



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

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ISSUE 1



A Word from the Headmaster

As a Geographer, I have always been intrigued by our relationship with space. Not space: the final frontier. Rather, space: the place around us. The familiar areas in which we work and play. Bromsgrove is a collection of semi-sacred spaces. The Chapel pews, where calm descends. Lower Charford, where a gentle incline tilts to home advantage. The Dining Hall, where our myriad days intersect. The nooks and crannies of the Art & Design Technology building, where creative spirits congregate. The House Studies, safe harbour for all.

For many years, another hallowed space was the Drama Studio, home to budding thespians and performers young and old. Inside its safe embrace, roles were tested,

risks taken, trust was forged. It remains a special place, but as the School has grown, it can no longer accommodate either cast or audience of our bigger shows. Rehearsals, yes. But then, just as a show reaches its polish, the players must decamp, usually to the local Artrix Theatre to perform. As if creating the magical illusion of drama were not challenging enough, imagine the added pressure of leaving your familiar, intimate space just days before opening night.

So it was for this year's cast of the effervescent musical *Hairspray*. Not only singing and acting in unfamiliar surroundings but, in a show so reliant on dance routines, also finding their feet. Yet there was no clue to the three sell-out audiences that

these talented performers were anything but old-hands on the Artrix stage. In fact, they owned it. Superb choreography, captivating comic timing, ebullient acting, non-stop musical brilliance – they made the space their own. A tour de force and, ironically therefore, a perfect finale.

For in September this year, the doors of our new state-of-the-art performance spaces, Cobham Theatre and Routh Concert Hall, will open and we will once again rehearse and perform in situ. Two new spaces that will, undoubtedly, soon become sacrosanct, a safe and familiar home for future generations of Bromsgrovian performers.

Peter Clague, Headmaster



Hairspray

Congratulations to the cast and crew of our recent production of the musical Hairspray. For two and a half hours the audience was transported back to the apparently innocent and care free era of early sixties Americana. The performances, singing and choreography were simply sublime and each one of the cast can be proud of their contribution to the whole experience. Behind the scenes there was a large and dedicated technical team who worked wonders under very tight time constraints to ensure that the production was slick and professional. We look forward to the School's next production which will be in the new Performing Arts Centre.



Google Expeditions

Experts from the Google Expeditions Pioneer Programme treated pupils to an exciting day of virtual reality supported learning. Pupils from Year 1 to the Fifth Form went on a range of expeditions from Antarctica and Iceland, to biomes and volcanoes. They learned about eye anatomy, climate change, the solar system, wind, Martin Luther King, Golden Hills Energy, the digestive system and astronomy.

Google Expeditions allows teachers to take their classes on virtual field trips, immersing students in experiences that bring abstract concepts to life, giving students a deeper understanding of the world beyond the classroom. The trips are collections of virtual reality panoramas - 360° photo spheres, 3D images and video and ambient sounds - annotated with details, points of interest, and questions that make them easy to integrate into the curriculum. Our pupils were lucky to be early pioneers of this new way of learning.



Netball

School hosted the West Midland Netball Championships – with the top 14 schools from the area competing in three age groups. The U16 and U14

netball teams both made it through to the National Finals with the U16 beating Higham Lane School 16-2 in the tournament final to become West

Midlands Champions. Commiserations to the U18 team who played well but narrowly lost out on qualification for the Nationals.



Ice Worlds



Shackleton

Year 3 were treated to a visit from a very special guest in the form of historical figure Sir Ernest Shackleton. An actor playing the part of Sir Ernest talked to the children about the failed Trans-Antarctic expedition of 1914-16. He told them how the ship, Endurance, became ice-bound throughout an entire Antarctic winter before being mercilessly crushed by the shifting ice. He then recounted the exciting tale of the rest of the adventure that led to their daring rescue mission.

The children asked Sir Ernest some really interesting questions and they all agreed that this is one of the most remarkable survival stories of all time.

SnowDome

Year 3 wrapped up in their winter woollies for a fun-filled trip to the SnowDome in Tamworth. They had a wonderful time sliding down the slopes on snowtubes and sledges, pulling each other along on wooden toboggans, building snowmen and igloos, playing in a 'snow cabin' and creating snow

angels. The chilly temperatures made them feel like real polar explorers and they discovered the importance of thermal and waterproof clothing. All of these fun experiences have a serious side: to inspire and support the children's learning in their topic Ice Worlds.



Bullying Talk

Robert Briggs delivered an anti-bullying presentation to Lower Fourth pupils. The session began with a powerful drama based on one boy's journey from infant school to adulthood, and the nightmarish reality of the bullied teenager in between. Robert then went on to talk about the different pressures which teenagers face and gave some practical strategies and skills on what pupils could do if they witnessed or experienced bullying including assertive responses, using pupils to demonstrate.



Siena Horton

Congratulations to Siena on her fourth place finish in the U16 girls' slalom at the recent International Czech Ski Races. Racing for the U16 GB Alpine Team, against 38 girls from 11 nations, Siena also gained 8th place in the Giant Slalom.



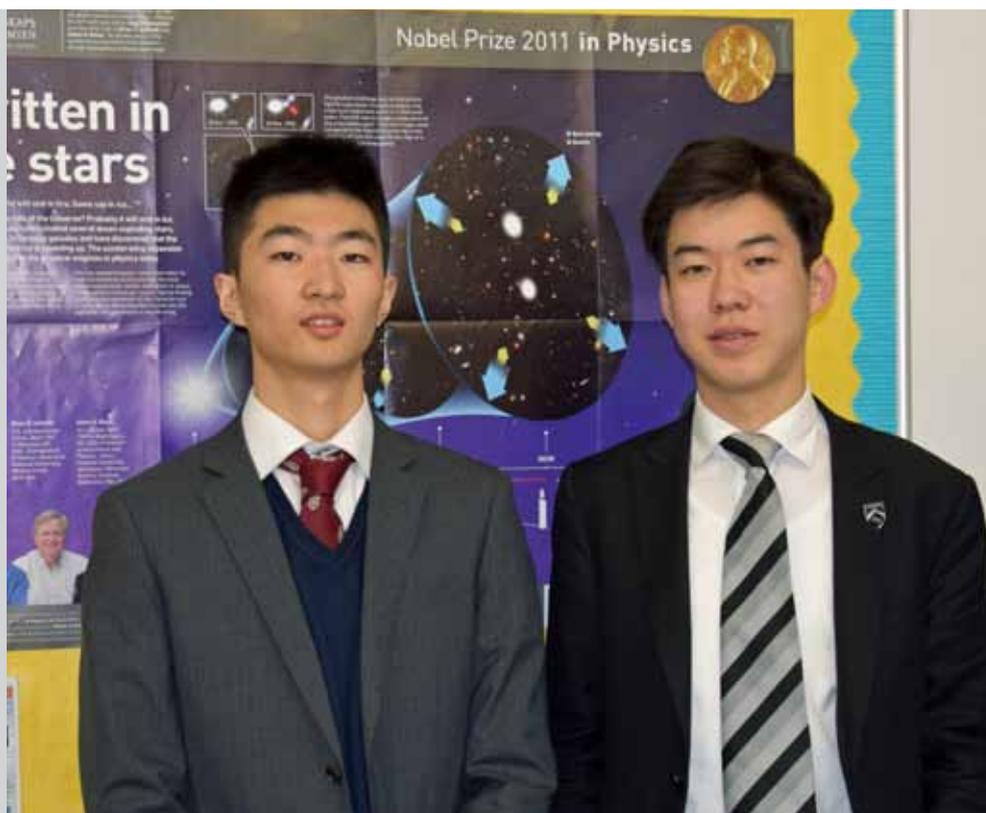
Go Karting

Well done to Freddie Slater who is celebrating his recent Go Karting successes by being voted 'Rookie of the Year'. Freddie also achieved second place in the IAME race where he was one of the youngest competitors.



Physics Olympiad

Congratulations to Senior School physicists Youyang Zhao and Yang Cai who achieved Gold in the British Physics Olympiad. The competition which has been running for 25 years is entered annually by over 1,600 talented young physicists. The Olympiad takes the form of an examination-based competition that is designed to challenge and reward the best physicists in British schools.





Bird Watching

Year 4 Forest school braved the last of the January wet weather to complete the national bird watch survey. Pupils enthusiastically recorded their observations and were rewarded with a delicious drink of hot chocolate.



Gap Teachers

We are delighted to welcome our new group of Gap Teachers to the School. Anna Kate Braithwaite, Sam Ridley, Charles Gulliver, Sophia Koot and Claire Miller have various duties around Pre-Prep, Prep and Senior Schools.

Cross Country

Congratulations to the girls cross country team who have just achieved bronze in the prestigious King Henry VIII relays.



Hockey

The U11 girls competed in their County hockey tournament. After a tough first match against RGS The Grange they faced Malvern St James and played some excellent attacking hockey to win 3-0. They then won their match against Kings St Albans to finish in second place overall and qualify for the Midlands Finals



Netball

Congratulations to our U15 netball team who have qualified for the semi-finals of the School Sports Magazine National Cup after beating Berkhamstead School 39-32 in an exciting, nail-biting match.

Well done to all the squad.

Hockey

The U13A boys hockey team became the first ever Bromsgrove team to win the annual Dean Close 11-a-side tournament, the standard of play was very high with many leading schools in attendance.

Well done to the whole squad:
James Doohan-Smith, Toby Hill (Capt), Stuart Shannon, Kian Lau, Matthew Hill, Charlie Bridgewater, Elliot Willetts, Ben Whitby, Leo Mellor, Teddy Broadhurst, Maxim Edger, Devraj Bulchandani and Freddie Fallows.





New Year

Upper Fourth students visited Year 1 and Reception at Pre-Prep to teach them about Chinese New Year. The younger pupils learned how to write their names in Chinese, they made lanterns and they all received a traditional lucky red wallet.



Wetlands

IB1 Geography pupils celebrated World Wetlands Day to mark the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands in February 1971. Each year World Wetlands Day focuses on a different theme, with this year's theme being *Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction*. Pupils learnt about Wicken Fen in Cambridgeshire which was the first nature reserve owned by the National Trust. Today it is one of Europe's most important wetlands, home to over 9000 species of plant and wildlife.

Table Tennis

Pupils competed in the Worcestershire Schools Table Tennis competition. Karen Chu and Murat Shafigullin both won their age groups to become the County Champions; they will now represent the County at the National Finals.



Malvern Show

With only four months before the Malvern Spring Show preparations are well underway for the Prep School's entry to the School Show Garden. The children's ideas have been collaborated to develop a garden design which incorporates the representation of Space. It has been named 'It's out of this world' and will contain a rocket bench, a willow sputnik, a wall of rockets, a mosaic and even space boots. The team have been busy planting bulbs, painting wellies and the bench. The challenge is to ensure that the plants will be at their best on the 11th May to impress the judges.



Sam Osborne

Congratulations to Sam Osborne who retained his National Swimming titles in both 400m and 1500m over the Christmas holidays. Sam's achievements are even more notable as he broke the English short course junior record for 400m Freestyle.

Sam has now been selected to represent England at a prestigious international swimming competition in Marseilles in March.



CERN

Twenty-one pupils visited CERN, the international physics research centre, in Geneva. Whilst there, they were treated to a visit to the CMS detector, where they were taken 100m underground to look at the detector up close, as well as seeing the original particle accelerator from the 50s and enjoying a lecture from a professor with 40 years' experience at CERN. The pupils also visited the UN building, explored Geneva's old city and experienced an evening of traditional Swiss food and music.

Uni Life

Representatives from The University of London met with Lower Sixth students to give an overview of what is on offer to young learners at LSE, UCL, King's College and Imperial College. Students had the opportunity to ask questions about life and study in London.



Bromsgrovian News



Informal Meet

Ally Taft, TC 88-93, sent in this photo of herself and other OBs who met up over Christmas for a lunch and a brisk walk up the Clent Hills.



Wedding Belle

Ailsa McQuaid, TC, 00-07 married James Zaremba in our Memorial Chapel in December. They held a drinks reception in the Old Chapel followed by more nuptial festivities in the Hospitality Suite.

Literary Prize



Congratulations to Professor Christopher Hood, Gordon, 60-65, who, along with co-author Dr Ruth Dixon, recently won the W.J.M. Mackenzie Book Prize from the Political Studies Association for their book *A Government That Worked Better and Cost Less? Evaluating Three Decades of Reform and Change in UK Central Government*. Professor Hood's and Dr Dixon's book offers a unique evaluation of UK government modernisation programmes from 1980 to the present day.

Now in its 15th year, the PSA Awards pay tribute to those who have made outstanding contributions to politics in the past year. More about the book and the award can be found on the Oxford University Political Blog site (OXPOL).

Future OB Events

- Thursday 2nd March** Eighth Annual Foundation Lecture, RAC Club, London (SOLD OUT)
- Tuesday 21st March** Old Bromsgrovian Golf v School, Blackwell Golf Club, 2.00pm
- Thursday 27th April** Appreciation Lunch for Donors and Legacy Society Members
- Saturday 1st July** Old Bromsgrovian Marquee at Commem
- Saturday 9th September** 1970-1979 Leavers' Reunion

For more information about any of these events please contact Megan Griffiths or Jenny Bossard in the Alumni Office.

Forthcoming Events 2017

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 7th	Internet Safety Day
Tuesday 21st	Prep Year 7R Parents' Evening
Thursday 23rd	Prep Senior House Music, 2.45pm
Friday 24th	Prep and Senior Strings Concert, Memorial Chapel, 4.30pm
Saturday 25th	Cultures Connect Concert, Hospitality Suite, 7.00pm
Saturday 25th	School House and Thomas Cookes Sixth Form Ball, 7.00pm
Monday 27th	Pre-Prep Informal Open Afternoon for Pre-School and Reception, 3.00pm-5.00pm
Tuesday 28th	Prep Years 3-6 String Recital, 8.30am

MARCH

Wednesday 1st	Pre-Prep PA Meeting, School Hall, 7.30pm
Thursday 2nd	Eighth Annual Foundation Lecture, RAC Club, London (SOLD OUT)
Monday 6th	Pre-Prep Year 1 and Year 2 Formal Parents' Evening
Tuesday 7th	House Music Competiton 'Solo', Housman Room, 7.00-9.00pm
Wednesday 8th	Pre-Prep Second Parents' Evening for 2EM
Thursday 9th	Pre-Prep Second Parents' Evening for 2W & 2F
Thursday 9th	LVI Parents' Evening, 6.00pm-8.30pm
Friday 10th March	Prep Junior Poetry Competition, 2.30pm
Saturday 11th	National Young Enterprise Trade Fair, Stratford-upon-Avon
Tuesday 14th	Pre-Prep Year 2 Assembly for Parents, 9.15am
Tuesday 14th	Prep Parents' Evening with Subject Teachers, 6.00pm-8.30pm
Wednesday 15th	Pre-Prep Year 2 Assembly for Parents, 9.15am
Friday 17th	Prep Easter Service, Memorial Chapel, 8.30am. All welcome
Friday 17th	Lupton PA Open Mic Night, Hospitality Suite, 7.30pm
Monday 20th	Prep Charities Week
Tuesday 21st	Golf v Old Bromsgrovians, Blackwell Golf Club, 2.00pm
Wednesday 22nd	Rossllyn Park Rugby 7s (1st)
Thursday 23rd	Rossllyn Park Rugby 7s (U14)
Thursday 23rd	Years 6-8 Informal Concert, Old Chapel, 4.30pm
Friday 24th	Rossllyn Park Rugby 7s (U13A)
Friday 24th	Jazz Gig, Hospitality Suite, 7.00pm
Sunday 26th	Mothering Sunday Service, Memorial Chapel, 10.30am
Wednesday 29th	Term Ends

APRIL

Tuesday 4th to	Bromsgrove International Musicians Competition, Routh Hall
Saturday 8th	Bromsgrove International Musicians Competition, Routh Hall
Tuesday 18th	Young Enterprise Spring Trade Fair, Webbs of Wychbold
Thursday 27th	Appreciation Lunch for Donors and Legacy Society members, 12.00 noon – 3.00pm