



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

MICHAELMAS 2014
ISSUE 3



A word from the Headmaster

A memorable Shakespearean quote is often used to convey how troublesome teenagers can be. A grumbling Bohemian shepherd, lamenting the fact that two irresponsible young men have scared off his sheep, complains:

“I would there were no age between sixteen and three-and-twenty, or that youth would sleep out the rest; for there is nothing in the between but getting wenches with child, wronging the ancients, stealing, fighting.”

Ironically, the quote comes from *The Winter's Tale* which was performed to an exceptional standard this past week. By teenagers. Dedicated, industrious, supremely talented teenagers.

Teenagers who, far from being idle and troublesome, are the pride of the School.

Just as it was in Shakespeare's day, our young people all too often get unwarranted bad press. How I wish that more people could see performances such as graced the Artrix stage and, indeed, abound in this School every day. I know not one who “sleeps out” their teenage years, nor none who should. The truth is, Bromsgrove's young people inspire me daily.

Peter Clague
HEADMASTER



The Winter's Tale



The production of Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* in the Artrix theatre was a triumph. In his letter to parents, Mr Bowen said "shows succeed because everyone plays their part", and this play had a variety of parts to be played, from principals to non-speaking performers and back-stage from lighting to make-up. It would be easy to say the sum was bigger than the total of the parts - but on this occasion that would be no exaggeration. Well done to all involved.



Remembrance

The Remembrance Services held in Chapel on Remembrance Sunday were, as always, moving services. Archie Holder played in the town service on Sunday and had the honour of playing on a solid silver bugle which had been played at the Battle of the Somme.

The Sunday events were followed, on the 11th day of the 11th month, by School cadets taking part in ceremonies in Bromsgrove town and here at School.

The British Legion of Bromsgrove had asked cadets to take part in this year's parade and represent the School in the town Centre War Memorial and CSM (WO2) James Whitehead, L Cpl Archie Parker, Cpl Amy Mason-Towers, L Cpl Chloe Walsh, Cpl Sam Croft, Cpl Dominic Hegarty, L Cpl Ben Davis, L Cpl Gleb Baev, L Cpl Matt Horner and Cdt Sarah Chapman (Bugler), accompanied by SSI Jeff Farnes, were proud to participate. Sarah Chapman, despite

the wet and cold, played the Last Post beautifully and, after the Silence, the Reveille.

Meanwhile back at School, Charles Sapwell played the Last Post to the amassed staff and pupils.



Forces Careers

Students from all year groups attended a military graduate careers seminar sponsored by the CCF and delivered by Major John Arundell from the Army careers organisation.

Pupils learnt about the wide variety of careers available and the many different sponsorship options available whilst at university. There will be a follow up seminar for students and parents in the New Year.

Language Assistants

The Modern Languages Department is pleased to introduce its three new language assistants. Sandrine Sibéran, from Martinique and Mónica Morales from Asturias in Spain are both resident in School and are already helping out with boarding and activities.

The new German assistant, Laura Krahé, from near Hamburg, is also an ERASMUS student at the University of Birmingham.

The language assistants play an extremely important role in the department, particularly in preparing the Sixth Form pupils for oral exams. We hope that they enjoy their year with us.



Interview Evening

Over twenty-five Old Bromsgrovians and parents took part in the Student Interview Evening organised by the Careers Department.

Each pupil was allocated an interviewer based upon their intended university or subject area. This is invaluable experience for the students, as many Upper Sixth have interviews coming up in the next few months. Thank you to all the volunteer interviewers who gave up their evening, with many of them travelling great distances to help our students.

Housman Hall

Former pupils, former staff and current staff joined together to celebrate the opening of the newly refurbished existing part of Housman Hall and the two new residential wings.

Former pupils were amazed by the transformation and delighted in being shown round by current pupils from the House.



Operation Christmas Child



Pre-Preparatory and Nursery pupils have been busy wrapping and filling shoeboxes with treats as part of Operation Christmas Child.

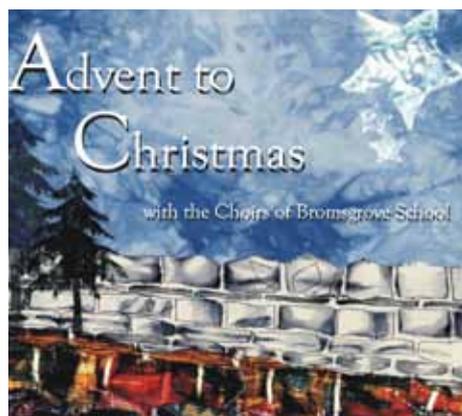
The pupils were very excited at the prospect of sharing the joy of Christmas with other children less fortunate than themselves from different parts of the world. Each box has been carefully packed with donations of toys,

school supplies and basic clothing or hygiene items, such as a woolly hats or toothbrushes.

Workers from the 'Samaritan's Purse' charity came to collect the boxes and with help from the Reception classes all 77 boxes were carefully loaded into a van for distribution in time for Christmas.



Senior Pupils have also worked in their service activity to collect and fill eighty boxes for distribution.



Advent CD

The School Choirs have produced a festive CD, recorded in the Memorial Chapel. Comprising of Year 2 pupils, the Junior Choir, Prep Choir, Prep Chapel Choir, Senior Chapel Choir and Chamber Choir. Highlights include the Year 2 pupils' version of *Light the Advent Candle* and Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* performed by the Chamber Choir.

The CDs are available to buy at £10 each from Reception at Senior, Prep and Pre-Prep, or from the Music School.



Skip Along

Emily Dyer has been busy skipping; she competed in the National Team Master Skipping Championships in Glasgow where she won three bronze and two silver medals. Following this success Emily has been chosen to represent Great Britain in July 2015 at the World Skipping Championships in France.

Raising Funds

Pre-Prep pupils raised a fantastic £193 for Children in Need



Cross Country

The girls' U13 ESAA Cross-Country team qualified for the National Finals held in Newquay recently. After coming third in the Midlands' round, the team which consisted of three Year 8 girls; Siena Horton, Kitty Luscombe and Orla Walker, and three Year 7; girls Daisy Clements, Grace Dieppe and Ariana Jones, finished in eleventh place nationally. It was perfect cross-country weather, with the sun shining and the ground soft but not muddy. The girls exceeded all expectations and this placing gives the team the honour of achieving the third best ever team finish for our junior girls.





Swimming Masterclass

Senior School swimming squads were privileged to receive expertise help and coaching from two Olympic swimmers – Jo Jackson (Athens, Beijing (Bronze) and London) and Grant Turner (London 4 x100 Freestyle Relay). Jo passed round her Olympic Bronze and World Championship Silver to the excitement of pupils. In 2009 an incredible swim in the fastest women’s 400m race of all time brought her a silver medal, beating Olympic Champion Rebecca Adlington.

Jo and Grant worked in the pool with swimmers, did land-based training in the Dance Studios and gave a fascinating talk about their careers and nutrition, with a Q&A session to close. This was a memorable afternoon for our pupils who learnt so much from world-class swimmers.

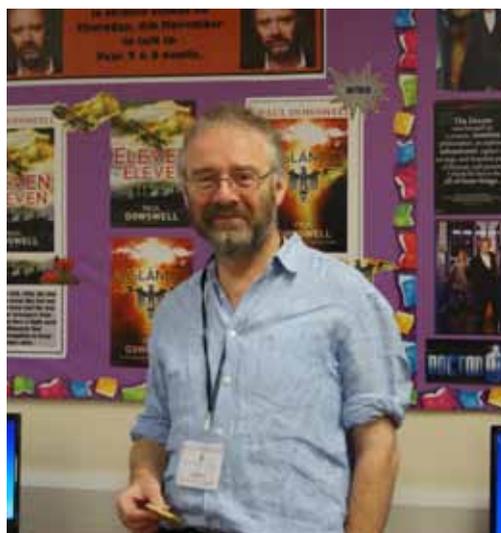
Hockey and Netball Tour

Girls from Years 6, 7 and 8 enjoyed playing netball and hockey on tour in Jersey. They also enjoyed visiting ‘Creepy Valley’, an outdoor adventure centre, ‘Aqua Splash’, an indoor water slide and pool complex, and ‘The Living Legend’, an educational show all about the history of Jersey.



Football

Well done to Zach Jeacock who has been selected to play at St George’s Park in December for the Independent Schools’ Football Association England Squad.



Author Visit

Years 7 and 8 welcomed guest speaker Paul Dowswell to Prep School. Paul writes historical fiction and he spoke to pupils about the two major conflicts of the 20th century; World War 1 and World War 2, illustrating his talk with powerful photographs and reading extracts from his books: “Eleven, Eleven” and “Auslander.” The characters in his books are teenagers, and his story-telling gave his audience an insight into how it was to live through such turbulent periods of history.

University Visit

A new initiative to help current pupils with their UCAS applications got off to a great start when recent OBs met up with current pupils at Warwick University.

OBs Charlotte Collie (Hz), Dan Garvie (E) and Celia Sun (MW) who are all studying at the University, gave the pupils a guided tour and were able to talk about their experience of campus life, degree level study and give great advice to the potential applicants.

The pupils found the opportunity very valuable, hearing an insider's point of view from fellow Bromsgrovians and we are hoping to extend the idea to other universities.



House Song

Once again the Inter-House Unison Song contest took place in the new arena where the acoustics gave full glory to the House choirs.

We were delighted to welcome Old Bromsgrovian and opera singer Olivia Safe as adjudicator.

The results were:

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| Overall Winners: | Lyttelton |
| Runners Up: | Mary Windsor |
| Best Creative Performance: | Lupton |
| Conductor's Prize: | Walters |

All the Houses' performances can be seen on the School's Youtube channel.

Imperial College

Sarah Fionda of Imperial College University visited Bromsgrove to give an interesting presentation to Sixth Form Mathematicians and Scientists about studying at Imperial College London. Her enthusiasm for encouraging talented students to consider the huge variety of courses on offer as well as the cutting edge research areas that they could be involved in was very motivational.

Ms Fionda was very generous with her time and answered individual students' questions about their applications and advised Lower Sixth pupils about entry requirements.





Prep Conservationists

Year 3 set off to Sanders Park in search of water voles.

Senior School teacher, Mrs Holden, joined the pupils to explain how she had been involved in a conservation project to create a habitat rich in everything the water vole needs, such as a soft bank to burrow in and plenty of food. The children found evidence of water voles living in Spadesbourne Brook but on this occasion did not see any. Mrs Holden was a very interesting and informative guide.

Geography Studies

AS and IB Geography pupils travelled to Betws-y-Coed in North Wales to study a variety of concepts to do with water management, coastal management strategies and ecosystems. Studying in the different environments and experiencing the various geographical skills will prove helpful in the AS examinations and the IBDP internal assessment.



History Thoughts

IB Historians visited the Freemasons' Lodge in London to hear Professor Gary Sheffield's views on the *Origins of the First World War* and then his thoughts on the Peacekeeping that preceded the war in his second lecture. After lunch, students were delighted to hear Jeremy Paxman deliver his viewpoints of the First World War. Paxman's lecture was a more general overview of World War One, using a variety of images, and including a personal account of his Uncle who died at the Battle of Gallipoli. All the Schools who had attended the lectures all stayed for a Remembrance Service which allowed them time to reflect on all that had been said and to remember soldiers in all conflicts around the world.

Bromsgrovian News

President's Dinner

The OB President's Dinner was held at the Bank House Hotel near Worcester.

This was a very enjoyable evening with many people commenting on the excellent venue. The Headmaster, Peter Clague, was the guest speaker; his speech can be found on YouTube www.youtube.com/bromsgroveschool



Jeremy is middle of the front row

Emmy Award

Jeremy Elwell (90-93) has been nominated for an International Emmy Award for the Late Nite News with Loyiso Gola (Diprente Films / eNCA, South Africa). Jeremy works on the location sound, sound design and final mix for the show travelled to New York for the ceremony.

Llanwrtyd Remembrance

Christopher Price attended the Remembrance Service in Llanwrtyd Wells where every year in the roll call they include the names of the OBs who lost their lives in the Second World War. Christopher then laid the Bromsgrove School wreath at the town Memorial.



Foundation Lecture

Over 130 Old Bromsgrovians, Parents and Friends of the School attended the annual Foundation Lecture at St Paul's (The Actor's Church) in Covent Garden. The School was delighted to welcome Sir Tim Rice as guest speaker. Sir Tim is an Academy Award, Golden Globe Award, Tony Award and Grammy Award winning lyricist and librettist who is perhaps best known for his collaborations with Andrew Lloyd Webber.



Forthcoming Events 2014

DECEMBER

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| 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) |