



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

MICHAELMAS 2014
ISSUE 2



A word from the Headmaster

The first five words inside this News Review are heartening to me. To save you turning over just yet, they read “The annual team-building walk....” The story goes on to relate the success of this year’s trek by the Lower Fourth along the Malvern Hills. Having been an Outdoor Educator for over 30 years, what excites me about that first line is the priority. It wasn’t a navigation hike, or a wet-weather exercise, it was a team-

building walk. I am the first to agree that knowing how to read a compass or spot a weather change are useful skills, essential if you plan to spend much time in the wild. What I appreciate though, is the recognition that excursions such as this are primarily for building confidence and social cohesion. The main reason I have committed so much of my professional life to taking young people to the hills, lakes and rivers is to develop

their co-operative and leadership skills. I witnessed plenty of both in action amongst our young people last week and it was a joy to pull on my boots again and walk and talk with the School’s future leaders.

Peter Clague
HEADMASTER

Malvern Walk



The annual team-building walk on the Malvern Hills for the new Lower Fourth year group got off to a wet start but Mr Bowen was on hand as usual to give out Mars bars to keep spirits up and energy levels high.

The day comprised a range of challenges - effective map-reading, close team work, communication skills, leadership and initiative tests. All 153 pupils showed enthusiasm, relentless energy and great determination to fulfil the objectives set for them.

This year the Headmaster joined the year group for his first visit to the beautiful hills and, like the pupils, felt a true sense of accomplishment when rewarded for his efforts with a Mars bar.



Engineering Girls

Nadescha Heine applied for sponsorship with Germany company Bosch for her degree in Mechatronics at Stuttgart University. From over 1000 applicants only 70 candidates were invited to attend for assessment and after three hours of testing, interviews, and working on the Einstein Puzzle (we are informed that 98% of people apparently cannot solve it), we are delighted that Nadescha was one of only five candidates offered a sponsorship.

Alexandra Evans has been awarded a much sought after Arkwright Engineering Scholarship. Highly respected by leading universities and companies, the rigorous selection included a two-hour aptitude exam and an interview day. Alexandra is our fourth Arkwright Scholar in recent years. Alexandra will attend the formal presentation in London at the Institute of Engineering and Technology.

Katie Neales' innovative packaging concepts for the leisure market earned her a Bronze Award in the national Starpack Competition. Katie received her award at the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining in London.



Legal Eagles

Aspiring students of Law enjoyed a legal workshop run by Harrison Clark Rickerby's Solicitors, culminating in a mock trial in the Old Chapel before a Judge.

OB Elizabeth Beatty (O 86-91), now a Partner with Harrison Clark Rickerby's, was impressed by the enthusiasm shown by the pupils.

CCF Skills

Ten cadets and two officers embarked on a three-day military skills competition against 21 teams from all over the Midlands. The cadets spent the entire competition living in the field and put in 20 hour days to find the best cadet team in the Brigade area. Disciplines included shooting, patrolling, command tasks, night navigation, first aid, speed marching, and military knowledge.

This is the first time Bromsgrove has competed in this event and whilst the team finished outside the medal positions overall, they did achieve a very commendable fifth place in the shooting.



Memories

Pupils took a walk down memory lane with some local elderly residents when they organised an afternoon of singing and music for the OAPs. The visitors were treated to afternoon tea whilst they enjoyed the 1940s themed activities.

This pleasant interlude was part of the Bromsgrove Service and was enjoyed by both the elderly visitors and our pupils.

Tennis

Vasilii Borisov played in the Virgin Active Coventry Tennis Tournament, winning a tight three set final against a boy two ratings higher.

Well done to Vasilii who played well throughout the day in what was considered the tougher half of the draw.





World University Talks

Sixth Form pupils have benefited from a programme of visits by staff from top world universities.

Andre Koustosov, Senior Associate Director for International Admissions at Northeastern University in Boston USA, visited School to meet prospective Upper Sixth applicants. He undertook individual and group meetings with these students and then gave a

presentation to the Lower Sixth followed by a talk to the Upper Sixth on aspects of the Common Application. A number of Bromsgrove students have been offered places at Northeastern in the last three years and currently we have three Old Bromsgrovians studying there. Andre's visit was complimented by a visit from Anthony Nemecek who gave an excellent talk titled, "Why go the US for university?"

Carl Tang, Admissions Officer at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, visited to discuss opportunities for study in HK and at HKUST.

Finally, in what has been a busy time for international university applicants, Tom Whittaker, Admissions Officer for the University of British Columbia, talked to pupils about applying to Canadian





Chicken Runs Again

The Greenpower Race team took the new look electric car to Aintree race circuit in Liverpool. Sporting a faster sprocket and the best modification to date, the team had high hopes for a good performance. The team, (supported by Ed Shinner who wore a chicken outfit for the entire day), finished in a very respectable 14th place out of 40. In the Kit Car Category they finished 4th out of 20 starters.

Despite not winning in the Kit Car category they did win a trophy for best portfolio and have earned the right to race in the international finals in Goodwood.

Folk Art

Artists from the Upper Fourth visited the Folk Art exhibition at Compton Verney.

They saw art from many areas of culture from all round the world, from elaborate shop signs to shell casings intricately sculpted into art by men in the First World War trenches from all sides of the conflict. Pupils were encouraged to engage in discussions such as 'What is Art?' and were taught the differences between what was considered High Art and how Folk Art had come into being, as craft and creations of the common man. They then created their own sampler, using textiles and sewing, in response to what they had seen.





Fun Photography

Ms McWilliams, who teaches photography in the Senior School visited Year 1 pupils together with three Lower Sixth Art students. Ms McWilliams showed the Year 1 pupils some of her own work, teaching them about composition and discussing interesting things to photograph in the woods.

The pupils then went into the wooded play area and used the iPads to take their own photographs, creating some lovely outcomes. There were some detailed shots of natural textures which created beautiful abstract photographs.

Rugby Tour

Forty boys from the U13A, B, C and D rugby squads departed on the short journey to the Welsh capital, Cardiff, on a three day tour. In what was an action packed weekend, the boys kicked off the tour with some bowling at a nearby multiplex. Matches were played on the Saturday and Sunday and the tour ended with the party watching The Ospreys versus The Cardiff Blues in a Guinness Pro 12 match.



Forest Flourishes

On a wet Saturday morning ten determined Forest Schoolers trekked down to Forest School to build a fire. Due to the weather they found the fire particularly difficult to light but with perseverance and skill they managed to build and light the fire and then make toast over it. Everyone agreed that the toast tasted even more delicious as a result of all their efforts.



Author Visit

Pupils in Years 7 and 8 welcomed popular author Andrew Hammond as part of his book tour. Mr Hammond, who has written a five-book horror fiction series for teenagers, opened the Prep School's newly refurbished Library and spoke passionately about libraries being a portal for knowledge and adventure. The packed audience of Year 7 and 8 pupils enjoyed learning about the fictitious teenage CRYPT and about the process involved in writing a series of books.

Informal Concert

Pupils performed in a delightful informal concert in the Old Chapel. The audience enjoyed a wide range of music with something for everyone. Pieces ranged from Rachel Weller entertaining with a tuba version of *Strictly Come Dancing* to Ed Grayson playing one of his own compositions, a wonderfully lyrical impressionist piece on piano. This was a rich feast of music-making where pupils volunteered to share their music with the audience of parents, staff and pupils.



WW2 Re-enactment

Year 2 enjoyed a realistic day of WW2 themed activities. They joined the Home Guard and practised their drill, led by Staff Sergeant Jeff Farnes. They delighted in using a stirrup pump and hose, dancing to Glen Miller and becoming part of 'ENSA' to entertain the teachers with some marvellous WW2 songs.



Christmas CD

Choirs from all sections of the School took part in a sound recording of a selection of Christmas music. The first edit will be with the Director of Music over half-term and production will be completed by mid-November in readiness for release at the Advent Carol Service. Details about how to buy a copy will be sent out with weekly newsletters from each section of the School.



Sports Honours

Imogen Vaughan-Hawkins, Ruby Hanke, Ariana Jones and Alice Liversidge (all Year 7) have been selected to represent Worcestershire County for U12 netball.



Golf

The Old Bromsgrovians v the School annual golf match at the delightful Blackwell Club was a recent highlight for the School players. For the first time in eight years the School won - Tommy Robinson and Patrick Dolan lost 2 and 1, Lawrence Hill and Chase Edwards won 5 and 4, Sam Bellamy and Harrison Hill won by 2 holes and new additions Alfie Broadhurst and Richard Vaughan won 4 and 3 leaving the match result at 3-1. This match remains a unique occasion where boys of all age ranges play OBs of various vintages. Anthony Webb (S 54 -59) made a gracious speech on behalf of the OB team, followed by a superb captain's speech from Harrison Hill.

Bromsgrovian News

Ladies' Festive Lunch

The next Foundation Ladies' Lunch takes place on Saturday 6th December. These popular lunches bring together female Alumni, Parents, Staff and Friends of the School and we are delighted to welcome Dr Carol Homden CBE as our guest speaker. Dr Homden is chief executive of the Thomas Coram Foundation for Children (Coram), the UK's first children's charity. Today Coram provides help and support to over a million children, young people and their families every year. Bromsgrove has a special link to Coram through Old Bromsgrovian musician John Illsley who is one of their Governors. Tickets for the lunch are £15 per person, which includes reception drinks and a three-course lunch. The reception will take place from 12noon in the newly refurbished Housman Hall, followed by lunch at 12.30pm. To reserve your place, please contact Megan Griffiths: mgriffiths@bromsgrove-school.co.uk

Matt Osborn

Matt Osborn (Ws 14) left to join the Lee Westwood Golf Academy in June and it was exciting to hear his recent news. He met Lee Westwood who was presenting prizes at the finals of the Lee Westwood Junior Golf Series. The students then all travelled up to St Andrew's and Carnoustie to assist with the Dunhill Links European Tour event as part of their work experience programme. Matt was assigned to walk the course as a course marshal with Rory McIlroy, the world number 1, and later in the week he walked the course as a marshal alongside Sir Nick Faldo.

Visits

Richard Fabricius, (S 70-75) was recently holidaying in the UK and stayed for a short while with Mike Woodall (E 69-74). They, were joined by Nigel Cavil (E 71-75) in cheering on the 1st XV against Millfield. Richard and his family now live in Australia.



1964 1st XV Reunion

The 1964 1st XV Rugby team recently had their 50th Reunion at the School. Twelve of the team players returned as well as Tony Finn who was their coach. They enjoyed lunch in the Old Chapel and then wandered down to Lower Charford to watch the present 1st XV beat Millfield 15-5. Celebrations continued at a local pub late into the evening!



Forthcoming Events 2014

OCTOBER

Monday 13th	Pre-Prep & Nursery Parents' Evening for Year 1, Year 2 and Nursery
Tuesday 14th	Pre-Prep Nursery Parents' Evening
Tuesday 14th	Year 6 SC and LL Parent Consultation Evening, Maple Hall 6-8pm
Tuesday 14th	UVI Parents' Evening, Sports Hall 6.45pm-9pm
Tuesday 14th	Early Evening Informal Concert 5.30pm
Wednesday 15th	Inter-House Unison Song Competition, Arena 3.45pm
Wednesday 15th	Pre-Prep & Nursery Parents' Evening for Reception, Year 2EM and Nursery (Squirrels and Robins)
Thursday 16th	Year 3 String Presentation, Cobham Hall 4-4.30pm
Thursday 16th	Page House Halloween Party
Thursday 16th	Pre-Prep & Nursery Parents' Evening for Year 2F, 2W and Nursery (Foxes and Owls)
Friday 17th	Years 6, 7 and 8 Lunchtime Concert, Cobham Hall 1pm
Friday 17th	Half-term commences after School

NOVEMBER

Sunday 2nd	Prep School PA Fireworks Event, 4.30-6.30pm
Sunday 2nd	Prep Boarders Return by 7.30pm; Senior Boarders Return by 9pm
Monday 3rd	School re-opens after half-term
Tuesday 4th	First Choral Society Practice, 6pm
Thursday 6th	UIV Parents' Evening, Sports Hall 6.45-9pm
Thursday 6th	Year 5 RW and CE Parent Consultation Evening, Maple Hall 5-8pm
Friday 7th	Elmshurst House PA Event
Saturday 8th	Sixth Form Open Morning
Sunday 9th	Remembrance Day Services, 9.50am and 10.55am
Monday 10th	Lupton PA Committee Meeting, The Talbot, Belbroughton, 7.30pm
Monday 10th	Prep School Ski Trip Information Evening, Cobham Hall 7pm
Tuesday 11th	Prep School Remembrance Service, Memorial Chapel 8.30am
Tuesday 11th	Pre-Prep Year 2 WW2 Assembly for Parents, 9am
Tuesday 11th	Year 5 NH and CK Parent Consultation Evening, Maple Hall 5-8pm
Tuesday 11th	Prep School PA Meeting, Executive Suite 8pm
Wednesday 12th	Year 3 and 4 Parent Consultation Evening, Maple Hall 5-8pm
Thursday 13th	Prep School House Singing Competition, Routh Hall 8.40am
Thursday 13th	UVI Interview Evening, Humanities 6pm
Thursday 13th	Meeting of the School Parents' Association Liaison Committee, Old Chapel 7.30/7.45pm
Friday 14th	Bromsgrove's Got Talent, Routh Hall
Friday 14th	School House Quiz Night, Hospitality Suite 7.30pm
Saturday 15th	11+ Taster Day at Senior School
Saturday 15th	Bromsgrovian Club President's Dinner, The Bank House Hotel, Worcester 6.30pm
Monday 17th	13+ Sports Scholarship Assessment Day
Tuesday 18th	16+ Sports Scholarship Assessment Day
Tuesday 18th	IB Information Evening for Vth Form Parents, Routh Hall 7.30pm
Thursday 20th	LVI Next Step Parents' Evening, LRC
Friday 21st	Prep School PA Ladies' Indulgence Evening, Hospitality Suite
Tuesday 25th	Prep School Scholastic Book Fair, Library
Wednesday 26th	Prep School Scholastic Book Fair, Library
Tuesday 25th	'The Winter's Tale', The Artrix 7pm
Wednesday 26th	'The Winter's Tale', The Artrix 7pm
Wednesday 26th	The 6th Annual Foundation Lecture with guest speaker, Sir Tim Rice. The Actor's Church, London 7pm
Thursday 27th	'The Winter's Tale', The Artrix 7pm
Saturday 29th	Year 7 11+ Entry
Saturday 29th	Young Enterprise Christmas Trade Fair, Worcester
Saturday 29th	Housman Hall Official Re-Opening
Saturday 29th	Lupton PA Ball, The Hilton, Bromsgrove 7.30pm
Sunday 30th	Housman Hall Charity Bag Packing and Christmas Decorating Events
Sunday 30th	Advent Carol Service, Memorial Chapel 5.30pm

Forthcoming Events 2014

DECEMBER

Monday 1st	CCF Recruits Pass-Off Parade
Monday 1st	Pre-Prep & Nursery PA Christmas Shopping Event, 8.30am-11.30am
Tuesday 2nd	Pre-Prep Reception Nativity, School Hall 9.15am
Thursday 4th	Pre-Prep Reception Nativity, School Hall 9.15am
Friday 5th	Prep School Christmas Concert, Cobham Hall 7pm
Friday 5th	Oakley House PA Christmas Party
Saturday 6th	Housman Hall Charity Doughnut Sale
Saturday 6th	Prep School PA Christmas Fayre, 12noon-3pm
Saturday 6th	Festive Ladies' Lunch, Bromsgrove School, 12noon – 2.30pm
Sunday 7th	Mary Windsor Christmas Party
Sunday 7th	Elmshurst Chateau Impney Annual Dinner
Sunday 7th	Housman Hall Christmas Party
Monday 8th	11+ Scholarship Interviews (by invitation)
Monday 8th	Walters PA Christmas Drop-In 5pm
Monday 8th	Young Enterprise Christmas Meal
Tuesday 9th	Pre-Prep Christmas Service for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, Memorial Chapel 2.15pm
Tuesday 9th	CCF Final Parade
Tuesday 9th	Christmas Concert 7pm
Tuesday 9th	Prep School Page House Formal Meal and Christmas Party
Wednesday 10th	Prep School Page House 'Hot Dogs and Packing' Evening
Wednesday 10th	Senior School Boarders' Christmas Supper 7pm
Thursday 11th	Pre-Prep & Nursery Christmas Party Day
Thursday 11th	Prep School Junior Carol Service, Memorial Chapel 2.45pm
Friday 12th	Mark Reading 12noon
Friday 12th	Term Ends
Friday 12th	Oakley Mulled Wine and Mince Pies
Sunday 14th	Chamber Choir sing for BBC Hereford and Worcester, to be broadcast on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day