



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

# Bromsgrovia

NEWS REVIEW

LENT 2015  
ISSUE 2



## A word from the Headmaster

They say it takes a village to raise a child, but a good set of grandparents could be just as effective. Once they have savoured a few smug moments watching their own son or daughter grapple with the exact same challenges they themselves once presented as a child, most grandparents are a godsend. They've 'been there, done that.' As a result, they're infinitely more patient and less anxious than first-time parents. I well remember my own mother's first response to harried phone calls when my children were young. A seasoned mother of five, she would wait until I drew a breath and then ask "Is anybody bleeding?" Suddenly, the refusal to eat

vegetables / poor school report / defiant door-slamming were put into perspective. Life's lessons bestow great wisdom; it really does make them 'grand' parents. Yet it's not just the ever-reliable babysitting service or font of practical experience. Grandparents may be sanity savers for parents, but they can also play a pivotal role in the dawning world of a child. Those who have already raised children to maturity know firsthand the path that their grandchildren are on. Consequently, they often have the time and insight to walk it with them, unencumbered by worries about where it may lead or how fast to travel. With inexhaustible patience, unconditional

love and a shared enthusiasm for the small and quirky things in the world which most intrigue their grandchildren, grandparents are grand teachers too. What a delight then, to welcome so many to Grandparents Day at the Pre-Prep recently and to watch that special bond in action. Who else in a child's life really understands the glories of finger paint, the solemn fascination of a dead worm, the distinction between best friends and VERY best friends, and the importance of being five-and-three-quarters-nearly-six-and-anyway-older-than-Jenny?

PETER CLAGUE  
Headmaster

# Rugby



Our 1st XV enjoyed a massive win in the quarter-finals of the NatWest Cup. After conceding a try against Dauntsey's in the first minute or so, it was a fairly even first half which closed 17-15 to our visitors. In the second half our team totally dominated

proceedings and despite some great individual performances, the 44-17 victory belonged to all the boys who again showed great self-discipline, composure, steely determination and above all splendid supportive teamwork. Congratulations to them all

on a wonderful achievement; they will now play the semi-final at Allianz Park, home of Saracens, on Saturday March 7th.



# Netball

West Midlands Finals

The U14 netball team, playing in our home arena, swept through the group stages of this prestigious competition, making it through to the semi-final where they comprehensively beat Newcastle-Under-Lyme School 12-1.

In the final they came up against George Salter Academy who had proved tough opponents in the group stages. Our team raced into the lead and won 9-5 to qualify as West Midlands Champions for the National Finals in Liverpool.

# Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards

Twenty five current pupils and Old Bromsgrovians, accompanied by Mr Tamplin, collected their Gold D of E Awards from St James' Palace in London.

They met and talked with His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh – a fitting close to a remarkable journey full of great endeavour and commitment.

Well done to current pupils Meggie Mills, Rebecca Woodward-Smith, Sophie Collins, Alice Shinner, Eleanor Bingham, Amelia Stokes, Aisling Brinn, Olivia Lyons and Kate Duffy for this remarkable achievement whilst still at School.



## Football Training Camp

Nineteen players from the 1st XI football squad enjoyed an active weekend at St George's Park, the home of England football development.

Bromsgrove players impressed the specialist performance conditioning staff, with high scores in both sprint and jump tests, some even rivalling the levels of Premiership footballers. A big test of endurance and courage was the time spent in the hydrotherapy rehabilitation centre, especially the cold water recovery pool. All the players and

staff survived the cold versus hot water rehab pools. As a reward they were allowed to try out the underwater treadmill, to assess and improve their running techniques. Highlights of the weekend were training on the full size indoor and outdoor 3G artificial surfaces, which enabled players to work on different aspects of their game for the second half of the season. Equally enjoyable was the indoor Futsal session, run by an FA coach, which was enlightening in how to develop patterns of play. The pupils were delighted to be allowed to use the England dressing room at St George's Park.

## Target 2.0

The team of Connie E, Quynh Truc Luong, Maximilian Mittermair, William Miners, Lev Blinov and Robin Lipeng Li is taking part in the Bank of England's Target 2.0 competition. They delivered an in-depth, extensive presentation on Monetary Policy to a panel of judges, representing Mark Carney and the other Monetary Policy Committee members.

After a well-pitched, polished and remarkably professional presentation, the team faced some gruelling questions from both the Monetary Policy Committee and their economist peers all of which they fielded with flair, confidence and poise.



## IFS

'Pineapples', comprising Georgy Muradov, Harry Pugh, Ko Sakuma and Suren Akopyan, have won through to the ifs Student Investor Challenge semi-final.

Run by ifs University College and supported by Bloomberg, the competition provides teams with £100,000 of virtual money to buy and sell shares in FTSE 100 companies. In three months of trading the Bromsgrove team made nearly £23,000 dealing in virtual shares.

## The Accordion Shop

The Fourth Form play *The Accordion Shop* was based around a street riot – a theme rooted in contemporary youth culture and partly inspired by the London riots of 2012. In a 30-minute play, a fairly swift build up to the climax was necessary, menace was in the air from the outset and the ensemble and the principals worked together to produce a visually spectacular climax in the riot and the looting. Congratulations to the talented cast for this first performance of the play in the Midlands; they now take to the road to perform it in Northampton.



# Health Aware



China Drewitt of Kid Life has been giving a series of lectures to pupils in the Senior School. Kid Life is a groundbreaking new scheme that helps young people aged 11-18 learn how to activate their healthy futures and feel good, so they can boost their personal development, productivity and overall happiness in their daily lives and beyond.

Feedback from pupils shows that an average of 93 out of 100 pupils found their workshop engaging and effective in making them want to improve their health and wellbeing.



## Teenage Cancer Trust

Fourth Formers were given food for thought when Adam Johnson from Teenage Cancer Trust delivered a very informative presentation in a sensitive and engaging way. He talked about how to spot the early signs of cancer. He also gave healthy living advice and encouraged pupils to make positive choices about their diet and exercise to improve their health and reduce the risk of developing cancer later in life.

## Art Award

Well done to Jess Dunkley who gained Second Prize in the Malvern Hills Decorative and Fine Arts Biennial Three Counties Sixth Form Competition.



## CCF News



### Remembrance Garden

The CCF and the School grounds staff held a ceremony to mark the planting of a WW 1 Memorial Garden as an act of remembrance for the 93 members of the CCF who died in WW1. The short service led by Major Banwell included poetry readings by Sargent Majors James Whitehead and Ellie Ball including excerpts from Rupert Brooke's *The Soldier* and *For the Fallen* by Laurence Binyon. The cadets then added soil and shrapnel to the bed that had been collected from the battlefields around Ypres in August 2014, on the hundredth anniversary of the start of the war. Poppies and other wild flowers indigenous to Flanders were then planted. The garden will be in full bloom by the middle of the Summer term.

### Leadership Awards

Four Upper Sixth NCOs, Benjamin Featherstone, Klara Hunt, Lucy Sapwell and Aisling Brinn, have successfully completed the intensive Leadership Cadre Award, gaining a Level 3 Certificate in Leadership and Management. This top level vocational-related qualification, equivalent of an A level, is recognised world-wide and aims to develop an understanding of leadership skills.



The CCF Corps of Drums returned to Chadsgrove School for the second year to give a concert during their weekly assembly. Chadsgrove is a day special school for children who have a physical disability, many pupils also have additional sensory, communication or learning difficulties. The Corps played to a very enthusiastic audience, after which the students were invited to join the band and play along to a number of well-known tunes. Both groups of students gained an enormous amount from their interaction during the visit and the band are already looking forward to returning next year.



The Cadre students had to complete a full year of training, where they acted as instructors and teachers, assisting

CCF officers as well as understanding the practical elements of teaching and learning within an Army/RAF context.



## Forces Careers

Major Mark Banwell MBE, Officer Commanding of the Bromsgrove School CCF, recently organised the School's first Forces Careers Evening, bringing together representatives from all of the British Forces - the Army/Reserves, Royal Navy/Marines and the RAF.

Major John Arundell from the Army careers organisation and his colleagues from the British Armed Forces were on

hand to speak to current pupils and their parents about a career in the military. There were presentations on all aspects of Army life including Major Rose Worthy on her time at Sandhurst, Capt Bob McAughtrie speaking about his experiences throughout his 16-year career, Mrs Charlotte Critchlow on the medical services and WO2 John Warlow in his role as a non-commissioned officer.

## RAF Northolt

Our RAF cadets enjoyed their day at RAF Northolt. They visited the bunker at Uxbridge which is the last 'situation room' remaining from the Battle of Britain. Then they transferred to RAF Northolt. The last Battle of Britain airfield in use, it is used by the RAF (Eurofighters were based there during the Olympics) but is particularly well-known as the base for the Royal Flight. Cadets were fortunate to see one of Her Majesty's planes which was being serviced and was almost completely stripped down.





## Beauty and the Beast

The Year 8 production was a stunning success and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who came to the two performances. There were some outstanding and memorable individual performances but this was a team effort; the cast were a credit to themselves and to Mrs Goodall, who produced and directed the show. Well done to all the pupils who performed and who worked as backstage crew.



## Prep Hockey

The U11A team qualified for the IAPS National finals at Wellington College after finishing runners up in the regional round at Repton School. The boys played some excellent Hockey all day and only lost the finals on shuffles.

## Prep Rugby

The U13A rugby 7s started off their 7s season campaign by coming runners-up at our own tournament. In a very competitive final they were edged out by Warwick School 12-17. This achievement should give them great confidence ahead of forthcoming tournaments at Packwood Haugh, Millfield School and the world-renowned Rosslyn Park in London.



## Skiing News

Prep Pupil Siena Horton was busy competing in the English Alpine Championships in Bormio, Italy over the half term break. Well done to Siena for her overall second place finish in the Girls' U14 Slalom, making her one of the star performers from the West Midlands.

This championship competition is a key event on the national skiing calendar and is well known as a platform for the rising stars of skiing. Siena now has her sights set on winning the inter-school championships in France in early March when she will represent Bromsgrove School.





## Robotics

The Robotics Club entered the Vex Robotics Competition Worcestershire heats. After some tough rounds against very high quality opposition one of our three teams made it through to the semi-finals and is now first reserve for the National Finals to be held at the Big Bang fair at the NEC in March.

## CERN Visit

A group of twenty Sixth Form physics students and staff visited Geneva to find out first-hand about the work of CERN. The first day in Geneva included a tour of the UN building with a chance to look into one of the current conference halls where they saw diplomats from various countries discussing global topics. They then took a special CERN tram direct to the centre. The group were delighted to find out that their guide worked there as an experimental physicist, he gave an overview of the main aims of CERN research and the research of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). The tour was over two hours long and consisted of a lecture, exhibition and trip to see the

LHC, 100m underground. The group's LHC guide was one of the LHC engineers and he was able to show them the main accelerator. They were exceptionally lucky to see the Collider being opened ready for experimental use, since normally it is closed during visiting times.

Stephen Demidkin has posted a blog on the Housman Hall pages in which he concludes, "I would like to recommend the next year CERN trip, I am really hoping to go again next year, such an opportunity happens quite rarely in one's life".

## Athletics

Congratulations to Candy Lockett who took the silver medal in the Midland Championships U17 Shot Putt, achieving both a personal indoor best and a new season best.



## School History

Mr Bowen and Senior pupils will present three evenings about the History of Bromsgrove School. The first event, **Origins to 1901**, will be held on **Thursday March 12th**, commencing at 7.30pm in Routh Hall. To reserve your seats please contact Mr Bowen's PA, Yvette Camden.

Two further evenings are planned: on May 5th a presentation to cover 1901 to 1939 and on June 18th: 1939-1953 with Postscript - this event will be based on an eventual book on 'Bromsgrove at War, in Welsh Exile and the Return'.

## Pancake Day

Pre-Prep children were treated to an early Shrove Tuesday treat when they were entertained by a pancake-making demonstration in assembly.

Chef Steffan from our catering partners Holroyd Howe set up a cooking station in the hall during assembly and gave some lucky pupils the chance to have a hands on demonstration of flipping pancakes.

Having learned about the significance of Shrove Tuesday, they all enjoyed freshly-made pancakes at lunch time with a wide array of toppings including marshmallows, chocolate chips, strawberries and the more traditional lemon juice and sugar.



## Collaborative Art

The Preparatory School is delighted to be working in collaboration with Parkside Middle School and Bromsgrove Library in creating an art exhibit, which will go on display in the local community. First meetings to discuss the collaboration have already taken place and we look forward to seeing the fruits of their work on display in the town library.



## Year 6 Trip to France

Forty-eight Year 6 pupils and staff set out to Étapes in northern France to experience first hand what makes France so special. The group enjoyed dry but cold conditions which allowed them to undertake a packed itinerary filled with authentic French sights, sounds and smells. The favourite excursions were a visit to a chocolate factory, Nausicaa (the sea-life centre in Boulogne), a primary school visit and a brief visit to the beach at sunset. From a culinary perspective, the braver travellers sampled les escargots and les cuisses de grenouilles whilst all enjoyed the customary baguette, pain au chocolat and chocolat chaud!



# Bromsgrovian News

## Gauntlet Award

The Gauntlet Award, provided by The Bromsgrovian Club, is designed to support young OBs undertaking a GAP year of a voluntary, charitable or environmental nature. Funding up to the value of £2,000 is available and in the event of two or more applications of equal merit it may be divided into smaller monetary units of two units of £1,000 each or four of £500 etc. Anyone interested in applying should forward their name with well-developed details of their proposed venture to Jenny Bossard ([jbossard@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:jbossard@bromsgrove-school.co.uk)) no later than Friday 20th March 2015. Applications will be shortlisted by Friday 27th March and interviews, conducted by a panel of OB Committee Members, will be held between 1st - 17th April 2015. For more information please contact Jenny Bossard.



## Bromsgrove School Foundation Charity Preview Day at Hagley Park

Bromsgrove School Foundation and Hagley Hall offer an exclusive opportunity to view Hagley Park ahead of the official opening in 2016. This special charity preview day on Sunday 17th May 2015 will help to support disadvantaged children in gaining a first class education, with all proceeds and ticket sales directed to our Foundation.

As guests walk through the Park, there will be music, performed by Bromsgrove School pupils, and a cricket match between Old Bromsgrovians and Lord Cobham's XI. For those interested in Georgian Landscape, Joe Hawkins, Hagley's Head of Landscape, will give a lecture in the Church on the Estate and he will be on hand to answer your questions throughout the day.

The event is open to everyone with a connection to Bromsgrove, and guests are most welcome. The Park opens at 12 noon and tickets are £25 for a family, adults £10 each and children\* (5 - 14) £3.50 each (\*children must be accompanied by an adult at all times). Tickets are available now and can be purchased online at [www.bromsgrove-school.co.uk/tickets.aspx](http://www.bromsgrove-school.co.uk/tickets.aspx)



# Forthcoming Events 2015

## March 2015

Thursday 5th	Prep School Years 3, 4 and 5 Lunchtime Concert, Maple Hall 1-1.30pm
Thursday 5th	RADA Showcase, Drama Studio 6.30pm
Saturday 7th	Young Enterprise Redditch and Bromsgrove Spring Trade Fair, Webbs of Wychbold
Saturday 7th	Chinese Concert, Routh Hall 7pm
Saturday 7th	Chapel Choir sings Choral Evensong, Peterborough Cathedral
Monday 9th	Years 1 and 2 Formal Parents' Evening
Tuesday 10th	LVI Form Parents' Evening, 6.15-8.30pm
Wednesday 11th	2nd Parents' Evening for 2EM
Thursday 12th	2nd Parents' Evening for 2W and 2F
Thursday 12th	A Presentation by the Deputy Headmaster on the History of the School Part 1 'Origins to 1901', Routh Hall 7.30pm
Friday 13th	Lupton House Open Mic Night, Routh Hall 7.30pm
Sunday 15th	Mothering Sunday Family Service, 10.30am
Tuesday 17th	Year 2 'Turrets and Tiaras' assembly for Parents, 9am
Tuesday 17th	Informal Concert, Old Chapel 5.30pm
Thursday 19th	Prep School Years 6, 7 and 8 House Music Competition
Thursday 19th	Senior School Own Clothes Day in aid of CDG UK
Thursday 19th	Pre-Prep PA Meeting, Thomas Horton LLP 7.30pm
Saturday 21st	Choral Society Concert
Saturday 21st	Page House Disco
Sunday 22nd	Page House Easter Egg Hunt
Monday 23rd	Nursery Concert, 9.15am
Monday 23rd	Prep School Charities Week begins, Prep School Own Clothes Day
Tuesday 24th	Nursery Concert, 9.15am
Tuesday 24th	Prep School Easter Service, Memorial Chapel 8.30am – all welcome
Tuesday 24th	Headmaster's Lunch with Llanwrtyd Wells. OBs Bromsgrove School (venue TBC) 12noon
Friday 27th	Pre-Prep Easter Egg Hunt