



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

LENT 2020
ISSUE 3



A word from the Headmaster

The last Routh Assembly we were able to hold in the Senior School (two remarkably long weeks ago) opened with an excerpt from the fantasy novel "Ready Player One." Sensing that school closures were imminent and online learning beckoned, I used that introduction to conjure up the vision of futuristic schools that is stereotypical in science fiction.

Pupils logging into a virtual campus from the comfort (or discomfort) of their own homes. Teachers materialising on screen, monitoring their activity. Assessment and feedback flowing back and forth in real time. Lessons enriched by shared digital resources. Videos and 3D "fieldtrips" taking pupils to places they could never go in real life, the surface of Jupiter, the interior of a cell, Egypt in the 3rd Century BC.

So far, so prescient. That has been almost exactly the experience for all of Bromsgrove's pupils this past week, from the very youngest to the Upper

Sixth. All the preparation and training that we packed into the week after that assembly has paid great dividends. I could not be prouder of the professional and positive way in which pupils and staff have taken to this new Cybergrove.

Yet perhaps the key to our resounding success lies in the one element of the fictional future school that we have not embraced. In "Ready, Player One", all pupils and teachers appear onscreen as avatars. Computer generated images of their own choosing. The narrator says "Of course, we didn't know who Mr Avenovich really was or where he lived. We didn't know his real name, or even if "he" was really a man. For all we knew, he could have been a small Inuit woman living in Anchorage, Alaska."

And therein lies the real power of our online learning platforms. We don't use avatars, we use video. Which means we leverage relationships. Pupils can see their teachers and vice versa. Admittedly in a slightly more casual way

than we are used to; school uniform has been abandoned, although a dress code still exists. What matters though, is that we can see each other. Isolated in our homes for this period of confinement, we all have the reassurance of familiar, friendly faces.

For 500 years, Bromsgrove's greatest asset has been the strength of its community. Even in this unprecedented lockdown, dispersed around the county and around the globe, those bonds remain unbroken. Perhaps they will prove to be strengthened further still, as throughout these strange days, we are still able look into each other's eyes and share a smile and a word of encouragement. Proving there is nothing virtual about this School's spirit.

Peter Clague
HEADMASTER



Hockey

The U13A girls' hockey team have qualified for the In2hockey National Finals. At the Midlands Finals competition Bromsgrove won their group beating Bedstone and Northampton High Schools and drawing with Bablake. In the quarter final, Bromsgrove played with confidence to beat Trent College. The girls put in a strong performance in the semi final to win against Ecclesbourne. The team defended well in the final, demonstrating good teamwork. Despite losing narrowly to Winchester House their great performance has secured them a place at the National Finals.

The U11A girls' hockey team have been crowned County Champions. They demonstrated some excellent attacking hockey to win all their matches. They will now represent Worcestershire at the Midlands Regional Hockey Finals.



Cross-Country

William Pridden and Scarlett Preston joined a very elite group to represent the U15 County Cross Country team at an All England Final. This was a massive achievement for both of them, running a year early.

Textiles on Film

Years 7 and 8 were enthralled by a talk by Old Bromsgrovian Sophie Spurgin.

Sophie began her further art education in Bournemouth, where she learnt multiple art and textiles skills. She became a textiles breakdown artist, working for film, tv and theatre. Sophie paused working on a film set in London, just to come and speak to our pupils.

Her dedication, care, creative problem solving and sheer love of the subject showed in her talk, and has enabled her great successes so far; Wonder Woman, 1917, and The Crown are just a few productions she has recently been involved in.



Visual Art



The IB2 Visual Arts students' final Exhibition show was scheduled to be held at the end of term, but due to the School closure forced by the coronavirus pandemic, the private view had to be cancelled.

Part of the course requirement is to put on an exhibition, and both art students worked hard to put up their exhibition, knowing they would not have an audience.



Congratulations to Raelynne Song and Justus Krauel, their work looks fantastic and will remain hanging in the ADT department until School opens again and we will be able to celebrate their achievement together.

Senior Drama

Well done to everyone who performed at Senior House Drama 2020. The performances were diverse and very entertaining.

Congratulations to the winners:

2020 Performing Arts Award:

Will Edwards

Best Director:

Oleksii Moskaleskyi

Best Actor:

James Beattie

Best Play:

Lupton House for "The History Boys"

Special Adjudicator's Award:

Best Supporting Actor: Polly Dakin



EcoVerse

A huge well done to EcoVerse, this year's Young Enterprise team for their success at the Area Competition Trade Fair in Worcester. Not only did they make a pleasing number of sales

and receive some fantastic customer feedback, they were also awarded Best Customer Service.

We wish the company well with the Company Report and Presentation aspects of the competition which have been submitted digitally.



Netball

Both our U14 and 1st netball teams took part in the National Schools' Netball Finals, where the top eighteen schools in the country for each age group compete for the national title.

The U14 team played well, displaying excellent team spirit and determination.

At the end of the tournament, their hard work paid off and they were placed in the top twelve overall.

The 1st team beat Queen Ethelburga, St. Edmunds College, Canford School, Felsted School, Oakham School and Streatham and Clapham to top their

pool. They faced Worthing College in the semi-final, where they were narrowly defeated. However, Bromsgrove played with determination in the bronze medal play-off to beat Canford School 13-8. This win secured them the bronze medal. Well done to both teams.



IAPS Regional Champions

Congratulations to the U13A and U12A netball teams who became double undefeated IAPS Regional Netball Champions at Uppingham School recently.

The U12 team played in a round robin format playing eight, ten minute matches. The girls demonstrated poise and composure all day to beat every team they faced.

The U13s played in a group stage against Barlborough School, King's Ely and Foremarke Hall, winning each match. Wins in both the quarter final and semi final matches followed and our team went into the final as top team and were ultimately crowned regional champions.



Geography Tour

Upper Sixth Geography pupils went on a field trip to Birmingham to investigate on a theme of *Changing Places*. They were treated to a lively and informative walking tour by Professor Carl Chinn, an oracle on all things to do with Birmingham and author of numerous books about the real Peaky Blinders; some of the group even had their books signed by him.

Later in the day the group stepped back in time on a guided tour of the National Trust's 'Back to Back' houses to see what life was like in Birmingham in the 19th century.



Rockets



Year 2 enjoyed an exciting Rocket Day, making and launching their own air-compressed rockets. The rockets reached spectacular heights, much to the delight of the young designers.

Science Fun

Pupils in Years 3 and 4 came into School dressed as mad scientists and they had fun undertaking a variety of investigations.

Year 3 made edible soil layers, created a journey stick and had a catapult competition.

Year 4 made their own toothpaste, checked the amount of sugar in foods using the iPads, took part in a practical representation of the digestive system, looked inside their bodies.



Clean Donation

Thank you to Baylis and Harding for the donation of hand wash for use by our boarders and the children of key workers who are still in School.

And well done to our pupils for following the guidance on correct hand washing to protect others.



Cultures Connect

Two hundred of our boarders gathered in Routh Hall for one last event before School was dispersed early. This was an evening of remarkable positivity.

Not just incredible energy, talent, and dedication, but also of comradery. The respect and encouragement that the pupils showed for one another,

whether as performers or audience, was a very powerful expression of the great strength of our School.



Sustainability

Protecting our environment and the future of the planet is a concern to all of us and we are delighted to report that the Environmental review of the School is well underway with students, academic and support staff all part of this exciting project. Students in both Senior and Prep have done some outstanding work raising awareness amongst their peers about environmental issues and the School's new approaches to waste management and recycling.

The current projects that the School is very pleased to be a part of include:

- Involvement in the Bromsgrove Town Heat Network project
- New Building Projects - Air Source Heat Exchange systems
- Waste Management - a Zero to Landfill system in place at the moment. All waste is removed off site by an accredited Waste Management company and sent to an approved recycling plant.
- Waste Management – food. There is an Anaerobic Digestion System in the Senior Kitchen. All waste from plates is processed through the system. The system extracts all of the water from the food and passes as grey waste. The food is turned in to a crumb and collected by our Waste Management company to send to recycling plants to turn back in to energy.
- Electrical usage – all of the astro floodlights were changed to LED.
- Removal of plastic drinking bottles from School packed lunches and encouraging all pupils to have their own reusable bottles. Additional water filling stations have also been set up in Prep School.
- Grounds compost bays for all garden waste/autumn leaves. No grounds waste leaves the site.
- Gardeners all use electrical vehicles around the School.
- Moving all Grounds equipment over from petrol to electric over time.
- Marketing have changed over to fabric bags for marketing material.

The latest projects that have been introduced to School are the recycling and future foods initiatives. Recycling bins have been introduced to the Boarding Houses in Senior and Prep School. Pupils have embraced this initiative and with the help of our support staff, we have witnessed significant reductions in the amount of general waste that is produced.

Working in conjunction with Holroyd Howe, the Future Foods initiative has also been introduced. Amy Roberts from Holroyd Howe led assemblies in Prep School and a lunchtime workshop for Senior School. Pupils were informed about the link between food waste and their carbon footprint. This project involved many different aspects, including pupils being able to use the 1,2,3, portion control system to reduce waste and also giving them to option of choosing the meal with the lowest carbon footprint. Holroyd Howe have also been publishing the food waste statistics to pupils.



Learning at Home

The coronavirus pandemic forced all Schools in the country to close early to pupils at the end of the Lent Term. Bromsgrovians are made of determined stuff and both pupils and staff took on the challenge of learning online with typical gusto.

Children of key workers came into School and took part in plenty of activities including participating in online lessons whilst practicing social distancing as advocated by the Government and Health Services.

Everyone has been encouraged to take some exercise, helped by online videos from the sports coaches and sports therapist Amber gave us all some neck stretches to do while sitting at our desks.

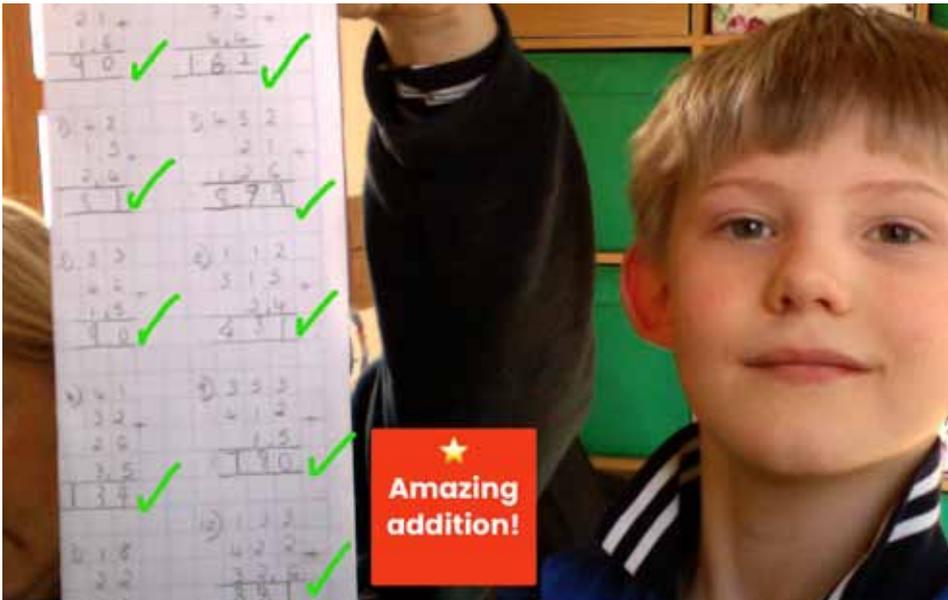
We have received many photos and anecdotes about how staff and pupils are coping with the new way of learning and just a selection are shown on these pages.



HOME LEARNING



Online Gallery



Senior School's Mr Williams told us that pupils are getting into their revision of Atticus Finch and that distance learning is proving little problem for pupils, Joseph Hong won the quick-fire quiz from his dining room in South Korea while Sophia Shearrer came a close second in Germany.

Dr Rimmer's home classroom got an important feature installed – a designated door sign produced by the in-house artist! Previously the dining room, it is now a fully-functioning teaching space. Dr Rimmer is excited about continuing the education of her Economics students, as well as keeping in touch with her tutees.

The Geography department lit a candle for hope and Miss Gill send us a photo of her empty classroom saying her eight years' teaching in H16 has temporarily been halted.... but welcoming us to her virtual classroom.

Pre-Prep enjoyed a choir sing along online, in Prep and Pre-Prep there have been yoga sessions and forest learning sessions, pupils have been inventive and undertaken cookery, animal care and sport practice as part of their home learning activities.

Online Gallery



HOME
LEARNING



We have been greatly heartened by the many positive messages from parents and we all look forward to the time when School can be reconvened.

