



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

MICHAELMAS 2015
ISSUE 3

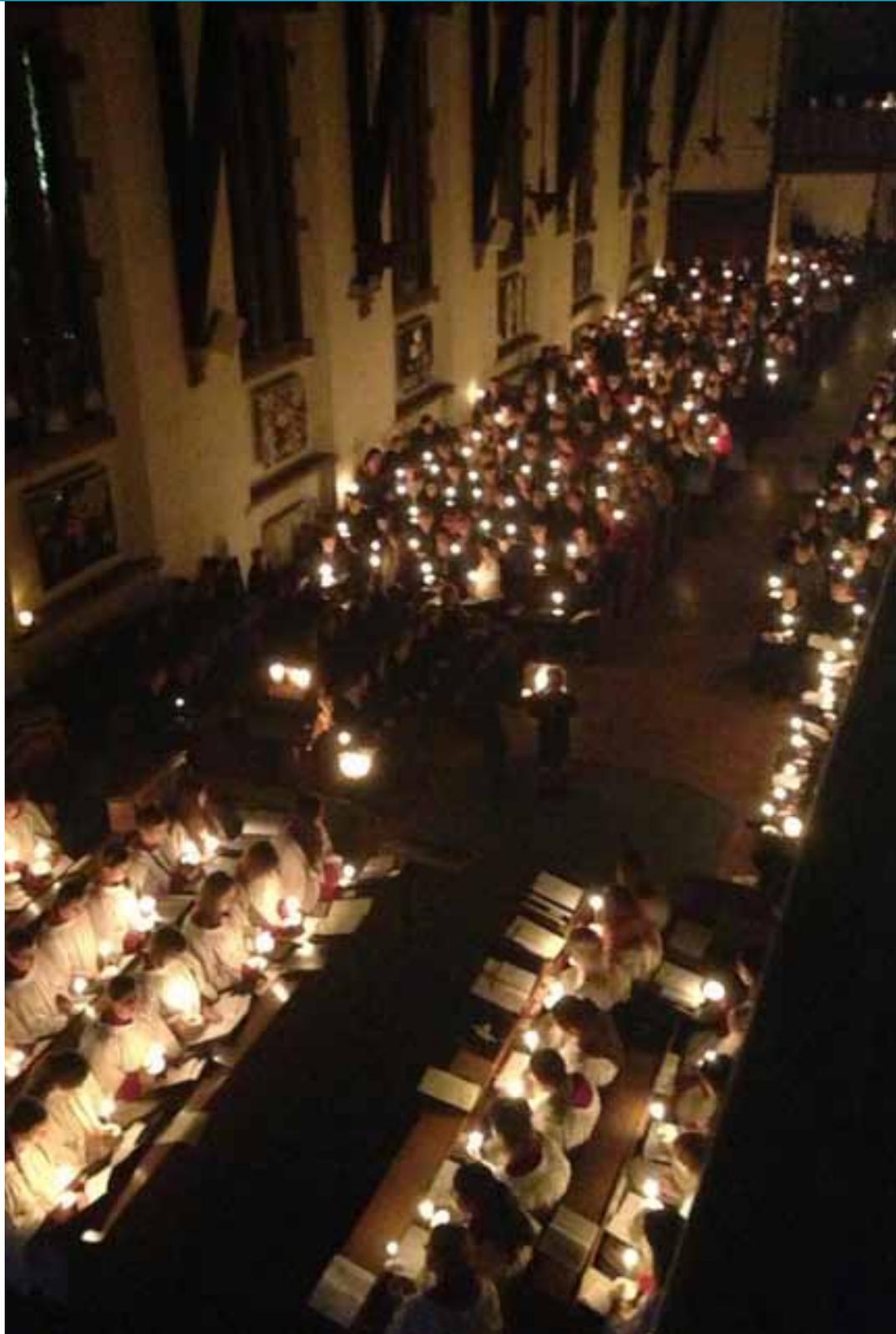
A word from the Headmaster

During my career as a very amateur woodturner, I have often marvelled at the ability of timber to soak up the story of its surroundings over time. The chisel unveils close rings of harsh winters, dark stains of swamp tannins, the knots of torque and tension. As the lathe turns and you strip away the outer layers, the whole life of the tree is retold.

Sitting in Bromsgrove's candle-lit Advent Service on Sunday, I gazed up at the huge oak trusses in the Memorial Chapel and wondered if the same might be true of the music they have absorbed over the years. How many baritones have left their imprint, how many descants have they soaked up? Every pupil who ever sat in its pews has lifted their voice to the rafters. Surely those waves must penetrate, recorded in the very grain?

This term we have hosted reunions of OBs spanning many generations: pre-1960, the graduates of 2005, and the members of Cookes House amongst them. Of all the stations on their nostalgic tours of the School, the Chapel evoked the deepest emotions. How nice to think that just as its memories are ingrained in them, so too do their voices remain in the building, enshrined in the rafters along with so many others who have also called the School their own over the centuries. On a quiet moment in that peaceful sanctuary, you can almost hear them still.

Peter Clague
HEADMASTER



Going Swimmingly



Over 500 schools competed to be one of the top 30 relay teams in the country and to qualify for the National Swimming Finals.

Bromsgrove School's inter boys team swam well back in September to qualify for both the 4 x 50m medley and freestyle National Finals which were held at the London Aquatics Centre Olympic Pool. Our medley team comprising of James Cuthbert (back stroke), Jacob Redden (breast stroke), Samuel Osborne (butterfly) and Benjamin Turner (front crawl) competed well to record a time of 2.05.30, a second faster than their qualifying time, and to be placed 15th in the country. The 4 x 50m freestyle relay team consisting of Samuel Osborne, James Cuthbert, Benjamin Turner and Euan Vaughan-Hawkins swam exceptionally well, taking 2.5 seconds off their qualifying time, and finishing an impressive 10th nationally.



Congratulations to Sam Osborne who is now ranked number 1 in the country for the U14 1500m freestyle swimming event.

Language Learning

Language Assistants

The Modern Languages Department is once again pleased to welcome three language assistants to Bromsgrove School. Katel Barat from Morlaix in Brittany, Blas Gonzalez from Málaga in Andalucía and Felix Stark from Fulda in Germany. Katel and Blas are resident in School and are already helping out with boarding and activities. Felix is an ERASMUS student at the University of Birmingham as well as helping in our MFL department.



German Café

Sixth Form pupils studying German enjoyed an evening at The German Café in Shirley. The pupils spoke German all evening and ate typical German food. There was also a quiz to keep them entertained between courses.



Prep Linguists

The following pupils at Prep Schools were awarded Linguists of the Month: Year 4 - Isla Sutherland and Joseph Kippax, Year 5 - Luci Broadhurst, Year 6 - Cameron Owen, Year 7 - Madeleine Chance and Harry Richards.

Prep Classics

After the success of the *Hunger Games* session the Prep Years 7 & 8 Classics Club met to attend a Spartan Boot Camp and find out how tough life was for Spartan school children.

Their first task was to make Spartan spears out of broom handles and cardboard.



Corking Ideas

This year's Young Enterprise team attended a fair at Worcester Cathedral to sell their up-cycled cork products in the run up to Christmas.



Civil War Experience

The English Civil War and life in 17th century England was brought to life for Year 8 pupils when they visited the Commandery at Worcester. They learnt about weapons and warfare and the gruesome job of the surgeon on the battlefield. They enjoyed dressing up in contemporary costumes and armour and handling the weapons.

Christmas Concert

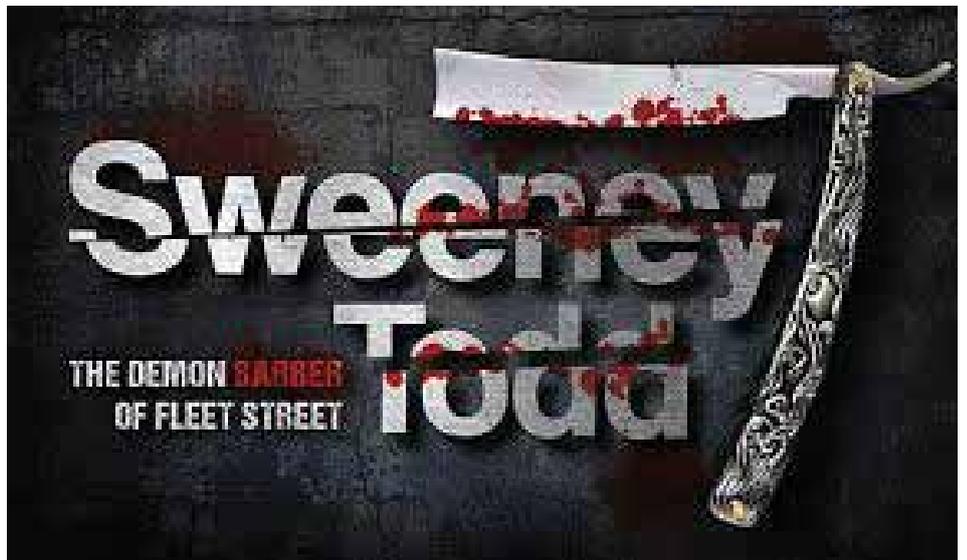
The next concert featuring the Senior School music ensembles will be the Christmas Concert on the evening of Monday 14th December. Put this date in your diary to enhance your festive spirit!



Prep Recital

The first of this year's Prep School music recitals took place recently. Brass and Woodwind soloists captivated parents and pupils with their performances.

Lupin the Pot Bellied Pig, performed by Serisha Sunner on the flute, was the epitome of flute elegance whilst *Got My Eye on You*, performed by Henry Hoare, showed the strength and timbre of the trombone. Well done to all of the pupils for their hard work and beautiful performances.



Sweeney Todd

Rehearsals are rattling along nicely for the Senior School's main Musical Production, *Sweeney Todd*, featuring Elliot James as the demon barber himself and Nyree Williams as Mrs Lovett. The whole cast are enjoying singing together and bringing this amazing story to life.

The production will be performed at the Artrix Theatre in March.

Catering Award

Holroyd Howe, the School's catering partners have been named Education Caterer of the Year at the prestigious Foodservice Cateys awards ceremony, held at the Westminster Park Plaza hotel in London.

The award, which recognises companies operating across the education sector, was presented to the Holroyd Howe team at this high-profile event attended by over 500 people from the foodservice industry. The company was especially commended for its commitment to training, local sourcing and the development of innovative and fresh food menus across its schools and colleges. The winners of the awards are selected by a panel of judges made up of experts from across the foodservice and hospitality industries. Ronan Harte, Managing Director of Holroyd Howe, commented: "It is a real honour to pick up this award. We are very proud of how hard our teams have worked over the course of the last year, and this award is testament to that. As a business, our focus has always been to deliver creative, delicious food that engages and inspires pupils, whilst also safeguarding their health and wellbeing."



Pre-Prep visit Year 3

Year 1 were eagerly greeted by Year 3 pupils when they visited Prep School for a fun-filled morning of woodland activities. Working in pairs, the children completed a quiz, decorated candle holders and made popcorn on the fire in Forest School. The children from the two year groups enjoyed working together, sharing ideas and listening to each other.



Handmade Art

Art and Textile students from the Fifth and Lower Sixth went to see the 'SIT Select SHOWCASE', organised by Stroud International Textiles at Cheltenham Town Hall. The exhibition was a celebration of 'handmade'. and showcased the very best in British ontemporary craft and design ranging from beautiful linen paper sculptures to felted landscapes, lino prints, enamelware and free-hand machine embroidered portraits.

Students listened to talks by a wide variety of artists, makers and designers throughout the day, such as weavers Jilly Edwards and Ismini Samanidou this was a great opportunity for pupils to learn something new, question practising artists and designers about their individual creative process and be inspired by other practitioners.



Myanmar Visitor

Senior School pupils were privileged to welcome Dr Michael Marett-Crosby a close associate of Aung San Suu Kyi, the new leader of Myanmar, to a Routh Assembly. Dr Marett-Crosby has a long-standing interest in the growth of civil society and democracy in Burma and he enthralled the School community with a poignant and inspiring address. He brought with him a personal message from Aung San Suu Kyi in which she encouraged every pupil to make full use of the opportunities provided by their education. After assembly Dr Marett-Crosby spent time with Religious Studies and Politics students.

Services Update



As part of Bromsgrove Service pupils take part in a tremendous variety of activities - this term they have been participating in the Operation XMAS CHILD appeal, collecting items to include in shoe box parcels for less fortunate children and making up the boxes ready to send out.

The Messy Kitchen has been delivered to Chadsgrove School. The wooden kitchen has been set up in Chadsgrove's Forest School area and used by pupils like Nathan and Jason in the picture, who have limited mobility. Students have made the kitchen weather proof and it will last for years. Well done to all the past and present pupils involved and thanks to Ms Densem for overseeing the project.

Members of the Stroke Association were invited to School to take part in an art workshop with pupils and members of staff. Miss Barton and Ms Morgans led the workshop and our enthusiastic and creative guests made tie-dye prints of their own during the hour-long session.



Hockey

The U18 and U16 boys took part in the Nayan Cup, an Indoor Hockey Tournament in Sweden. It was a great weekend with both teams performing well; the U18s narrowly missed out on making the Final while the U16s finished as Runners Up, losing a good final to Orient from Denmark.

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U12s at National Finals

The U12 girls hockey team competed in the IAPS National finals at Bradfield College. They finished the group stages in fifth place and went on to play a 9th/10th play off match against Holme Grange School. From the twelve teams that had made it to the National Finals, Bromsgrove were eventually placed as the ninth best IAPS School in the country. Well done to all the players and a special mention to Ellen Ashton who received Player of the Tournament.



Honours

Well done to Alex Nisbet, Blake Edwards, Beck Cutting and George Wootten who represented Worcester Warriors A team against Cambridge University and the Army and to Henry Walker who played in the Gloucester 1st XV match against the Barbarians.

Congratulations to Lauren Brown who has gained a place in the West Midlands Warriors Netball Performance League Squad.



Bromsgrovian News

Cookes House Reunion

Old Bromsgrovians returned to School in November to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of Cookes House. Cookes House, led by Mr and Mrs Schilzzi, was only in being for eight years before it was split in 1972 into Lyttelton and Walters Houses. OBs and guests were welcomed with a Chapel Service, where memories came flooding back when the Chamber Choir sang 'Heaven's Declare' - the School Song from the 1960s and 1970s.

During tours of the current Thomas Cookes House, many OBs visited the original 18-bedder on the top floor (which some still believe is haunted) and recounted tales of their school days whilst looking around Cookes Room, their former library.



Cyberbullying Interview

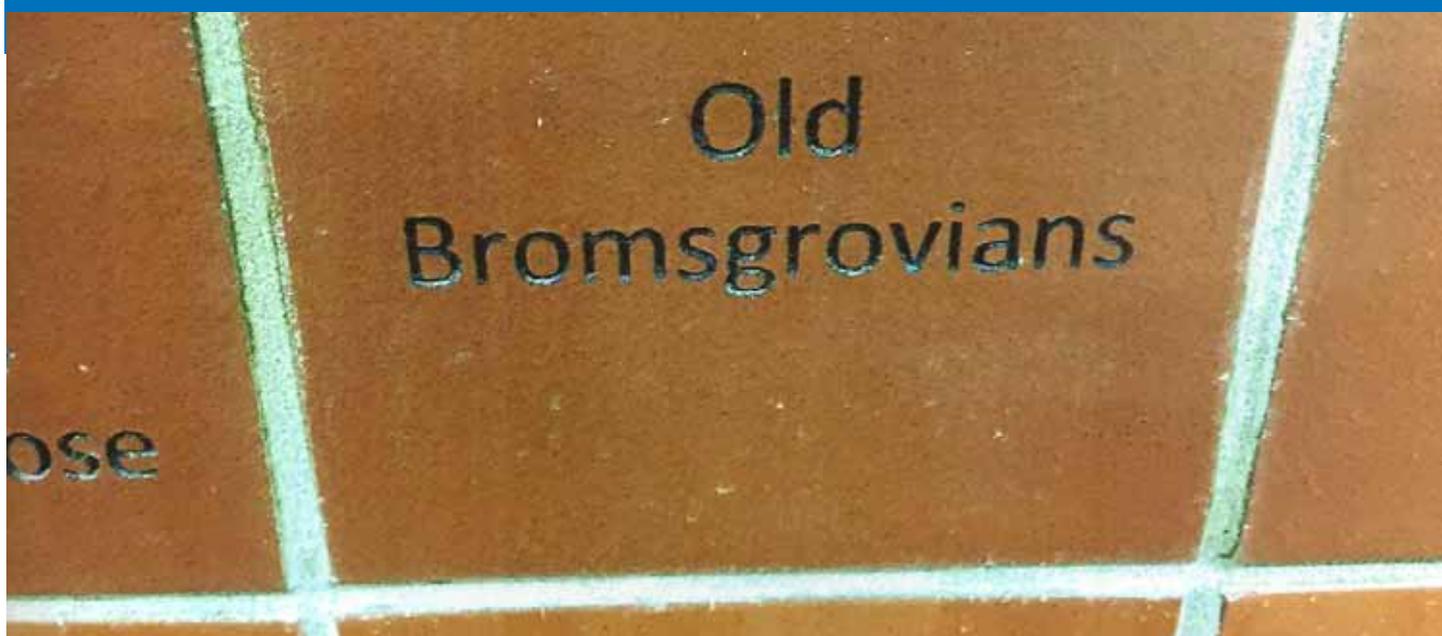
Kirstie Friend (MW 01-12) returned to School to interview Mr Hallows, Head of Senior School, on the subject of cyberbullying – Kirstie's chosen dissertation topic. Kirstie is in the final year of her undergraduate degree in Geography at the University of Exeter.

Bromsgrovian News

Brick Work

Last year, the OB Committee donated £60 to Moseley RFC to sponsor a brick in the name of the Old Bromsgrovians as many OBs went on to play at Moseley after leaving School. All money raised by the brick sponsorship is being used to fund the building of a new stadium at Moseley club ground.

OBs whose names have also been spotted on the new stadium are Tony Hilton (Gordon, 1945-1950), John Rose (School, 1948 – 1951) and his father, A J Rose, Nigel Creese (former staff 1952-1955), Donald Perry. We are sure there will be others.



Future OB Events

Thursday 4th February 2016	Donors' Lunch
Tuesday 9th February 2016	OB and Current Pupils' Speed Networking Event
Thursday 10th March 2016	The Seventh Annual Foundation Lecture
Thursday 21st April 2016	Sir Thomas Cookes Legacy Society Lunch
Saturday 23rd April 2016	Call My Wine Bluff event in the Dining Hall
Saturday 10th September 2016	1960-1969 Leavers' Reunion
Saturday 1st October 2016	2006 Leavers' Reunion

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

Forthcoming Events 2015

DECEMBER

Wednesday 2nd December	Tea and Carols, Old Chapel, 4.00pm
Thursday 3rd December	Prep School Junior Christmas Concert, Cobham Hall, 3.00pm
Tuesday 8th December	Devised Performances GCSE Unit 1a and A2 Unit 3, Drama Studio, 7.00pm
Friday 11th December	Year 3 Woodland Walk Art Exhibition, Maple Hall, from 2.30pm
Friday 11th December	Prep School Senior Christmas Concert, Cobham Hall, 7.00pm
Saturday 12th December	Festive Ladies' Lunch, Hospitality Suite 12.00pm
Monday 14th December	Pre-Prep PA Christmas Shopping Event, 8.30am-11.30am
Monday 14th December	Senior School Christmas Concert, Routh Hall, 7.00pm
Tuesday 15th December	Mulled Wine & Mince Pies, TC parents, Thomas Cookes
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Carol Services in the Memorial Chapel: Prep 12.00pm; Senior 2.00pm/3.15pm
Wednesday 16th December	Lyttelton House Mulled Wine and Mince Pies, the Old Police Station, after Chapel Services
Wednesday 16th December	School House Mulled Wine and Mince Pies, after Chapel Services