



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

MICHAELMAS 2024
ISSUE 2



A Word from the Headmaster

As it does each year, at 11 o'clock on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the School fell silent as we carried out our Act of Remembrance.

I am always struck by how well the whole School community, quite rightly, respects this moment as we remember all those who have given their lives in war, on behalf of all of us. Boards in the Memorial Chapel list the names of the Old Bromsgrovians who died in the two World Wars, about a hundred in each. Next to the flagpole, the replica

poppies, painstakingly made by the DT department, are individually inscribed with a year of death, a regiment and a name, and each one is dedicated to an OB who gave their life.

Of course, if we are not careful, the boards and the poppies just tell us names, and yet those who died in the two World Wars, and indeed those across the world who continue to die in war, were not and are not just names; they were people just like us. They too attended Bromsgrove; like us; they had

lessons in classrooms, took part in activities, represented their Houses, just like us; they did good things, and occasionally they got it wrong, like us; they had planned to leave School to go on to use their talents in the world as we hope to do.

It is so important that we always remember them.

Michael Punt
HEADMASTER



MRS LESLEY BROOKES

1965 - 2024

It is with great sadness that we announced the death of our beloved Bursar, Mrs Lesley Brookes. After her valiant fight against cancer, she died peacefully on the evening of Sunday, 17th November with her family around her.

The thoughts and prayers of everyone at Bromsgrove School are with Lesley's family at this very sad time.
May she rest in peace.

Hockey

The U11A girls' team made the long journey down to Wellington College for their IAPS qualification tournament. They started well with a draw against Hall Grove. The girls then won their next three group games against Broomwood, City of London Freeman's and Prince's Mead. This meant that Bromsgrove finished top of their group and progressed through to the quarter final of the cup competition. The girls showed great determination and created attacking opportunities but narrowly lost to Lambrook. Well done to all the girls for finishing in the top eight out of the twenty schools competing.

Congratulations to the U10A girls' hockey team who won the RGS The Grange Invitational tournament. They won four out of five matches and drew their other game.



Computing

Congratulations to Gleb Sovetkin, Mikhail Voronetskiy and Veronika Koreyckaia who have completed their entry for the 2024 NASA Space Apps Challenge. This is the largest annual global hackathon, Team Bromsgrove's entry was based on seismic waves analysis.

We now await the results of the judging process, but the team were happy with the code they wrote and feel confident with their entry.

Residential

Before the half term break, Year 6 had a fabulous few days on their residential trip, the PGL Boreatton Park, near Shrewsbury. The teachers were very impressed by their team building, resilience and perseverance skills.



Scholars' Evening

Nearly forty Performing Arts Scholars presented an outstanding showcase consisting of extracts from five classic plays of the 20th Century in Cobham Theatre, followed by our finest musicians taking to the concert platform in Routh Hall to play a wide-ranging programme of duets, ensembles and quartets from Mozart to Evan Hansen.

Drama

The Drama was by turns riveting, comical and intensely moving. From Elna Quito's wonderfully melodramatic lines from *Macbeth* as performed by a grand 17th century actress in April De Angelis' witty piece *Playhouse Creatures* about Restoration Theatre, through the intensity of Olivia McKelvey and Ewan Head in *The Deep Blue Sea*; the magnificent brooding violence of Dylan Foster-Agg as Brick, opposite Isla Chattin's Maggie in *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* and the beautifully characterised and detailed performances of Hugo Blackwell, Jack Atkinson and Ewan Head (again) in quite the most superb evocation of a World War One trench so far seen on Cobham stage for *Journey's End*.

A very special mention must go to Ella Kenyon and Boris Belov who delighted everyone with their interpretations of Eliza Doolittle and Henry Higgins respectively in *Pygmalion* – ably supported by Shusank Nembang



and Tilly Richardson whilst for pure comic relief, Ethan Masterson must be thanked his hilarious performance as Mason in the otherwise deeply serious acting in *Journey's End*. This was a very classy set of scenes

and performances with production elements of the very highest quality as always from the magnificent settings, costumes, the atmospheric lighting and carefully chosen sound design.



Music

After the interval, and a change of venue, Fifth and Sixth Form music scholars entertained in ensembles ranging from clarinet quartets to vocal duet and musical theatre trios, a piano duet, jazz combo, wind trio and string group. This was a spectacular evening of music making of the highest calibre. Performances are available on YouTube if you missed it, or want to listen again.

Greenpower Kit Car

Design Technology Greenpower teams have come away with three trophies at the Greenpower International Finals at Goodwood, with the Senior team being crowned F24+ 2024 Kitcar International champions.

This year's competition was particularly exciting, as both teams had implemented significant modifications to their vehicles since the last heat, and they were eager to test their improvements.

The Senior team also won a trophy for winning the heat and accumulating the most points this season. This was achieved by a 100%-win record throughout the season, competing against universities, colleges and corporations.

The Juniors finished 5th place overall and also won a trophy for Best Presented Team.

Bromsgrove's kitcar team is currently seeking new sponsorship opportunities, presenting a unique chance to associate a brand with two championship-winning race cars (Team Chicken 2018 and The Egg 2024). As they look forward to the future, they proudly declare: The Egg certainly came first this year!



Tennis

Gina Obrey won the Open Age Women's Grade 4 event at Hall Green tennis club. She continues her fantastic run and further builds on her career high national ranking.



Football

The boarders' football match between Wendron-Gordon and Housman Hall proved exciting. WG were the winners, making a strong comeback in the final minutes. The cakes, baked by Oakley House, went down a treat! Well done to all players and bakers.



Sustainability Week

This is the third year that the School have run a Sustainability week. This year it was a packed programme that had something for everyone. This student-led event encouraged everyone to get involved and feel empowered to make a difference. Students ran bake sales, led Chapel services, pressed apples from the School orchard and organised the Ecolympics.

Lectures were given by Hedera Screens and Holroyd Howe to pupils in the Sixth Form. Alistair from Hedera Screens spoke about how his company are

working on using green screens in Schools around the country to reduce air pollution and how effective ivy is for this. He also spoke about the School's own green wall, which they fitted and how this helps to regulate both flooding and the urban heat island effect as well as supporting biodiversity. Mark Hatton from Holroyd Howe gave a very informed lecture on the importance of food in the circular economy and the cooperate responsibility for ESG. Both lectures were wonderful extension opportunities for pupils from a wide range of subject and we are very grateful

to the presenters for giving up their time. One highlight of the week was the Eco Concert: Sustainability Sounds on the Friday evening. With the stage decorated with foliage from the School grounds, pupils from all years in the Senior School demonstrated their musical expertise. There were many show-stopping performances and a wonderfully supportive audience who enjoyed listening to their peers perform.

If you work in an industry that has a particular focus on the environment, we would love to hear from you.



Pumpkin Barn

This year Max Morgan has created a 'Pumpkin Barn' which was full of very pretty farm grown pumpkins, squash and gourds.

He was open every weekend in October dedicated to selling them all. This year Max's charity bucket was for 'We Are Farming Minds' a great charity addressing mental health in agricultural communities.



Apple Pressing

Our Bromsgrove Service gardening group cooked up a storm with produce from the School garden. Meanwhile, the eco-committee pressed the harvested apples to make bottled juice.

Competition

The Headmaster judged the Senior School Hallowe'en Pumpkin competition at the end of half term, with the winners as follows:

- 1st place - Webber with a design of their House crest
- 2nd place - School with Darth Vader
- 3rd place - Lupton with their half pumpkin/half skeleton



LifeSkills

Karl Hopwood, independent esafety expert, spoke to the Lower Fourth about staying safe online. He offered the latest information and clear advice on how to be responsible online citizens. A link with further information will be shared on the Life Skills bulletin.



Expedition Club

Just before half term, the Expedition Club were in North Wales for intensive navigation training. Thank you to the Arete Llanrug Centre for their expertise and facilities.



Archaeologists

Year 3 had a fantastic trip, exploring the wonders of the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages at the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre.

The children engaged in a wealth of hands-on activities, learned about ancient life, and discovered the wonders of archaeology. It was a joy to see young explorers working together to delve into the rich (pre)history of our ancestors, and the awe and wonder prompted by the mammoth skeletons.

Belfast Trip

Just before half-term, fourteen IB2 students went to Belfast and Derry/Londonderry as part of their Global Politics course. Students were able to gain an insight into the successes and ongoing challenges of the peace process and the difficulties of achieving reconciliation in a post-conflict society.

The first day was spent in Derry/Londonderry where students visited the Free Derry museum and spoke with the sister of one of the victims of Bloody Sunday. After lunch they visited the brand-new Peacemakers Museum and were able to view a full-size replica of an 'H Block' prison cell.

On the second day, students enjoyed a tour of historic sites in Belfast city centre and West Belfast, before

travelling on to Stormont where they were shown round the Assembly building and met with Alliance Party MLA and former Lord Mayor of Belfast, Kate Nicholl.

The trip was an eye-opening experience for all, and, despite some inclement weather, the students engaged brilliantly throughout and learned a huge amount about this fascinating but troubled region.



Politics Society

Sixth Form students met with Bradley Thomas, MP for Bromsgrove, during the last week of half term. Tilly Richardson (Upper Sixth) organised the meeting as part of her role in the School's Politics Society (PolSoc).

Politics is an increasingly popular Sixth Form option at Bromsgrove School, with students encouraged to have a strong interest in current affairs, an interest in how the world works and an understanding of philosophical ideas of democracy, freedom and justice.

Thank you to Bradley Thomas MP for taking the time out of his day to answer questions from our students.

Orchestral Day

The Music Department held an Orchestral Day for seventy-five pupils visiting from Bromsgrove Prep, Winterfold, Aston Fields, Catshill, Parkside and St John's middle schools. They were joined by some Senior music scholars and learned music on the day, putting all their hard work together into a concert for parents and friends. Many congratulations to everyone involved - some only just beginning their musical journey, others more experienced. Whatever the ability - it was a superb day, and great fun.



Lunchtime Concert

Lunchtime Concerts have been proving popular for our students with three in the first half of term already. One of these featured a Sixth Form band playing in the Dining Hall so that the whole School could enjoy some musical accompaniment to their Friday meal. Anyone interested in playing in a future concert should contact Mr McKelvey.





Mud Kitchen

There were moments of pure happiness in Nursery's Mud Kitchen. The environment encourages creativity, language, sensory play and teamwork whilst allowing pupils to connect with nature.



Stressbox

Year 8 have been learning meditation and boxing skills during their PSHE lessons.

Through meditation and boxing, stressbox allows pupils to become more balanced and composed in order to prevent stress and improve mental health.

Signing

Esme Tyler has just signed for Alvechurch Girls' U9s, with the team in the top league in the area. Esme also won player of the match in her first game.



England Rugby

George Dufty has been selected for England U18s Rugby Development Camp. Over half term, he trained at Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre with the squad.



Theatre

Alayna Oozageer recently joined Bromsgrove Youth Theatre and successfully auditioned for the lead role of Matilda. The show is due to take place in Cheltenham in April 2025.

Sailing

Stella Nygard has recently taken part in the Magenta foiling clinic at Datchet water sailing club. She has found that the foiling Waszp is more suited to her and Stella has been invited to participate in the international Magenta Project, aimed at talented female sailors. Stella will also continue with her 29er training.



ESSA

Many congratulations to the pupils involved in the ESSA swimming competition. Where they took part in medley and freestyle relays. We await results from galas occurring the country to see whether we make the top 24

Schools in the country for the National Finals. A huge well done to: Connie Foster, Darcey Hackett, Phoebe Lloyd, Evie Littlefield, James Doyle, Reuben Fowler, Edward Lyons and Seb Raine.

Years 6 and 7 swam against Newcastle Under-Lyme at home. It was a close match and the result of the gala came

down to the last two relays which they managed to win and therefore secure the overall victory. There were some impressive performances from all pupils, including two individuals who set new school records. Darcey Hackett 50mt Butterfly - 32.97 secs, and Rory Townsend 50mt Butterfly - 36.80 secs.



Oakley 5k

Oakley did their annual 5km run, raising money for House charity Medecins Sans Frontieres, they all performed superbly. However special mentions go to:

- 1st place Celina Borkowska
- 2nd place Lacey Sutton
- 3rd place Lucile Pradeau



3k

Rozelyn Gurung set herself an additional challenge of a preliminary run and raised money for charity ahead of the Oakley House Charity 5k run. Well done to Rozelyn.

Essays

Congratulations to Alex Lau, whose essay ranked in the top 3% of global submission for the John Locke Institute Law essay competition. Alex addressed the question: "In the last five years British police have arrested several thousand people for things they posted on social media. Is the UK becoming a police state?", drawing on Locke's theories on negative liberty to produce a sophisticated and cogent argument. Alex has stepped up in LawSoc to now act as the Research Officer for his fellow students, informing and inspiring the Lower Sixth to enter essay prizes themselves.

Well done also to Dexter Leung, whose entry into the John Locke Institute Global Essay Competition, in the Law section, has been shortlisted for a prize at the academic conference and prize ceremony which will take place later



this month. Dexter wrote a superbly-argued essay addressing the question 'Your parents say that 11pm is your bedtime. But they don't punish you if you don't go to bed by 11pm. Is 11pm really your bedtime?'

In his essay, he delved into command law through the lenses of natural law theory and legal positivism, demonstrating outstanding critical thinking and research skills.



Isla C is
SUE SNELL



Dylan F-A is
TOMMY ROSS

Bike Ride

Mr Jones is pictured here on the summit of Mt Vontoux in France. He recently completed his 850-mile cycle ride over nine days from St Melo to Nice. Which included over 45,000 feet of climbing or nine vertical miles.



Theatre

Over half term, Drama Scholars Isla Chattin and Dylan Foster-Agg performed as principal characters, Sue Sell and Tommy Ross, at The Greig Hall, Alcester in Top Box Studios musical production of *Carrie*.

Bromsgrovian News



Talk

Thank you to Tina Circus and Emily Dixon from Star Legal Solicitors for speaking to Old Bromsgrovians about the importance of Wills, LPAs and IHT planning. The talk finished with a witty speech from James Sommerville (also of Star Legal) our Clerk to the Governors and Trustees on 'Legal Howlers'.

Rugby

Harrison Osborne (Ws 15-24) and Ollie Bulleid (E 20-22) met up with Ollie Lawrence (Ly 16-18). It is great to see three OBs enjoying the rugby at Bath.



Talk

Mike Ireland (Ws 72-83) represented his country at the World Age Group Aquabike Championships in Torremolinos, Spain. The event took place on 19th October, which he says is a poignant date as it is his late father's birthday, a former Master at Bromsgrove that many OBs will remember, John Ireland. Mike finished twelfth out of forty-eight competitors in his age group.

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.