



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

MICHAELMAS 2014
ISSUE 4



FESTIVE GREETINGS FROM THE HEADMASTER
AND ALL AT BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

A word from the Headmaster

After nearly 50 years of celebrating Christmas at a beach or a BBQ, at last a proper one. Colleagues look at me askance, wondering if I am mad as they frantically thumb the travel brochures in search of somewhere warm to flee this holiday. But honestly, who would forsake this? After a lifetime of associating Yuletide with sausages and sunscreen, today I am amidst real holly and ivy, log fires, mulled wine sipped to the pealing of distant bells.

Late last night I snuck out onto to Gordon Green (please do not tell Mr

Bowen) and took the photo above. It was magical. The snow lay all around etc etc. Well, frost anyway. The School's grand buildings stood silent, adorned in the winter air. In the stillness you could almost hear the murmurs of those who have celebrated this festive season here in centuries past.

All who have hung decorations from the same pelmets, massed their voices in the same Chapel pews, penned cards to favourite teachers. And for all of them, as for us today, the poignancy of the end of the Michaelmas term. Leaving

Bromsgrove for a while to spend this special time with our own, other family.

To all those families, I wish a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Peter Clague
HEADMASTER

U16 Hockey



The U16 girls' hockey team competed at the Midlands' Indoor Finals for a place at the National Final. Our team cruised through the group stages, beating Worksop, Princethorpe, Friary Grange and Uppingham scoring 17 and conceding just 2 goals. The semi-final against Oakham was tense but they gained a 2-1 win taking them through to the final against Repton. The girls displayed great skill, teamwork, determination and admirable perseverance. The squad of Dina Koerzdoerfer, Lena Sophie-Ivens, Lauren Brown, Ali Silk, Megan Walker, Claudia Moberley, Megan Longden, Elouise Brookes, Ellie Childs and Esme Gibson should be very proud of their efforts.

CREST Awards

As part of the science competition club, Senior school pupils are working towards their CREST Silver awards. One team is making their own lip balms and testing them for their hydrophobic and light blocking properties. The other team are making their own programmed flashing fairy lights. A number of Prep School girls are also participating and working towards their CREST Bronze awards. They are designing and making their own wooden pendants.



Parade

At the annual CCF Recruits pass off parade Captain Trevor joined us from the local Cadet training team. The RAF was inspected by Flt Sgt Rose. The Corps of Drums was lead by Sgt Sarah Chan. After the initial inspection cadets were split into their platoons and they carried out a series of activities including drill, reporting to an Officer and written tests on general military knowledge.

Well done to Best Recruits Army Cdt Lisa Shaw and RAF Cdt Archie Freer; to the Best Platoon, the Worcestershires led by Sgt. James Taylor, and the Best Flight - Flight 1, led by Sgt. Phillip May.



Christmas Music

Mr Knight has written a new choral piece *The God of Peace and Love* which Birmingham-based professional choir Ex Cathedra will premiere in their seven Christmas Concerts in Birmingham and London.

He was invited to appear on BBC Hereford and Worcester Radio with presenter Michael Collie. Pupils Lucy Sapwell and Dan Johnson accompanied him to talk about the forthcoming

recording of the BBC Hereford & Worcester Christmas Concert, which will be recorded in front of an audience and then broadcast on the station on Christmas Eve at 5pm and on Christmas Day at 12noon. Bromsgrove is one of four groups taking part and will be performing approximately 15 minutes of material. One part of this performance is a carol composed by Mr Knight.



Santa Lucia

The Santa Lucia Service takes place every year in Birmingham Cathedral. Lucy Sapwell has risen through the ranks at this annual service and was *Lucia* in the candlelit centrepiece, leading the procession of Ex Cathedra and its Academy of Vocal Music as they sang through the length of the Cathedral. She sang several beautiful solos in both English and Swedish. Lucy was a remarkable sight – a crown on her head and four candles. It was a great honour for Lucy (and the School) to take a leading role at such a prestigious civic service.

Many Swedes were in the congregation for this traditional service from their homeland and after the service Lucy was guest of honour at the Swedish Consulate.



Concert

The Senior Christmas Concert began in Chapel with the Chamber Choir giving a complete performance of Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*, for upper voices and harp. In the second half, performances from Orchestra, Brass Group, Big Band, Windband, String Ensemble, Flute Group and some chamber music items provided a wonderful variety of music.

Truce Match

Year 8 pupils played in a WWI re-enactment football match to commemorate the Christmas Truce which took place between British and German Troops in No Man's Land on Christmas Day 1914.

Year 8 pupils played against a team of Year 9 pupils from North Bromsgrove High School in what was a truly fitting commemoration for the centenary of the 1914 match.

Year 5 pupil Sophia Meadows played The Last Post with confidence before the match began, which added a real feel of solemnity to the occasion.



Charity Pack

The Housman Hall annual bag packing event which took place at both Tesco and Asda supermarkets was a great success this year, raising over £2000 for the DEC Ebola crisis appeal.

The pupils worked in shifts to help customers with their shopping and to raise awareness of this important appeal. The compliments on pupils' behaviour, courtesy and friendliness were as numerous as the donations.

City Mission Toys

Prep School pupils, parents and staff donated toys, books and puzzles to the Birmingham City Mission. There was a fabulous collection of items which was sent to the distribution centre in Birmingham to be donated to disadvantaged children in the area. Some of these children might not otherwise receive a Christmas present, so these donations are very gratefully received.



Reception Nativity

A Little Bird Told Me was performed to parents, grandparents, carers and guests. It was a wonderful start to the seasonal festivities and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Thank you to everyone who came to watch and well done to the Reception staff and pupils who put so much time and effort into this entertaining performance



Prep Concerts

The **Junior Michaelmas Concert** was a wonderful afternoon of music and song. The Junior Orchestra played confidently and with enthusiasm. Jake Wingfield and Sophia Meadows played a magnificent festive trumpet duet and the enormous Junior Choir sang beautifully and with feeling. The Strings played a wonderful piece, complete with harmony, and amazed everyone with their skill. It was a fantastic afternoon of music – well done to the young musicians who demonstrated their talents.

Well done to all of the performers who took part in the **Preparatory School Christmas Concert**. The performances included the Prep School Choir, the Brass Group, Year 7 Steel Pans, the



Flute Group, Ukulele Group,
Group Orchestra, Cello Group

School Chapel Choir, Jazz Group and *The Pandas*.



Tea and Carols

Over 60 residents from five homes around Worcestershire attended the Tea and Carols event, which this year was held in the newly re-opened dining hall at Housman Hall. Pupils had organised games and songs for the visitors and it was with much delight that 100 year old Margaret won the top bingo prize.

Monitors' Christmas Dinner

The annual Monitors' Christmas Dinner, hosted by the Headmaster, was a hugely enjoyable occasion – made especially memorable as the Monitors were able to wish stalwart Governor, Geoff Strong, a happy 70th birthday with a special cake.

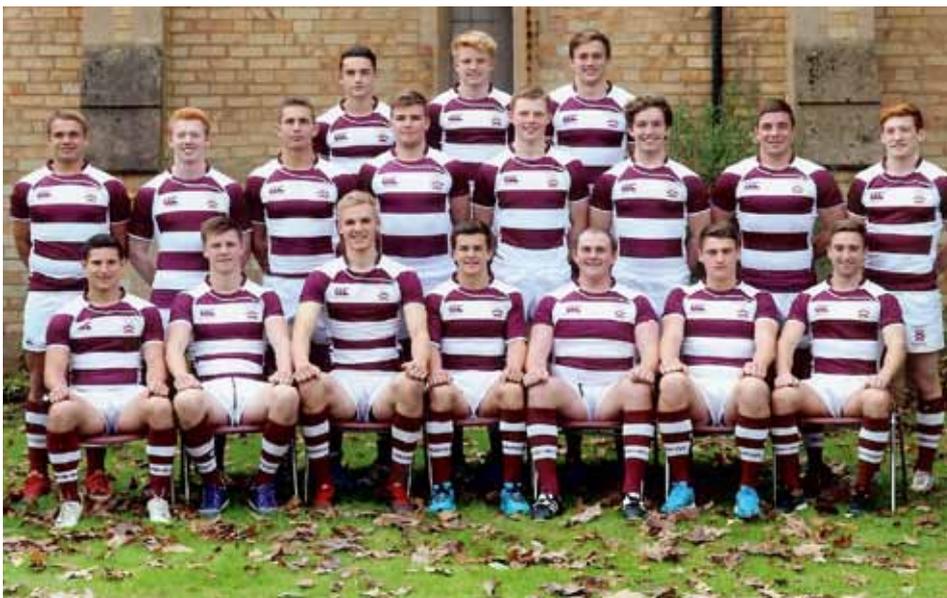


Rugby

The 1st XV are through to the Midlands' Final of the Nat West Cup.

Prep Netball

The U12A team played King's High, Warwick in round four of the National Netball Cup. After a well-fought match our team came out as eventual winners and now, of the 128 schools that started this competition, they are down to the final eight. The quarter finals will be held at Bedford School.



Tudor Visit

As the fantastic finish to their Tudor topic, Year 4 took part in a Tudor Day. They all looked fabulous in their Tudor costumes as they made pomanders, a Tudor coat of arms, Tudor Houses and clay Tudor Roses. The highlight of the day had to be the banquet with Henry VIII making a surprise visit.



Hedgerows

Pupils from across the School took part in a National Tree Planting Week activity at Sanders Park. They planted close to a thousand hedgerow plants with the purpose of replacing what had been a Leylandii border with native hedgerow plants to create a wildlife corridor to help promote biodiversity in the park. It was heart-warming to watch the interaction of the younger and older Bromsgrove pupils. The event was organised in conjunction with Bromsgrove Council and we are grateful to them for the opportunity to contribute to the enhancement of Sanders Park in this way.

Bromsgrovian News

Foundation Ladies' Lunch

The School was delighted to welcome over sixty Old Bromsgrovians, parents and friends to the December Festive Ladies' Lunch. The event took place in the recently refurbished Housman Hall. Guest speaker Dr Carol Homden CBE, CEO of CORAM (one of the UK's first children's charities), spoke with passion about her charity's mission and how we can all help the most vulnerable children in today's society. The next ladies' lunch is currently being planned for April 2015.



OB Medic

Oliver Thomas (Ws 07-12) came to School to talk to pupils about life as a third year Medic. Oliver is currently studying Medicine at Peninsula Medical School.

The Careers Department have organised a series of talks by recent leavers to provide invaluable 'insider' information for current students. If any OBs or parents would like to be involved in this programme and help out in other sectors, please get in touch with Miss Leech, Head of Careers.

Bromsgrovians Connected

We are delighted with our new publication for our Old Bromsgrovians - *Bromsgrovians Connected* - which gives an update on your news to us and School news for you. This is an annual publication and we have just posted them out to all our OB contacts - please do let us know what you think of it and if you have any news you would like included in the next issue.



Forthcoming Events 2015

January 2015

Tuesday 6th	Choral Society rehearsals commence, Routh Hall 6.00pm
Monday 12th	Lupton PA Committee meeting The Talbot, Belbroughton 7.30pm
Tuesday 13th	Senior School Entrance Tests / 13+ Academic Scholarships
Friday 16th	Pre-Prep 'Small Talk' begins 1.30-2.30pm
Friday 16th	Prep School Year 6, 7 and 8 Lunchtime Concert, Cobham Hall 1-1.30pm
Saturday 17th	Pre-Prep Open Morning for prospective families, Nursery – Year 2, 10-11.30am
Tuesday 20th	Informal Concert, Old Chapel 5.30pm
Tuesday 20th	Prep School Year 7 R1, R2, R3 Parent Consultation Evening, Cobham Hall 6-8pm
Wednesday 21st	Music Scholarship Auditions 11+, 13+ and 16+; Art Scholarship Examinations 13+ and 16+
Thursday 22nd	Music Scholarship Auditions
Friday 23rd	Music Scholarship Auditions
Saturday 24th	Sixth Form Course Information Morning for current and prospective pupils and their parents, Routh Hall 8.45 for 9am
Tuesday 27th	16+ Scholarship Exams and Interviews
Friday 30th	13+ Scholarship Interviews
Saturday 31st	Solo Music Competition, Old Chapel 9am-5pm
Saturday 31st	Lytelton and Hazeldene Ball, Grafton Manor 7pm

February 2015

Monday 2nd	Old Bromsgrovians Head of Year session
Tuesday 3rd	V Form Parents' Evening 6.15-8.30pm
Thursday 5th	Year 3 Strings Initiative Concert, Routh Hall 4-4.30pm
Friday 6th	Years 1 and 2 PA Movie Night, 6.30-8pm
Tuesday 10th	RADA Candidates Performance Evening
Wednesday 11th	Year 8 Production, Cobham Hall 7pm
Thursday 12th	Year 8 Production, Cobham Hall 7pm
Friday 13th	Boarders' Parent Consultation Afternoon, Sports Hall 4.30-5.30pm
Tuesday 24th	Page House Chinese New Year Party
Wednesday 25th	Fourth Form Play 'The Accordion Shop'
Wednesday 25th	Grandparents' Day for Year 1 (1K and half of 1C)
Thursday 26th	Fourth Form Play 'The Accordion Shop'
Thursday 26th	Grandparents' Day for Year 1 (1L and half of 1C)
Thursday 26th	Year 8 L1, L2, L3 Parent Consultation Evening
Friday 27th	Fourth Form Play 'The Accordion Shop'
Saturday 28th	Young Enterprise South Worcestershire Spring Trade Fair, Worcester High Street
Saturday 28th	School House and Thomas Cookes Ball, Grafton Manor 6.30 for 7pm

March 2015

Monday 2nd	Nursery and Reception Informal Open Afternoon, 3-5pm
Tuesday 3rd	Prep School 'Travelling Books' Fair, parents welcome after 4pm
Tuesday 3rd	Pop & Jazz, Routh Hall 7.30pm
Wednesday 4th	Prep School 'Travelling Books' Fair, parents welcome after 4pm
Wednesday 4th	Pop & Jazz, Routh Hall 7.30pm
Wednesday 4th	Prep School Years 3 and 4 Parent Consultation Evening, Maple Hall 3.30-7.30pm
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

Forthcoming Events 2015

March 2015

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
Wednesday 18th	Nursery and Reception Parents' Tour of the Classrooms, 7-7.15pm
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
Friday 27th	Pre-Prep Easter Egg Hunt