lecture

This year's Foundation Lecture was given by Professor Sir Keith Porter at the Royal College of Physicians in London.

It was lovely to see so many Old Bromsgrovians and parents join us to hear Professor Sir Keith give a truly inspiring talk reflecting on his medical career, including collaboration with military and specialist teams in Birmingham.

If any Bromsgrovians have news that you would like to share with us, or you would like to arrange to visit the School, please do get in touch with the Bromsgrovian office: [oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk).

All photos featured on the Bromsgrovian pages, including individual's names and years, can be found on the Bromsgrovian Facebook site.