



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

MICHAELMAS 2024
ISSUE 3



Wishing all of our families and
friends of the School Peace and
Happiness this Christmas

Crafting for Charity

The crafting for charity group is delighted to announce that they raised £196 from their two lunchtime sales. When this is combined with the money from the previous sales in Sustainability Week in September, this gives a grand total of £509 raised in the Michaelmas term for The Primrose Hospice.

The group would like to thank everyone who bought a card, Christmas tree decoration, lavender bag or a raffle ticket for the pom-pom Christmas wreath.



Taekwondo

Congratulations to Charlie Collyer who has been crowned British Taekwondo Champion. He had a tough route to the final, which ultimately went to a tie break, but his determination won through.



CREST

Congratulations to Marley Sohna on his gold award as part of the CREST scheme. CREST is the British Science Association's scheme for STEM project work that inspires young people to think and behave like scientists and engineers

Working with Professor Lazzeroni at the University of Birmingham, Marley contributed to real academic research by analysing data from the HiSPARC network of detector stations to determine potential source directions of cosmic radiation flux.



Heritage Tree Planting

The Senior Eco-Committee have been helping the gardeners to reestablish the orchard in the Senior School by planting heritage trees.



Cross-Country

Many congratulations to all the runners from Prep and Senior School who took part in the District Cross-Country held at School. The pupils ran brilliantly and enjoyed the competition. Those runners who came in the top six positions, achieved a place through to the county round after Christmas. We wish them all the best in the county round.



Maths

Congratulations to Gleb Sovetkin on his bronze medal and book prize for the Maclaurin Olympiad paper at the end of the Summer Term.

In the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge, Gleb scored the best result in School, resulting in automatic qualification to the British Mathematical Olympiad.



Languages

Twenty-five enthusiastic Lower Fourth students proudly represented our school in this year's prestigious GCHQ National Languages Competition. The event challenges participants to solve complex puzzles and codes using a variety of languages, encouraging teamwork, problem-solving, and linguistic skills. Competing against schools nationwide, these students displayed exceptional determination and creativity.

Through their participation, they enhanced their understanding of languages and their practical applications in areas such as cryptography and global communication. We are immensely proud of their dedication and achievements in this intellectually stimulating competition, which highlights the importance of language learning in an increasingly interconnected world.



Golden Rule

For Anti-Bullying Week, pupils have been learning about the 'golden rule' in different religions and non-religious perspectives in RS.

They linked this to anti-bullying week by thinking about how we treat others, and particularly more vulnerable members of our society. One quote that was a favourite of the students was a Yoruba proverb: "One who is going to take a pointed stick to pinch a baby bird should first try it on himself to feel how it hurts."

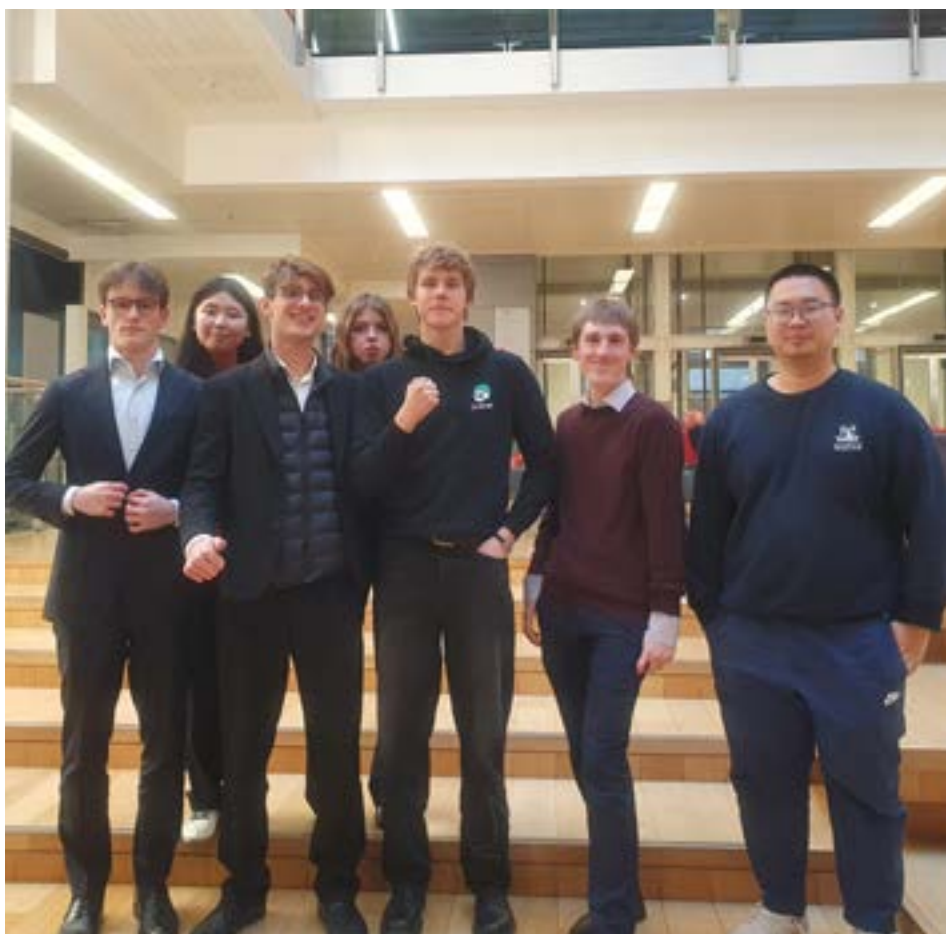
The students then produced artwork showing people from different faiths and quotes about why the golden rule is important.





Advent Service

The annual candelit Advent Carol Service took place on the first Sunday of Advent. 'In the stillness of a church where candles glow' is the first line of Sally Beamish's carol, with which the Senior chamber choir opened the service. Two choruses from Handel's Messiah were performed alongside the Year 2 choir singing beautifully. The congregation joined in three fabulous Advent hymns. A very special service to begin the festive period.



Debating

Six members of the school debating team pitted their wits against some of the strongest school debaters in the country at the LSE schools' debating competition. Across topics ranging from the use of AI in finance to the aesthetization of suffering, all our teams performed well and gained a great deal of experience. Special mention goes to Nuraiym Turganbaeva and Jakob Kreidl were our highest ranked team on the day, finishing 14th out of a large field of 76 teams.

They also caught up with OB Armstrong Dong (WG -) who is a second year History student at LSE and was one of the competition judges. It was lovely to catch up with him and hear about how he is getting on.

Cricket

We are delighted to be named as one of the top 100 Senior Schools for cricket by The Cricketer magazine.

Bromsgrove was judged against an extensive set of criteria, which included a compelling commitment to cricket in the curriculum, facilities, fixture programmes and coaching.



Wreaths

The gardening club made beautiful Christmas wreaths using holly, ivy and rosemary from the School garden.



Pupil Voice

Pupil Voice empowers students to share their ideas and influence School life. Through regular meetings, pupils take forward the views of their peers to suggest improvements, work on projects and help shape policies. This not only builds their confidence but also teaches them responsibility and teamwork, making our School a place where every voice is heard. The team for 2024/25 are pictured.



CCF

Our cadets sold poppies for the Royal British Legion at the Kingfisher Shopping Centre in Redditch and at Hopwood Service Station. They raised £1,422 in Redditch and £1,238 at Hopwood, a significant total that will support veterans and their families.

Several cadets also participated in the Remembrance Parade in Bromsgrove Town Centre, with Cadet LCpl Thomas S laying a wreath on behalf of Bromsgrove School CCF.

In addition to being a member of our CCF, Marley Sohna is also part of Droitwich 2516 Air Cadet Squadron, where he serves as a Flight Sgt in the ATC. He led the Air Cadet Band during the Droitwich parade.



CyberFirst Challenge

The Year 8 CyberFirst teams have been extremely busy this term. The first set of girls' teams enjoyed an on-boarding session during lunchtimes in Computer Science, where they tackled a series of code-breaking puzzles from GCHQ. The girls began collecting badges as part of this high-quality STEM event, finishing joint first in the CyberFirst competition—a superb performance.

In addition, the Computer Scientists had an amazing day at the Hands on Science event at QinetiQ in Malvern. They took part in a variety of STEM activities, including code-breaking, Turing Tumbles, Spheros, Raspberry Pi projects, and Lego Robots. These activities provided valuable problem-solving experiences and sparked ideas for future careers in tech. Team Bromsgrove achieved impressive results, finishing second overall.





Screen Printing

Upper Fourth photography students have edited their own photograph and transferred them onto fabric and paper using the screen printing process. The screen printing process is used regularly within the Art and Design Department and students can utilise this technique to create different outcomes.



MUN

Sixth Form students from our Model United Nations team recently took part in a conference in Paris. They participated as delegates from Sudan, Japan and Canada debating foreign interference and the development of the cyberspace. Additionally, they discussed the Libyan peace process, as well as how climate change impacts the ongoing global refugee crisis. Students engaged with enthusiasm, conviction, and a strong understanding of the issues.



Santa's Sleigh

Pupils taking part in the Bromsgrove Service DT activity have been putting the finishing touches to Santa's sleigh, ready for for the Christmas festivities.



Prehistoric

Year 3 delivered a fantastic prehistoric performance to their families, expertly sharing their knowledge on the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed their assembly and it was wonderful to watch them performing on the stage.



Theatre

IB1 English students recently visited the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford upon Avon to watch Othello.

Tennis



Leader

Sixth Form student Vivi Blanshard has been participating in the Tennis Leaders' programme as part of her IB Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) project. A key component of CAS is reflection, and Vivi has been reflecting on her experience. She now feels confident in leading tennis lessons for young students but recognises areas for improvement, such as giving clearer instructions and adapting to changing situations.



Tennis Tournament

Over half term, we held the 2024 Autumn Open tennis tournament. With over 115 players competing across the week, we congratulate everyone who took part, including our sixteen pupils. Special mention to Gina Obrey who won the Ladies' Singles event, and to George Hadley and Chaim Conroy who won the U18 Boys' Doubles event. Chaim was runner up in the U18 Boys' Singles. In addition, George and Chaim were runners up in the Doubles event.



Championships

Macklin Coalter recently competed in the Grade 1 U12 National Championships at Boston Tennis Centre. He reached the quarter finals of the doubles and competed well in the singles, winning one of his box matches. Macklin is now ranked thirty-two in the UK for the U12 age category.



Swimming

Indie Ashurst competed in Dublin at the Irish Open Diving Championships. She finished fourth in one competition and won a silver medal in another. This is a huge achievement.



Good Governance

We are delighted that our Governing body have been awarded a 'Good Governance' certificate by AGBIS and HMC. The Good Governance Programme has been jointly developed by AGBIS, which supports Governing Bodies in Independent Schools, and HMC, a professional association of heads of the world's leading independent schools, to support and provide recognition of high-quality governance in HMC member schools. The programme comprises of a new Governor Training Framework and the award of a certificate upon completion of a series of individual webinar sessions by the Governors.



Ice Skating

Senior boarders enjoyed their recent ice skating trip. This half term they have had the opportunity to visit the German Market in Birmingham. Trips planned for the New Year include go karting, escape room, and mini golf.



Engineering

Lower Sixth pupil Jenny Tang recently attended an Arkwright Scholarship Day at Newcastle University. At the end of the session Jenny was given a certificate in recognition of outstanding potential as a future leader in Engineering.

Fun

Page House enjoyed some Christmas fun, taking part in making gingerbread house, playing board games, crafting and dressing up.



Maths Challenge

The Girls' Mathematical Olympiad is a challenging paper with five problem solving questions, sat over two and a half hours. Well done to those who stepped up to the task, especially the five pupils who received certificates of Merit and Distinction.

In addition, two Upper Sixth pupils achieved Gold in the Boys' Senior Maths Challenge.

Merit: Christina Ha, Sai-Nam Panyasiri, Jessica Lam

Distinction: Veronika Koretckaia, Kalash Rai

Gold Awards: Jethro Chan, Marcus Chung



St Cecilia's

On the evening of St Cecilia's Day (the patron saint of music), everyone enjoyed an outstanding concert of music-making at the very highest level. First half performances by the brass group and strings ensemble culminated in a simply breathtaking rendition of Grieg's famous Piano Concerto with Marcus Ho as soloist, ably supported by the school orchestra, who also played exciting music by Handel and Bizet. In the second half, forty-eight Prep and Senior singers took to the stage to perform Handel's Messiah with soloists Henry Shirley, Aarush Thapa, Lauren Baker and Olivia McKelvey, as well as OB Jake Wingfield who returned from university in Bristol for the evening.



Albert Hall

Year 6 pupils took part in a Barnardo's Charity Concert at the Royal Albert Hall. Over twenty choirs came together from across the UK to perform as part of a massed choir. The Choir performed six songs alongside the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. The music was arranged and conducted by musical director and RPO conductor Ben Pope and the evening was hosted by Natasha Kaplinsky OBE.

It was a wonderful experience to perform in such a prestigious venue accompanied by the world class Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Over £80K was raised to help vulnerable children and young people.



Computer Scientists

Our Higher Level IB Computer Scientists have been working on their case study based on Artificial Intelligence, Neural Networks, LLMs and Chatbots.

The Computer Science department reached out to the local Worcestershire Computing community for support. This resulted in a video call with two local experts who were able to share their experiences of AI development.



Go-Karting

Pupils from Walters had a great time with their friends during one of the House weekend trips, challenging each other to laser tag and racing around the track on go-karts.

Fair

Ben Hornigold and Mr Martin provided music at the annual Pensioners' Fair at Parkside, hosted by Bradley Thomas MP. Whilst there, Mr Martin also met OB Luke Court (Ly 03-18).





The Government Inspector

This year's Senior Play, *The Government Inspector*, was a huge success, performed over four nights to packed audiences. The production showcased high professional standards with impressive sets, costumes, and lighting, creating magical moments, such as the transformation of a packing crate into a hotel bedroom and the reveal of the Governor's Winter Palace.

The ensemble, particularly the merchants and shopkeepers, and the sharply accurate Town Council, delivered excellent performances. The cast's transformations were so complete

that it was often hard to identify the actors behind their roles.

Tilly Bridgeman and Ella Kenyon shone as the hilarious landowners Dobchinsky and Bobchinsky. Ben Hilton, Shusank Nembang, Dylan Foster-Agg, and Ewan Head brought increasing comic delight. Hannah Sutherland, in her Senior Play debut, gave a standout performance as the Governor's flirtatious wife, supported by Ruby Foster's charming daughter, Maria.

Boris Belov's portrayal of Osip was spot-on, with great chemistry between him

and Hugo Blackwell as Ivan Khlestakov, whose comic timing was unforgettable. Jack Atkinson's energetic portrayal of the Police Governor held the production together, effortlessly timing each moment of comedy.

The production was a fantastic achievement, thanks go to the cast and dedicated crew—Karis Cheng, Sharon Mang, Abi Palmer, Rukhsang Tamang, and Bernice Tse—whose commitment will be hard to replace. This play was a fitting end to another busy term in the Drama department.

IAPS

Congratulations to our U12 hockey team for making history as National IAPS runners-up. The girls triumphed over Hurstpierpoint, The Dragon, Felsted, and Bryanston, with a loss to Millfield in the group stages, finishing second in Pool B and advancing to the Cup competition.

In the quarter-finals, they dominated Heath Mount and the semi-finals, they beat Clifton College, securing a top two spot in the country.

In the National Final, after a 1-1 draw with Millfield, the match went to extra time. Despite their strong performance, Millfield won with a golden goal.

The team should be incredibly proud of their performance and their silver medals!



Christmas Fayre

The Prep School Parents' Association organised a festive after-school event at the end of the Michaelmas Term. There was Christmas games, a tombola, mince pies and treats for all our Bromsgrovian families to enjoy.



Eventing

Chloe Chan has been chosen by British Eventing to be a supported and developed youth rider and receive training within the British Eventing framework. Chloe has been selected for The Howden Way Talent Rider Academy for 2025.



Reading

'Tis the Season to be reading! Mrs Mowbray has put together a few suggestions of Christmas books that are available to our Prep school students to borrow for the holidays. We try to cater for all ages and tastes. Some of our Prep School students have been keen to recommend some of their favourite Christmas/Winter reads. Happy Reading & Happy Holidays!



Shoe Box Appeal

Over 200 shoe boxes from Senior, Prep and Pre-Prep were collected to be transported to children and families in Romania. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



Diwali

Nursery and Reception celebrated Diwali, the festival of light. They created their own Diya lamps, mehndi patterns and firework artwork.



Alumni Concert

The joined forces of the Prep and Senior Chamber Choirs, soloists and orchestra travelled to London's Covent Garden for a performance of Handel's Messiah. They were joined by several alumni of the School - some in attendance to listen and reconnect with old friends - and some as singers in the choir. Gabriel Brown (L 2024), Olivia Safe (TC 1994) and Michael Perkins (S 1952) joined the chorus - who sang brilliantly in the surroundings of St Paul's Church (known as the Actor's Church). It is hoped that further musical events will be held and encourage more OBs to reconnect with the School through music.



RAF

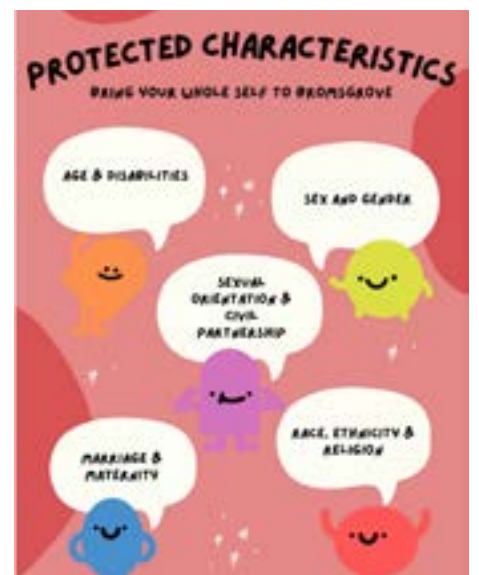
Twelve Cadets from the CCF's RAF Section took part in the West Area Royal Air Squadron Trophy. This is the first time the School has been part of this competition, and the Cadets performed well to secure a top ten place.

Cadets took part in stands that tested their knowledge of Drill, First Aid, Shooting, Cyper, Space and Command Tasks. They are already looking forward to taking part again next year.



Art Exhibition

The creative talents of our Prep School pupils were showcased in an Art Exhibition at the end of term. From fused glass blocks to felt animals and line drawings, there was an array of colours, textures and techniques on display.



PSHE

Education around 'Protected Characteristics' is an important part of PSHE education at Bromsgrove School. In response, one of our Peer Mentors created these colourful posters to remind us that everyone in the community can 'Bring Your Whole Self to Bromsgrove'.

Festive Activities

Nursery and Reception have enjoyed festive craft and outdoor activities. Reception pupils made reindeer food, baked cakes, completed some Christmas Maths and explored a snowy sensory tray. Nursery pupils created a Bug hotel with Mr Devereux and role played the Nativity story. Father Christmas visited every year group at Pre-Prep. There was laughter, dancing and music, as well as a special treat for everyone on the 'Good' list!



Wreath Workshop

Members of staff enjoyed an evening of wreath making in ADT during the penultimate week of term. Thank you to the Grounds team for collecting all of the greenery from around the School and to the activity students who assisted in collating and sorting the materials. A big thank you also goes to Ms Densem who organised the event.



Teacher Training

We recently welcomed members of the North Worcestershire Teacher Training Hub to Bromsgrove School for an Initial Teacher Training session on Mental Health. Our Director of Health and Wellbeing, Zia Leech, led the event with colleague Lynn Henderson.



OU Degree

Congratulations to Mrs Boonnak (DSL) who has graduated from the Open University with a First Class Degree with Honours in Science. She has completed this as an interest, due to her work with the charity CDG-UK. The charity funds research for rare genetic disorders.

Bromsgrovian News



Marathon

Well done to OB Sam Leather who ran the Queenstown Marathon in 3 hours 1 minute. A brilliant time!

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.