

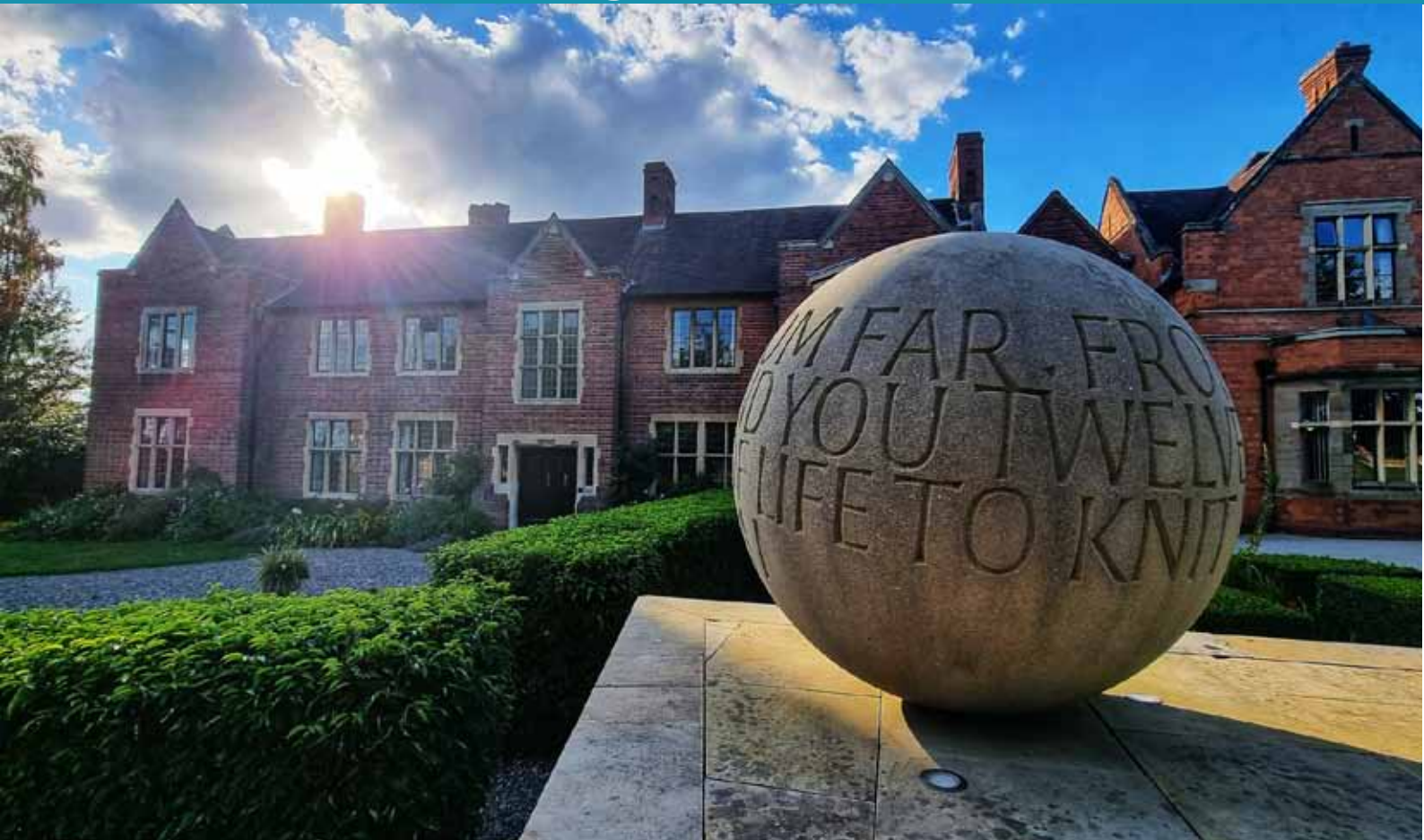


BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

SUMMER 2024
ISSUE 1



A Word from the Headmaster

As I write this, we have just heard the news that there will be a General Election in the UK. Over the next few weeks there will be the usual cycle of campaigning by the political parties, the interviews in the media, the polling and so on...all leading up to the election itself. For those of us who have lived through a number of previous elections, the sequence of events might all feel rather familiar.

Looking from the outside, life in a school could appear to be a little like that with the regular pattern of the academic year sprinkled with key events at regular points. However no two school years, especially at Bromsgrove, are ever quite the

same. Firstly, the programme of activities and opportunities available to pupils is constantly evolving and that is important as we continually seek to improve and also respond to the changing needs of the world. Secondly, cohorts of pupils are never quite the same indeed, pupils are all different. The talents and interests they have, the opportunities they take and make are different and that is what makes life here so interesting and varied.

Over the coming pages you will read about the achievements of current pupils this term and also by initiatives that they have helped shape. As always, it is hard to believe that so much has been accomplished in such

a broad range of areas. The secret is of course the willingness of pupils to make the very best of use of their time and talents, the commitment of staff to making opportunities happen and the dedicated support of parents. Whilst political events unfold around us in the UK, I look forward to seeing many of you again over the coming weeks as we build up to our end of term events and the excitement of Commemoration.

Michael Punt
HEADMASTER

Science Competition

Congratulations to four of our pupils, Victoria Kwok, Alex Xie, Mikhail Kolpin and Cherie Leung, on reaching the finals of the Imperial College Science and Innovation competition. The judges were impressed with their application of Biology to tackle a massive environmental decision when they researched using different species of algae to be used to simultaneously tackle the Great Pacific Garbage Patch and climate change. This group beat sixty other entries nationwide to get down to the final three.



Interaction

Chadsgrove School pupils came over for an interesting lesson on Light Interaction delivered by Hanli Yang and Johnny Yang. The pupils were engaged throughout and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



Signing of New Monitors

The Signing in of the School Monitors took place in Routh Assembly. Congratulations to all the pupils on their new appointment for the 2024/25 academic year.

CCF Cadets



Twelve cadets from the RAF section attended the Mini Royal Air Squadron trophy at Queen Mary's Grammar School. This competition between CCF RAF sections includes drill, aircraft recognition, first aid, shooting and command tasks.

Although the team didn't come away with any silverware, they should be proud of their achievements; they have spent every lunchtime since the Easter holidays practising and getting their kit ready. They really bonded as a team, and were by far the happiest team in attendance.



Thirty-seven Lower Sixth cadets and CCF staff visited the National Memorial Arboretum. The trip enabled the Lower Sixth to bond as a unit as they become our new SNCOs for next year. During the visit, Major Farnes was also able to share stories of some of his friends who are remembered at the NMA.



Gymnastics

The Year 1 and 2 gymnastics trip was a resounding success, filled with memorable moments and great enjoyment for all involved.

The festival provided an invaluable opportunity for the children to showcase their talents and build confidence. The children were reminded of the Olympic and Paralympic Values that we have been sharing at School and they demonstrated these throughout the festival with wonderful courage and determination as they were striving for excellence on each piece of apparatus.

Thank you to Earls Gymnastics Club and RB Gym and Sport for hosting us, and the PA for their generous funding.



Cool Coding

In the Upper Fourth Coding Competition, entrants had to design a text-based adventure game in Python. The judges were extremely impressed with the quality of all the entries, stating that the coding was of A level standard and well beyond what has been taught.

The winning entry was from Xanthe Matthews; the judges were really impressed by the presentation and explanation of her game, the user experience when playing the game and the code produced.

The Computer Science department also received the results for the second round of the Perse Coding Competition. In this stage of the competition entrants

worked in teams of three across different year groups. The School entered five teams, with 680 teams competing nationally. Our top team scored within the top 25% of entries.

Congratulations to Spike Bloxham, Gleb Sovetkin and Sam Inglis for achieving the best scores in School.



Gothic Tales

Year 8 visited the Heritage Centre as part of their English topic on Gothic Literature. On a tour of the grounds, pupils were tasked with spotting Gothic architecture, and then went to the Heritage Centre to look at archives related to their topic. They now return to the classroom to write their own Bromsgrovia-inspired ghost stories.



Semi-Final

The boys' 1st Tennis team have progressed through to the semi-final against Warwick after drawing with The Chase.

The boys prepared for this since Easter fittingly as they were well aware of the challenge - The Chase was always going to be tough match, having lost to them on the last two occasions. After a really sharp start, momentum shifted and The Chase managed to fight back. George held his nerve in the 4th singles to win a second set tie break and secure the tie.



Cycling

Over the Easter holidays, Malakhi Bailey represented the West Midlands in the Youth Tour of Scotland, alongside a team mate from North Bromsgrove High School. This Biannual event is the biggest multi-stage cycling event in the British and Irish Youth Calendar and attracts the best of the best.

The competition is five stages spread over three days. This was a gruelling event and as much a battle against the Scottish winds and scenery as against each other. Despite a slight mishap on Day1, Malakhi bravely rode on and managed to complete the tour - gaining much experience in the process. He finished the weekend in 72nd place, but as one of the youngest riders to take part he should be very proud of his achievement.



Riding High

Chloe Chan and Blennerville Rua took part in the British Pony Trial GBR Selection team observation trial. The successful riders will represent Great Britain in Germany in August 2024.



Heavenly Music

The Prep School Chamber Choir was joined by the Senior School Saxophone Ensemble to perform a Lunchtime Concert at Worcester Cathedral.

Pupils rehearsed in the Cathedral Song School and then, dressed in their robes, processed to the Cathedral to take their place for the concert. Choir items were interspersed with solos by Henry Shirley (voice), Theo Lewis (organ) and the Senior School Saxophone Ensemble who played a very moving arrangement of *Erbarme dich, mein Gott* from Bach's *St. Mathew Passion*. The final piece brought saxophonists and singers together in a glorious rendition of *Like an Eagle* by Carl Strommen.

The musicians were thrilled to perform in a venue with such wonderful acoustics.

Kindness Workshop



Pupils in Years 2 and 3 joined forces to participate in an online Kindness Workshop from the charity 52 Lives and their School of Kindness.

They learned that kindness has three qualities – being friendly, generous and considerate. Pupils were fascinated to learn about the science of kindness and the positive impact it has on our physical and mental health. The



children loved saying thoughtful and kind things to each other and smiles were abundant around Maple Hall.

They then practised empathy by watching and discussing videos of kindness in action. To put their kindness into action further, each pupil thought of someone they knew who would appreciate a little extra kindness. They then spent some time making

something special for them. We are sure that their efforts will have warmed many hearts!

Finally, the children looked at the quote *'be the change that you want to see in the world'* and decided that they can help to create the kind of world we all want to live in.

Olympiad

In what was an extremely tough Chemistry Olympiad paper, the School has achieved the highest number of awards for a number of years. WELL done to pupils who achieved the following awards:

Bronze: Bernice Tse, Bijen Gurung, Erik Pedaja, Ffion Wright, Kaashif Ali Baig, King Dun Lau, William D'Andilly and Henning Wu.

Silver: Sharon Mang, Tsz Tung Wong, Viktor Zhulikov, Richard Huang, Hamza Suleman, Hei Tung Li, Isla Sutherland, Aidan Swadling and Amelia Baker.

Gold: Serisha Sunner (top 8% nationally).



Sailing

Stella Nygard had an action-packed Easter break sailing at the Youth Nationals. Stella and her teammate sailed well in their 29er against a highly competitive fleet of more experienced sailors. They finished in 30th position and 8th girl team - a great result.



Kit Car

Congratulations to our two kit car teams who raced at Mallory Park where The Egg placed 1st and The Chicken placed 2nd. The It felt good to be back on top again with both cars and we look forward to another great season of racing.

This is the School's twelfth season of Greenpower racing and with races at Castle Combe, Croft, Aintree and Goodwood fast approaching, we look forward to seeing where we place in October.

Thank you to our sponsors Point S, Eagle Plastics, 4QD and Washford Finishings for another season supporting our teams.



Golf

Lili-Rose Hunt was recently selected to represent England in the French International Ladies' U21 as part of a golf team of six girls from the U18 and England Ladies' teams 2023/2024.

The conditions were biblical, making the St Cloud course even more challenging. this course is used for the French Open and has a rating of 75 and slope 143 and to further compound the difficulty of the competition, competitors were not allowed any electrical devices such as range finders or caddies.

The girls played in two teams of three for the Nations Cup against twenty-three teams from all over Europe - Lili and her teammates played tremendously to finish first and win the Nations Cup for England. At the presentation ceremony, in addition to the cup, Lili's team were presented with commemorative gold medals.



Cricket

Congratulations to George Hall who scored a century in the U14A cricket match versus Magdalen College School.

Also, well done to Max Morgan who played his first cricket match for the U10 Worcestershire County Cricket team. This was a performance match hosted by WCCC. It was an afternoon of great cricket and team bonding.



Peer Mentors

As part of the peer mentor training programme, Mrs Boonnak has been teaching Lower Sixth pupils about safeguarding.

The pupils will also learn how to look after themselves when looking after others.

Enrichment

For their final Enrichment session before exam leave, the Upper Sixth took part in a range of games and activities in the sunshine to test the mind and body, including the ever-popular slip and slide, tug-o-war and a giant egg and spoon race.



Athlete Visit

Athlete Ben Gallagher from The Mintridge Foundation visited Pre-Prep pupils as part of a Whole School topic on the Olympic Games. The pupils listened to a talk about Ben's career in the army, and about being a Paris 2024 Olympic hopeful in rowing. Ben worked with each year group, leading them in fun sports and games, highlighting the importance of teamwork and resilience.

Geography

As part of their 'Exploring our Local Area and Region' topic Year 6 enjoyed a morning away from School undertaking some Geography fieldwork. During a walking tour around Bromsgrove town centre they made field observations to investigate whether Bromsgrove is 'a place fit for people'.

Once in the High Street, pupils then conducted some short surveys with members of the public to find out other people's views on whether they feel that Bromsgrove is a good place to live. Back at School they visited the Heritage Centre and explored the historical links between School and



the local community. They visited the old tunnel that pupils used to use on their journey to and from School and

looked around the Old Chapel. The data they have collected will be analysed in lessons.



Running the UK

Upper Sixth pupil, Joe Boardman, recently completed an amazing feat, running from Land's End to John O'Groats in just 28 days. Joe covered an incredible 1,112 miles during his journey to Scotland, and is now the youngest person to complete the challenge. He was recently interviewed on both BBC Midlands Today with Nick Owen and on BBC Radio Hereford and Worcester.

Joe says, "It really was an amazing adventure, made all the more exciting by the spontaneity involved. Whilst I did no formal training for this, I do run regularly. This was something I started during lockdown and have kept going since. Last year, I ran the distance of a marathon in Scotland just to buy milk from the nearest shop!"

Joe has surpassed his fundraising target for Cancer Research UK, with his total raised currently standing at just under £3,700. He is now planning his next adventure; crossing from New York to Los Angeles on horseback.



Enterprise

The Young Enterprise Team Habitek delivered a presentation to conclude their entry into the Area level of the Company of the Year Competition.

Judges thought the students demonstrated a real understanding of their target market and have developed a strong brand. The team was awarded the Innovation Award and were one of the overall winners. They now progress to the County level competition.

Church Music

Organists Frances Ginns, Marcus Ho and Davy Wong had a real experience playing on the new Ruffatti organ at Pershore Abbey. The Chamber Choir sang Choral Evensong there, and it was a great experience for everyone involved.

Saxophonists from Prep and Senior performed for the local community at St. John's Church, in collaboration with the saxophone quartet Me & 3.



Stop the Bleed



Prospective medical, veterinary and dental students took part in a training session as part of the Stop the Bleed Campaign by citizenAID at the West Midlands Ambulance Service Sandwell Hub. Thanks to CitizenAID's Sir Professor Keith Porter, Major General Tim Hodgetts and Mr Mike Robinson for training our students and providing us with thirty training aids so that we can in turn educate and empower both our School and wider community. Three of the pupils who attended the workshop in Oldbury then trained their fellow students on the aims of the campaign and shared practical tips on how to attempt to control a bleed.

Malvern Show

We are thrilled to have been awarded 'Best School Garden' at the Malvern Spring Show. Prep pupils and staff are delighted to have their hard work and efforts recognised. The judges particularly liked the way the group used planting to tell the story - the twisted willow representing the tornado and the rainbow of colours represented by the plethora of flowers and plants. Our garden 'Over the Rainbow' was admired in the sunshine, however, the highlight of the day was the way the pupils spoke passionately and confidently to the public. Huge thanks to Mrs Dakin and the School gardeners for helping the pupils in this achievement.



Dramatic

Isla Chattin (Lower Sixth) performed as Eponine the Top Box Studios production of *Les Misérables* during the Easter holidays at The Greig Halls. She has since auditioned for their production of *Carrie*, landing the role she wanted of Sue Snell, which will be performed in October.



Racing

Congratulations to Amber Fennell who won The Ladies' Club Challenge Champion Cup. It is an amazing achievement to win this trophy in her first year of FIS racing in snow sports.



University Talk

We welcomed the International Universities Roadshow to Bromsgrove School. Eighty Lower Sixth students, alongside parents and staff, were able to gain insights from Ms Sheena Mehta (Director of The University Guys), alongside representatives from Rutgers (USA), McGill, Bishop's, Saint Mary's (Canada), IE (Spain) and EHL (Switzerland).

The talk covered areas as diverse as the academic and cultural fit, the application processes for different countries and financial aid, before students and parents had an opportunity to speak to the university representatives in a fair format.



Well-being

The School's Wellbeing Nurse, Lynn Henderson, has qualified as a Mental Health First Aid Two Day Course Trainer. After a long period of practical assessment, Lynn will now be training staff across all four Schools.



Maths Challenge

Congratulations to students who achieved a Gold Award in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge: Alice Dathan, Joanna Liao, Leo Chan, Sheldon Mou, Issac Siu, Maxim Borisevich, Joshau Chan, Aresenii Cherkashyn, Alexis Chilimnet, Sasha Felman, Jin Han, Nathan Ho, Rammy Liang, Nikki Liu, Ploypinpan Panyasiri, Ernest Tang, Rebercca Wolmore and Audrey Wu.

Special mention to Gleb Sovetkin who scored the highest result in the School.



Final Meeting

The Heads of School, their Deputies and Senior Boarders met with the Headmaster over breakfast for the final time before exam leave commenced. The Headmaster thanks the Upper Sixth Monitor team for their support this year, and we all look forward to seeing them fulfil their duties one last time at Commemoration Day.



Marmite

Year 6 students once again treated Dr Ruben to one of the year's highlights with their enthusiasm, erudition and humour. The annual Marmite More Able Taster Seminar was extremely well attended, ideas were absolutely bouncing off the walls and vast amounts of home made fudge cake were consumed. The theme was *'Cartoons – Just for Kids?'*. As ever we an enjoyable, small case study was used to ask big questions: What are cartoons actually about? (with clips from *The Simpsons* and *Phineas and Ferb*). Why are we supposed to grow out of 'play'? What is play? (Risk, creativity, imagination – many things the adult world needs). What does Freedom of Speech mean? And why do stories which are 'only for kids' really model a better world, where risk creates kindness, inclusion and equity.



Cricket

The U13 boys competed in the National Cup against Northampton School for boys. Bromsgrove batted first, the team posted a slightly under par score for Northampton to chase. Our team bowled and fielded well to restrict the opposition, with regular wickets being taken. However, they couldn't quite hold on with Northampton managing to reach the Bromsgrove total. despite not progressing in the competition, Bromsgrove performed well this was a strong start to the season.

The U12 cricket team won their County cup fixture. Batting first they built a strong score for Old Swinford to chase. Bromsgrove then bowled and fielded well to restrict Old Swinford and win the game.



Fencing

Three fencers took part in the British Youth Championships at the England Institute of Sport. The National Finals are one of the highlights in the youth fencing calendar. In the U12 boys' Épée, Edward Nuttall put up an excellent fight in the elimination round, going out 12-11 to finish in 68th place. Oliver Gowan competed in his first National Final in the U18 boys' Foil. Oliver put up a good fight in the eliminations to finish 45th on the day. Edward Coote, also at his first National Final in the U16 boys' Foil, won a fight in his pool and seeded 61st. He then won his elimination fight 15-13 in the round of 128, before going out 15-2 to the number 4 seed in the round of 64. Edward finished 61st.

Well done to all three pupils who gained much experience and enjoyed the weekend of events.



Quadrathlon

Matilda Wilkes and Imogen Lewis took part in the Worcestershire Track and Field Quadrathlon at Stourport. Well done to both girls - Imogen came 3rd and Matilda finished in 4th place.

Fun Run

A number of pupils took time out of their Sunday to take part in the Bromsgrove 5km Fun Run in aid of Blood Cancer Research. Cadets from Bromsgrove School CCF also acted as a support crew for the runners. Amongst the participants were Charlotte Ascough and Martha Blower, both Year 8, and a number of boarders from Elmshurst House who joined Mr Giles on the run. Jethro Chan was 1st for Senior males and Nathan Limbu was the 1st for U16 males.



Athletics Meet

Many congratulations to Year 6 pupils who took part in a friendly inter-school athletics competition hosted by Winterfold at the Ryland Centre. This was many of the pupils' first experience of an athletics meet and they did superbly well to win both the U11 girls' and boys' categories. They were awarded a shield for their efforts.

Gardening Club

Prep School Gardening Club spent their activities session relocating the Malvern Show plants to enhance the Forest School area.



Robotic Dog

A group of Year 7 pupils visited St John's Church to meet Spot the robotic dog. They observed various laser scanners in operation and climbed to the base of the spire. Many thanks to the team from the University of Wolverhampton and the Friends of St John's, Bromsgrove.

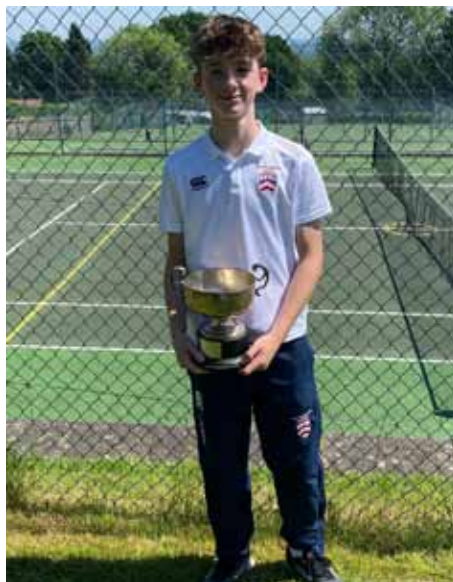
Butterflies

There were magic moments in Reception as the butterflies started to hatch from their cocoons. The children are very excited to finally see their butterflies.



Tennis

Congratulations to Josie Ward who has been crowned the Hereford and Worcestershire 2024 County champion, winning the Smyth Cup. Well done to George Hadley who has won the Scott Cup and crowned Hereford and Worcestershire County Champion. Bromsgrove School take the double winning both the boys' and girls' U18 County Tennis Championships. Our U9 tennis team won their first matches in the LTA Youth Summer League, securing victories against both Bewdley A and Eardisley tennis clubs.



Orchestral Concert

A wonderful Ensembles Concert was held in Routh Concert Hall, with musicians from across all age groups taking to the stage.

The Senior Percussion group kicked the concert off with two South American pieces. We were treated to a performance of *Against All Odds* by Phil Collins performed by the Big Band featuring a saxophone solo by Upper Sixth musician Ed Thompson. The Flute

Choir gave a performance of *A Café Tango* and *Can't Help Fallin' In Love* followed by the Saxophone Ensemble performing a stunning arrangement of *Bach's Erbarme Dich, mein Gott*.

Concert Band were up next with a beautiful performance of *Gabriel's Oboe*, aptly featuring Upper Sixth scholar Gabriel Brown, as well as a performance of Tchaikovsky's *Waltz of the Flowers*.

The String Orchestra then performed two Swedish Folk Melodies by Svendsen and Holst's Jig from *St Paul's Suite*.

The Senior Orchestra gave us a fabulous finale with a showstopping performance of *Don't Rain On My Parade* featuring Fifth Form singer Ilerioluwa Odugbesan which was then followed by an exciting performance of the *Pirates of the Caribbean Medley*.



The Great Run

Well done to Team Bromsgrove School who ran, walked or jogged the Great Birmingham Run (in either the 10K or half marathon) for Cancer Research UK. Over seventy members of staff, parents and friends of the School took part, and so far, an incredible £8000 has been raised for CRUK. Well done to all who took part and thank you to everyone who has donated funds to this worthy cause.



Mission Hill

We were delighted to welcome parents from Bromsgrove Mission Hills, whose children will be joining us at the Prep School for the duration of the Summer Term.

The families enjoyed meeting with the Headmaster, Mr Punt and his wife, Gill, as well as Mr Marie, Headmaster of Prep and Pre-Prep. The parents enjoyed a tour of the School whilst the pupils settled into their new surroundings in Page House.

We wish the pupils well and look forward to following their progress this term.

Quiz Night

The Prep Parents' Association organised a Quiz Night for Years 7 and 8, hosted by wonderful quizmaster Bethany from 'Interrupt the Routine'. The Hospitality Suite was packed full of students going head to head and then enjoying pizza during the interval. Well done to team 'What the Sigma' for taking the top spot!



Bromsgrovian News



Marathons

Well done to Molly Allchurch (MW 12-14) who completed the 2024 London Marathon. Molly ran in memory of her Grandma, raising funds for The Eve Appeal.

Meanwhile Eleanor Boardman (OH 14-23) completed the London Landmarks half marathon, raising over £500 for the British Heart Foundation.



Visits

Mr Matthews met up with Alexey Klepikov (S 96-00, Head of House and School Monitor) during the Easter holidays. Alex is pictured here with his wife, Irina and daughter, Antonina.

This was Alex's first visit back to Bromsgrove since Commem in 2000 and he relished the opportunity to visit the School due to his relocation to Scotland.

Alex found his old bedroom in School House and enjoyed seeing all the new developments.

Ewan MacTaggart (E 98-03) recently donated some photographs to the Archive, and visited the School for a tour with Mrs Pugh, his former Housemother. During his visit Ewan popped into the Heritage Centre to meet with the Archivist and put some names to the faces in the photographs.





Williams Family

We are always delighted to hear about longstanding connections with the School long after pupils have left, and this one is no exception. Jessica Williams (née Kingston, TC 04-09) and her sister, Fran, were christened in the School's Memorial Chapel, Jessica and her husband were married there in 2018, their first son, Malcolm, was christened in the Chapel in 2021. Now their second son, Logan, has also been christened in the Memorial Chapel by Reverend Hedworth. Congratulations to the Williams family.

OPEC

Members of the Old Bromsgrovia Expedition Club (OPEC) enjoyed another fantastic weekend of North Wales hill walking. All OBs are welcome to join, if you would like to find out more please email oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk and we will pass your details on.



Golf

The School team recently played the Old Bromsgrovia Golf Society at Blackwell. The result was another two all draw meaning the School retain the Cup. Well done to the pupils and OBs who took part.

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 Bromsgrovia office: oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk.

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