



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

# Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

MICHAELMAS 2016  
ISSUE 2



The Chicken electric kitcar winning team

## A word from the Headmaster

A crisp weekend in late October and the Rockingham Motor Speedway was alive. Fans filed into the stands opposite the starting grid, while the Pit Lane bustled with the vibrant energy of over 80 race teams. Clad in professional team uniforms, highly-focussed drivers surveyed the track and mentally prepared for a slick change over. Equal anticipation sat on the faces of engineers and mechanics. Hunched over screens streaming live lap data, strategists and team bosses conferred. The tension was high; so too the air of professionalism.

It could have been any international motor sport meet but for one quirk. It was completely silent. No roar of V8's as the cars streaked past the stands. No squeal of tires. No shriek of gear changes. Welcome to the Greenpower Electric Kit Car Final, where amateur teams from all over the world gathered

to race home-built, battery-powered race cars. Perhaps not quite the speeds of a Formula One race (although they do still fly along at 30-40mph), these electric racing machines are every bit as sophisticated in other respects. So too their teams. The whole enterprise is an inspired project to engage young people in engineering and its success is phenomenal.

How proud then, to report that Bromsgrove School's entry, the Chicken, ended this year's race season at the International Finals by placing fourth in the world. Now in its fifth year, the Chicken is the result of a remarkable collaboration by an eclectic group of pupils, whose diversity is their greatest strength. Boarding and Day, British and International, boys and girls, all ages and a range of interests. Like any successful team, membership is refreshed regularly,

with old hands passing on wisdom gained through experience. The result? Team Chicken annually designs, builds, tests, refines and then races a battery-powered racer which speeds around professional race circuits leaving others in a cloud of feathers.

The cabinet of silverware amassed by this team of proud Bromsgrovians is impressive. Yet for all the trophies, it is the mutual trust, resilient determination, optimistic ambition, co-operative spirit, and ever-present good humour which regularly earns Team Chicken the respect of the School.

You can watch The Chicken in action by visiting <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HvmXca8pbeY>

Peter Clague  
HEADMASTER

# Inter-House Song



Congratulations to Hazeldene House who won the Inter-House Song Competition with their rendition of *Empire State of Mind*, Mary Windsor who won the Best Creative Performance Prize and Tom Muir of School House who won the Conductor's Prize for leading his House, dressed as a lobster, in a feel-good version of *Under the Sea*.

The competition is uploaded to YouTube and we are delighted to report that we received a total of 1,500 views during the broadcast and just after it had finished, with viewers from as far away as the USA and Kenya.



# Thousands of Stories



A new Archive Club has begun this term, led by School Archivist, Nikki Thorpe. Interested students in the Fourth and Fifth Form are learning the archive skills of conservation, cataloguing and documenting, in order to preserve archive material and to capture and share stories about the School's history in creative and interesting ways.

The group of eight young archivists are also enjoying being responsible for the *#ThrowbackThursday* tweet on the School's Twitter account and finding, to their surprise, some resonance in accounts of school life by their predecessors, detailed in the student magazine *The Hornet* from the early 1900s.

## Year 3 Mummies

Year 3 enjoyed a wonderful visit to Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery finding out about all of the genuine Ancient Egyptian artefacts in the Egyptian Gallery. They participated in an exciting workshop, which allowed them to get hands-on with all of the fun and gruesome jobs that come with the task of mummification. From pulling out brains to finding out what a mummy smells like, the children enjoyed discovering why the Egyptians made mummies, and uncovered the belief system that went with the Egyptian ritual of mummification.



## Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert

Congratulations to maths teacher, Emma Johnston, who has been announced as one of Microsoft's Innovative Educator (MIE) Experts, joining the worldwide MIE Expert programme.

Each year, Microsoft selects innovative educators to share ideas, try new approaches and learn from each other as a global community dedicated to improving student outcomes through technology.

Emma is delighted to be an MIE and said, "The role will enable me to further enhance teaching and learning at Bromsgrove School, support and inspire our staff and students in using digital technology and work with staff from local schools. The use of technology in learning can help to foster strong skills of independence, collaboration and adaptability: skills that will allow students to fit better in tomorrow's world. Many of our students will work in careers that don't yet exist, solving problems and using technologies that we don't yet recognise".



As an MIE Expert, educators build their capacity for using technology in both the classroom and curriculum to improve student learning, advise Microsoft and educational institutions on how to integrate technology in pedagogically sound ways and be an advocate at conferences, events and training on how Microsoft technology can improve learning.

## Cricket

Congratulations to Jordan Smith who was selected to play for Bermuda in the ICC World Cricket League Division 4 event over half term. The event, hosted by the USA for the first time took place in Los Angeles.



## Jazz Gig

The building developments currently being made to Routh Hall mean that our musicians are having to be creative in finding performance spaces, and the inaugural Jazz Gig in the Hospitality Suite was a good example of this.

The informal gig proved to be a sensational evening of musical performances from a very wide range of our talented musicians from across both Prep and Senior Schools. Soloists, small jazz combos of all ages and the marvellous Big Band all wowed their audience in great style.

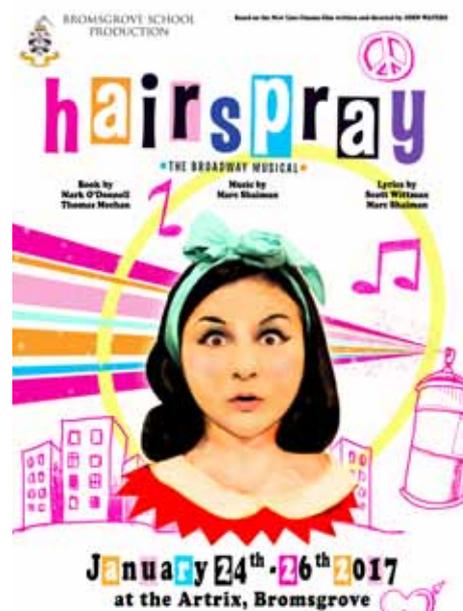


## Heavenly Hereford

Chamber Choir sang Evensong wonderfully at Hereford Cathedral. They fully deserved the complimentary comments of the congregation.

## Hairspray

The hit Broadway musical comes to Bromsgrove in January. Rehearsals are already well underway for the Senior School's musical to be performed at the Artrix Theatre on 24th, 25th & 26th January. Tickets will be available from the Artrix Box Office.



## Spanish Sport

Twenty-nine Prep School pupils and four staff travelled to Spain and Gibraltar for a hockey and netball tour. Matches were played against Malaga Hockey Club and local clubs in Gibraltar and they had a training session at the Victoria Stadium.

During the visit the party also visited the infamous Rock where they took some monkey 'selfies' with the Rock's natives. They spent some time in the cave area and went on a Dolphin Cruise and of course managed to fit in a shopping spree.



## Author

Senior School pupils were delighted to be treated to a workshop by Johanna Handley, author of *The Burning of Juniper Slaide*. Johanna talked about what had inspired her to write her first novel and gave the budding young authors tips on how to write: "When you create a character, try to change their life on the very first page". Johanna, a full-time writer lives in Qatar and has already penned her second novel - *The Lancaster Readers*.



## Transatlantic Messages

Year 1 went transatlantic when they used Skype to share lessons with children in a class in Ohio. The first lesson was understanding the time difference between the classes - the American class had only just arrived at school whereas our Year 1 were nearly ready to go home. The children introduced themselves, enjoyed listening to each other's different accents, discussed what they have for lunch and our class sang one of the Harvest songs they had learned.





## IAM RoadSmart

Representatives from IAM RoadSmart presented to an audience of parents and students about road safety. According to the Department for Transport, younger drivers are more likely to face issues relating to speed, recklessness or vehicle control. Setting the right attitudes for a safe and enjoyable driving career is important and this is where IAM RoadSmart promotes the benefits of learning to drive at an earlier age.

Eloise Peabody learnt to drive at the U17 club and she has driven Aston Martins, trucks, even a London Bendy Bus. David Smith, the Chairman of the Redditch and Bromsgrove Advanced Motorists Group, hosted the second part of the evening on dealing with how external and in-car distractions impact on driving, and how the actions of others can greatly influence how young people will eventually drive.



## German Exchange

The German exchange group from the Gymnasium Hermannswerder in Potsdam visited us just before half term. They enjoyed a trip to Oxford where they looked around various university buildings, including a tour of New College where they were excited to identify all the locations used in the Harry Potter films! We look forward to our pupils visiting Germany later in the year to meet their new friends again.



## Orchard Project

Budding horticulturalists at Bromsgrove Pre-Prep and Prep School have started to plant an orchard with the help of the School's grounds staff. The aim of the project is to try and encourage and help wildlife on all of the School sites. The projects include planting a wild flower meadow, replacing wooden fence panels for hedge rows and planting areas to encourage pollinating insects.

It is hoped that over the next two years, fifty varieties of apple, plum and pear trees will be planted. The fruit trees that have been chosen are the best of Worcestershire's traditional varieties, grafted onto a resilient modern root stock – a great metaphor to define Bromsgrove School.



## Rugby Tour

During the half term break the U15 rugby team enjoyed a 5-day tour to Ireland playing against two of the best teams in their age group, Cistercian College and Blackrock College.



## Time Travel

Year 3 pupils were surprised by an unexpected visit from Professor McGinty, the world famous time-travelling detective, who had decided to visit Prep School to tell them the story of his amazing adventures in Ancient Egypt. He brought with him his 'mobile museum', giving the children chance to examine, touch and experience objects that would normally be found out of reach in a glass case. The children thought that Professor McGinty was very interesting and funny, and had a very entertaining and exciting morning with him. The pupils all agreed that they hope to meet him again one day!



## Classics Club

Prep Classics Club met for a 'Day at the Roman Races'; where they learned about the dangers and thrills of the chariot races at the Circus Maximus.

## Classicists in Greece

Senior School students enjoyed the opportunity to see classical Greek art and architecture in its original environment, gaining an appreciation of the variety of sanctuaries in locations as far-spread as Delphi, Olympia and Epidavros. Highlights included racing Bromsgrove's own stade-race on the original stadium used for the ancient Olympic games and walking through the famous Lion Gate of Agamemnon at Mycenae.





## Feminism

Bromsgrove Service and CAS (for the IBDP) pupils in the Fifth and Sixth Form have been leading sessions with Year 7 and 8 Gifted and Talented pupils. The most recent session focussed on the question 'what is feminism?' The senior pupils gave a brief overview of feminism including explaining the three waves of feminism and some lively discussion followed on the role of feminism today and whether feminism equals power. The session was rounded off by linking it back to the term's discussion topic of the novel *The Hunger Games*.



## Love it or Hate it?

The Marmite Academically Gifted and Talented students from Year 4 to Upper Sixth gathered for the first Marmite Movie and Pizza evening of the year. Timing was apt, given the resolution of the national crisis which was 'Marmitegate'. With Hallowe'en in sight, and a shared love for classical mythology and special effects (especially skeletons), the movie chosen was *Jason and the Argonauts* (1963). This vintage classic has influenced films including *Percy Jackson*, *Harry Potter*, *300*, and *Titans* films, and showcases the remarkable stop-action animation skills of Ray Harryhausen.

This film was particularly apt for the study themes of *What Remains*, and *Nature and Culture*. The Fourth and Fifth Form students are addressing the task of the academic – to interpret remains – through Palaeontology, Sherlock Holmes and Medieval painting. The Sixth Form focus is on critical strategies for that interpretation – including work by Barthes, Marx, Woolf and Belsey – whilst studying texts including *The Tempest*, *Frankenstein*, *Romantic Ballet*, *Barbie*, *Donnie Darko* and *The Matrix*.



## Nutritional Advice

Amy Roberts, a nutritionist from our caterers, Holroyd Howe, spoke to Year 10 and 11 sports students about healthy diets. Amy will be spending more time with pupils in the coming weeks, advising students on healthy living and preparing for them cooking at university.

Amy also visited Years 6, 7 and 8 to talk to them about how a healthy diet promotes well-being. Amy was impressed by the enthusiasm and knowledge our pupils already have about nutrition.



## Photo Competition

Pupils were invited to submit their original works to the Physical Geography Photography Competition. The winning photo by Matt Finlay was of the mountains and lakes in Andorra, second place showing a moss hydrosere in the Chūbu-Sangaku National Park, was submitted by Tiffanie Tseng and third place went to Ruby Ngan for a wonderful photo of the Niagara Falls.

## OB Netball



The OB Netball teams played their annual game against the School in early October. The OB A team lost against the School 1st team 22 - 44. The OB B team won 32-26. The teams enjoyed a meal in the new Dining Hall after their exertions. Anyone interested in joining the OB Netball Team, should email [oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk) who will pass your contact details on to the club.

## BSA visitor

Old Bromsgrovian Robin Fletcher, Chief Executive of the Boarding Schools' Association, visited the School in October to meet with Mr Hallows and Bromsgrove's Houseparents. Robin is a former pupil of our Preparatory School.



# Forthcoming Events 2016

## NOVEMBER

Friday 11	Remembrance Day ceremony at the Flagpole, 10.55am
Saturday 12	Sixth Form Open Morning
Sunday 13	Remembrance Day School Services, 9.50am and 10.50am
Thursday 17	Prep House Singing Competition Final
Thursday 17	UVI Interview Evening
Friday 18	School House Quiz Night, Hospitality Suite, 7.00pm
Saturday 19	String Orchestra and Brass Ensemble Coffee Concert, St John's Church, 11.00am
Tuesday 22	Informal Concert, Old Chapel, 5.30pm
Tuesday 22	IB Information Evening for Fifth Form Parents, 7.30pm
Thursday 24, Fri 25 & Sat 26	Year 8 Production of Twelfth Night, Senior Drama Studio, 7.00pm
Thursday 24	Senior Next Step Conference for LVI Parents, LRC, 7.30pm
Thursday 24	Prep Year 3 String Recital, 4.00pm
Friday 25	Pre-Prep and Prep PA Quiz Night, Hospitality Suite

## DECEMBER

Thursday 1	Prep Junior Christmas Concert, venue TBC, 3.00pm
Friday 2	Senior Open Mic Night, Hospitality Suite, 7.00pm
Monday 5	CCF Recruits Passing Out Parade
Wednesday 7	Pre-Prep Reception Nativity, School Hall, 9.15am
Thursday 8	Pre-Prep Reception Nativity, School Hall, 9.15am
Thursday 8	Senior Christmas Concert, Arena, 7.00pm
Friday 9	Prep Christmas Concert, venue TBC, 7.00pm
Monday 12	CCF Final Parade
Wednesday 14	Prep Carol Service, Memorial Chapel, 12.00 noon
Wednesday 14	School House mince pies and mulled wine, 2.30pm onwards
Wednesday 14	Senior Carol Services, Memorial Chapel, UIV & LIV 2.00pm, UVI, LVI, V 3.15pm
Wednesday 14	Term ends