



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

LENT 2025
ISSUE 1



A Word from the Headmaster

Recently we were delighted to learn that School Sports Magazine has ranked Bromsgrove School as the fifth best school for sport in the UK, up from seventh last year. This is a huge achievement and is due to the hard work, skill and commitment of all the pupils and staff involved in the sports programme. Are we proud of this result? Yes, we certainly are. Is it an indication that sport is given more focus than other activities at Bromsgrove? Definitely not. Will we continue to reflect on and evolve the programme we offer Bromsgrove pupils? Yes.

As the following pages demonstrate, Bromsgrove pupils of all ages have

opportunities and achieve successes in a wide range of areas, and that is just as should be in a school that seeks to provide a full and rich education. In the classroom and out, we seek to provide an ever-increasing choice so that all young people can discover areas they enjoy and in which they excel so that they develop talents and interests, some of which will last a lifetime.

What also continues to impress me is the breadth of opportunities taken by individuals. The talented musician often arrives at the concert with mud on their knees, having just represented the School in sport. Actors might arrive at the play rehearsal in their

CCF uniform and so on...and of course for all pupils, of all ages, we also seek to ensure that they also achieve the very highest standards in their studies too. *If you want something done, ask a busy person to do it.* Bromsgrove pupils are certainly busy, and so are staff, but we believe that pursuing and honing talents with purpose and friends, brings joy and a sense of fulfilment.

I hope you enjoy reading about just some examples of where this has happened on the pages which follow.

Michael Punt
HEADMASTER

USA Applicants

We congratulate six of our USA Early Decision applicants on being accepted to prestigious institutions such as NYU, Barnard, Rice, Northeastern and Syracuse after completing their A Level and IB exams later this year. This is a fantastic achievement considering the fierce competition for places and a 5% rise in applications from international students in the early cycle this year. The USA preparation programme has already started for our current Lower Sixth - we hope that they'll soon be following in the footsteps of our Upper Sixth candidates.



Karate

Huge Congratulations to Alayna Oozageer, Chloe Heath, Lily Heath, Arjun Sanikop and Amaya Patel who have all been awarded their black belt after months of hard work and training.



Charity

Earlier this term, Elina Quito, Kate Ignatiuk, Ileroluwa Odugbesan and Victoria Kwok organised for each of the Houses to have a clothing collection. Their ultimate aim is to make giving and helping others a daily practice so that those who are less fortunate than us can receive the help they need. The group hopes to make the clothing collections a continuous initiative throughout the year.

CCF Flying Day

After a two-year hiatus, six Cadets had a fantastic flying day with 8 AEF. After the early fog cleared, Tom Lyeashov and Xanthe Matthews were the first to take off, thrilled that they finally had the opportunity to fly.



Cross-Country

Congratulations to Rory Townsend who finished in first place at the U11 Worcestershire Cross-Country Championships held at Solihull Riding Club.



Tennis

Well done to Toby Ward, Gina Obrey and Chaim Conroy on their selection to the Hereford and Worcestershire U18 tennis teams. Congratulations also go to Chaim

and George Hadley on their victory in the U18 doubles tennis competition at Carisbrooke, and to Charlie Fielding for winning the Men's singles tennis competition at Weoley Hill.

Seven pupils from Years 1, 2 and 3 attended the County Tennis Training at Manor Park Tennis Club in Malvern.

Shout out to Arabella Siviter, Raed Ahmad, Josh Kenth, Leeya Kalidas, Huxley Lancaster & Bash Newland for whom this was their first County Tennis session. A special mention to Dillon Kenth from Year 3 who has been attending these sessions regularly since last year.



Pottery

Year 1 had the opportunity to invite celebrity potter, Stephen Parkes, into their classrooms. You might have spotted Stephen, who is the School's AV Technician, on television as a contestant on *The Great Pottery Throwdown*. Fortunately he was able to step away from the cameras for a day and talk to our aspiring potters. He showed the children some of the wonderful items he created on the show, from crockery to clocks, and explained the different methods involved in creating these masterpieces. He also demonstrated how to make a clay volcano – the perfect start to a new topic.

Lunar New Year

Reception and Nursery celebrated the Lunar New Year. They took part in a range of different activities, from writing Chinese numerals, making dancing dragons, lucky money wallets, weighing rice, messy noodle play, setting up a Chinese Restaurant and making their own spring rolls. They had so much fun whilst immersing themselves in the Chinese culture. Senior School students visited Pre-Prep to teach pupils about the Lunar New Year. They listened to a presentation about special traditions, wrote their name in Chinese and received a lucky red envelope.





Wind & Brass

The annual wind and brass concert took place this Lent term. The concert showcased the Year 5 pupils' musical talents, all of whom are learning a wind or brass instrument. Each instrumental group performed a piece, followed by solos from older pupils who had begun their instrumental journey earlier in the scheme.

The finale was a rousing moment as the entire year group played together as a large band. The concert was a thoroughly enjoyable experience, a testament to the hard work and dedication of all the pupils and their teachers.



Bromsgrove Service

As part of Bromsgrove Service, Senior School students are working in the community at Chandler Court Residential Home. They have designed activities for the residents and thoroughly enjoy listening to their stories each week. This is just one of the hundreds of service activities on offer, whether it be volunteering in the local community, leading a sports activities for younger pupils or being part of a club.



Culture

During the Christmas period, Ashlina Gurung delivered a presentation about the UK to the National Student Officers of the Nepali Army at Army Command and Staff College, Kathmandu. Ashlina assisted with the culture section, covering the rich and diverse aspects of British culture including literature, arts, science, music, media and sports.

Composing Workshop

We welcomed composer David Lowe to visit and give a demonstration of his creative method to all of Year 8 in January. He has written many well-known TV themes including BBC News, Grand Designs and Countryfile. The pupils really engaged with his characterful presentation and asked questions to support their own learning. There has been some additional activity in class following this talk amongst our budding young composers!



Life Skills

In January in Life Skills lessons, all UIV students have been involved in lessons focusing on Alcohol and Drugs Education with PC Neil Sharpe, West Mercia Police.

Westminster

A Level politics students enjoyed a brilliant day in Westminster. After a guided tour of the House of Lords and the King's 'Robing Room', students had the opportunity to watch a debate on the 'Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill' in the House of Commons.

Once the tour was complete, they were fortunate that Bromsgrove MP, Bradley Thomas, generously gave up his time to meet with the students and take their questions on a wide range of local and national topics.

The trip was rounded off with a visit to the Institute of Economic Affairs – the prominent 'think tank' with close ties to Thatcherism and 'Trussonomics' – where students heard from and asked questions of one of their leading researchers.



Personal Statement

The Lower Sixth journey to making successful UK university applications started with an introductory session to preparing their Personal Statements. They are the first cohort applying with the new Personal Statement format, and we are excited to see their progress as they cement their passion for their subjects, and choose their future courses and universities.



Mountain Biking

Well done to Freddie Giles and Dylan Littlefield who took part in a downhill mountain bike race in the Forest of Dean. Both riders showed exceptional skill and determination, navigating the challenging terrain with impressive speed and control.



Hygiene

Boarders across the School are taking part in a series of evening sessions with Nurse Charlotte on hand hygiene. Speaking about the importance of properly washing their hands, they had the opportunity to see their unwashed hands under a UV light whilst having glo-germ gel on to see how dirty their hands could be. Then they tried to wash the gel off using the appropriate method to see the cleanliness of their hands afterwards.



Equestrian

Mia-Bella Long came second at the London Internationals in the cradle stakes on her pony Vennebos Pearly King. She also competed in the highly prestigious Mini Major on her pony Red Alert and did incredibly well in the international arena. Mia-Bella has now qualified all of her ponies for the U11 Finals later this year. An incredible start to 2025.



Rubik's Cube

The Rubik's Cube club sent a team of eleven to compete at a competition at Bristol University. All pupils represented the school excellently and helped out with the judging all day. Out of eighty competitors, James Oatridge was 8th, Mr Turner was 38th, Aniruth was 45th, Nico Fickert was 54th and Emilia Wilkinson-Doran was 63rd. In the Pyraminx round Arjun Sanikop was 36th, Katherine Zhou was 40th, and Kimi Fickert was 44th. In the 2x2 round, Jessica Sessford was 53rd, Priya Madhavan was 54th and Anushka Giles was 56th. The children were fantastic competitors, and represented the School beautifully with their commitment to judging, helping and scoring.





Fencing

Nicholas Lo took part in the West Midlands Age Group Sabre competition where he worked hard to win the fight in his pool. After winning in the last eight round, Nicholas was in a top four position. He narrowly missed out on a win against the number one seed and eventual winner. Nicholas finished equal 3rd place and has now qualified for the British Young Championships National Age Group Finals, which will take place at the England Institute of Sport in Sheffield.



Research Competition

Five teams competed in the Tenth Annual Bromsgrove School Research Competition (BSRC). Students argued which language ought to be compulsory for all children to learn globally. Excellent argumentation was presented about the coding language Python, music as the language of empathy and connection, and various forms of signed language as a means of inclusion and personal development.

The winning team suggested that tactile sign language had a function beyond those people with complex needs who normally use it, and persuaded the judges that every child should learn it.

Congratulations to Verity Williams and Emily Whittle who were Highly Commended; the grand prize of an escape room trip went to William Shirley, Agha Samad-Zada, Tom Punt, and Rufus Cole.

Weather Presenters

Sara Thornton and John Hammond from BBC Weather, ITV Weather and the Met Office visited Bromsgrove Prep to speak to Years 7 and 8 in a special assembly. They gave us a whistlestop tour of their careers to date and shared tips on how to progress in the industry, as well as an important message about the increasing temperature. As a finale, they asked Mr Jones to present the weather (without a script to hand), with pupil volunteers acting as the director and crew. Mr Hammond then went on stage to show everyone how it's done in a studio setting.



Fascinating Fossils

Year 1 had an incredible time exploring the world of fossils with Mr Arnold.

Armed with a microscope, they examined fascinating rock formations, studied detailed maps of different rock types, and even got hands-on with hammers—cracking open rocks to uncover hidden treasures.

We think we may have some future palaeontologists in the making!



Birdwatching

As part of Reception's Big Garden Bird Watch, the children demonstrated excellent teamwork skills by working together to find different species of birds hidden around the outdoor area. They continued their learning by using binoculars to observe real birds as well as drawing and painting native birds.

Gardening

Our Senior School Gardeners have been busy clearing an area of ivy and weeds ready to turn it into a fern bed. It's slow and meticulous work but they've also discovered hidden bulbs coming through the soil, just in time for Spring.





Junior House Drama

The annual Junior House Drama competition is a great opportunity for many students to get involved with performing and stage craft. The adjudicators had a tough decision as all eleven Houses performed superbly.

Best Play – Elmshurst

Runner Up Best Play – Thomas Cookes

Adjudicator's Award – Theo Lewis (Walters)

Best Actor – Ethan Masterson (School)

Runner Up Best Actor – Oliver Stark (Wendron-Gordon) & Petya Lazarova (Oakley)

Debating



Public Speaking

Three members of the Junior Debating team took part in the second round of the prestigious ESU Churchill Public Speaking Competition. Will Alekna (speaker), Jess Gallimore (chair) and Rowan Reijmer (questioner) all put in strong performances against some worthy opponents, and the level of the contributions was very high. Only three teams could go through to the next round, and despite performing well, we did not progress to the next round. The students felt that they had learned a lot about this important skill.

British Parliamentary

The debating team travelled to Nottingham University to take part in a British Parliamentary competition against schools from across the country. Over four rounds of debating, with everything from whether we should replace juries with AI, to the desirability of 'neediness' in inter-relationships, the students performed admirably and gained valuable experience. They were also delighted to catch up with OB Iain Messoro (L 15-20) who was one of the competition judges, and who had been one of Dr Jewkes' first politics students at Bromsgrove.



Oxford Union

Four teams took part in the Oxford Union Schools' Debating Competition regional qualifying round at RGS Worcester. With over thirty teams competing, and only four qualifying spots available, it was a fantastic achievement by Gleb Sovetkin and Nurajim Turganbaeva to get into the top four. They will now travel to the Oxford Union in March for finals' day, where they will pit their wits against the best school debaters from across the country and around the world.

Netball

Many congratulations to our U13 netballers who were crowned Regional IAPS champions for the fifth consecutive year. The girls played superbly to win all six group stage matches against Maidwell Hall, Ashfield School, Beeston Hall, Swanbourne House, Dragon and Winterfold scoring an incredible 120 goals and conceding just 22.

A huge well done to - Harriet Barnes, Gigi Gilbert, Penelope Higgins, Aaliyah Jackson, Sophie Jones, Freya Obrey, Ari Thorpe and Eloise Warman. A special mention must go to Freya who was awarded 'Player of the tournament' by the Uppingham staff. The girls are very much looking forward to competing in the national finals in March.



Politics Society

The student-led Politics Society organised an online talk from Professor Anke Hoeffler. Professor Hoeffler is one of the world's foremost political scientists and a renowned expert on issues relating to violence, conflict, and civil war – particularly in their impact on the developing world. Students had the pleasure of hearing Prof. Hoeffler present an overview of the field and of her own latest research, as well as the opportunity to ask questions connected to their own studies in A Level and IB Global Politics.

ESSA

Congratulations to Mr Shaun Camden, i/c swimming, on his installation as President of the English Schools' Swimming Association. Representing the Headmaster and the School, Mrs Buckingham delivered a speech highlighting the rich history of swimming at Bromsgrove, from our first fixture in 1902 to the present day, and introduced Mr Camden to the audience. It was wonderful to see James Hubbard, one of the first pupils Mr Camden coached upon joining Bromsgrove in 1999, as well as current parents, family, and friends, in attendance at the ceremony. We wish Mr Camden every success in this prestigious role and look forward to the continued growth of swimming at Bromsgrove under his leadership.



House Music Competitions



Ensembles

There was an outstanding array of talent on display at the house music competitions: ninety-three musicians on stage in the ensemble competition and fifteen soloists.

Lupton were Highly commended; WG as Runners Up, and Mary Windsor as the winning ensemble with their stunning rendition of Laufey's From The Start.

Solo

In the Intermediate and Advanced solo finals we enjoyed another evening of superb music-making of the very highest calibre. The competition was adjudicated by Ms Nicky Bouckley from Loughborough Schools Foundation who was most impressed with each performer's commitment and stage presence.

For the Intermediate category, drummer Euan Choi was highly commended (Lyttelton); runner up pianist Jethro Wong (Wendron Gordon) and the winning trophy went to Ella Kenyon (Thomas Cookes) for her outstanding performance of 'She used to be mine' from Waitress the Musical.

For the Advanced section, we awarded category winners and overall best performers:

- Marley Sohna (School House) for the Wind & Brass category
- Marcus Ho (School House) for the Piano category



- Olivia McKelvey (Otilie Hild) for the singing category
- Hailey Li (Mary Windsor) for the strings category
- Darcy Dines (Lyttelton) for the Jazz, Rock, Pop & Improvisation category.

The advanced awards continue with the highly commended prize going to pianist Trissie Wong (Oakley); the runners up prize goes to multi-instrumentalist Darcy Dines (Lyttelton) who performed on bass guitar, keys and electric guitar and the overall winner's trophy goes to outstanding pianist Marcus Ho (School).



New Gap Students

A warm welcome to our new Gap teachers from Australia. Before the Lent term started, the Headmaster invited them to tea at Thatcholme where they also met Miss Brown who is helping them settle into School life. We're not quite sure they expected snow on their first day though.



Maths Day

Pre-Prep enjoyed learning all things number related today as the Whole School enjoyed a maths day. From parading in their homemade hats, to counting coins to buy items from the 'bakery' and painting stones with their favourite numbers.

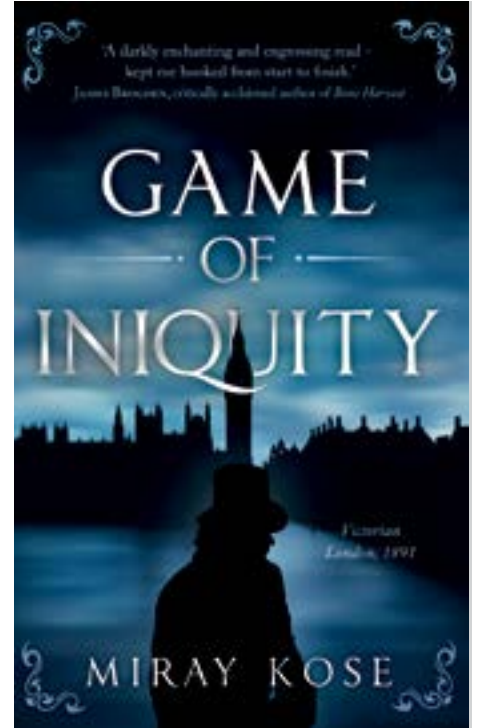
Bromsgrovian News



Nigerian Reunion

The Headmaster, Mr Punt, made his first visit to Nigeria where the School held the inaugural reunion for Nigerian OBs, parents and prospective families. Hosted by Mr Mahmud Tukur (Elmshurst 1986-1991) at the Lagos Jet Ski Riders Club, over forty attendees enjoyed a fantastic evening, complete with branded goody bags, Bromsgrove themed cocktails and delicious canapes.

If you live or work in Nigeria, please contact us to make sure we have your up to date contact details so that we can invite you to future events - email oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk



Novel

Miray Kose (O 15-20) has had her debut historical crime fiction novel, *Game of Iniquity*, published. She wrote the book during her time at Bromsgrove and now studies Law at Durham University.

Miray's book signing in Durham was a huge sell-out success. You can still find copies in all good retailers including WH Smith, Barnes & Noble (US) and on Amazon.

You can find out more about Miray and her novel at www.miraykose.com



Polar Night Marathon

Mrs Punt conquered the Polar Night Marathon in the Norwegian Arctic Circle and raised over £20k for Cancer Research UK. The run took place in extreme subzero temperatures, in darkness, on ice whilst she was dressed in a polar bear costume - and she still achieved a Guinness World Record. Mrs Punt has subsequently been interviewed on television for Midlands Today and Lorraine. Overall Mrs Punt has raised almost £2million for Cancer Research through her marathon efforts.



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