



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

# Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

MICHAELMAS 2019  
ISSUE 2



## A word from the Headmaster

Among my many grumbles about the mainstream news media is their rather lazy habit of throwing in stock clichés whenever referring to an Independent School in an article. Whatever the story is actually about (and especially if it has a negative slant), journalists find it almost obligatory to include the School's tuition fees, how many leafy acres it occupies, and the names of any famous alumni that Wikipedia may throw up. Aside from being a rather shallow way to describe a complex organisation, reeling off a list of high profile past pupils seems to imply that the things for which they are famous are the only hallmarks of the School. I've yet to read a news article which says, "Past pupils of the School include thousands of reliable fathers, pioneering women, dependable colleagues, trustworthy friends, and quietly understated servants of the local community."

Which is not to suggest in any way that Bromsgrove is not proud of its better-known alumni. Two sell-out concerts to hear Old Bromsgrovian John Illsley, co-founder of the legendary band Dire Straits, was testimony to that. Equal esteem was shown to his old schoolmate Nicholas Evans, author of the international bestselling novel *The Horse Whisperer* who appeared onstage with him. I will happily take any reflected glory for the School that these two creative giants may confer.

Yet, as I said in welcoming them both, the School probably couldn't lay too much claim to their stellar musical and literary careers. Indeed, as they chatted together in front of the enthralled audience, they recalled that Bromsgrove in the Sixties was not necessarily a fertile bed of rock 'n roll rebellion.

What did bring great pride though, was their generous acknowledgement that they had both been shaped for the good by the values and standards instilled during their time here. Humility about their respective global successes, gratitude for the disciplines forged in their schooldays, and extraordinary generosity (both made sizable personal donations to the Foundation, on top of giving so freely of their time and talent); surely these were true hallmarks of Bromsgrove's legacy?

Peter Clague  
HEADMASTER

## U16 Tennis

The U16 girls' tennis team qualified for the Aegon Regional Finals by beating a very strong King's High Warwick team 5 sets to 1. The team of Josie Ward, Izzy O'Connor, Kelly Lin and Grace Richardson are now one of the top three schools in the West Midlands and this win gave them a chance to gain a place to play at the National Finals.

At the Regional Finals, in an incredibly tense match, the score was level after 6 sets so a championship tie-break had to be played. Josie Ward and Kelly Lin fought hard but lost 10-8 to the eventual winners and, therefore, missed out on qualification for the National Finals by the smallest of margins.

Josie and Izzy O'Connor had played extremely well winning both their



singles matches as well as their doubles matches together. Well done

to all the girls on coming so close and finishing in the top 16 nationally.

## Cross-Country

Congratulations to the Prep Junior boys' team who have qualified for the English Schools Cross-Country Cup National Final, which will take place at Mount St Mary's College, Derbyshire in December. The boys ran superbly, coming runners up in the Midland Regional Final in Warwickshire with individual positions as follows from the 84 runners who took part: William Pridden - 4th, Alexander Lobban - 6th, Oliver Dieppe - 10th. With these results, Bromsgrove has become the only boys' school team in the region to have qualified for the 2019 ESAA National Final in Track and Field and the Cross Country Cup at this age group. We wish them all the best in the National Final.





## Images of Geography

The Geography department received some stunning entries in the annual Geographical Association photograph competition. With such a wide range of entries from all around the world in many different environments, judging was exceptionally difficult. First place awarded to Georgia Hancox for this superb photograph of a coastal environment of the famous Devil's Bridge Arch on the Atlantic coast in Antigua. A selection of the photographs are on display in the Geography department.



## Pony Tales

Chloe Chan and her pony Waitwith Choice (Mary) have had an extremely successful season in 2019, winning multiple titles.

The highlight of the year came in achieving an amazing 3rd place in the 122cm Working Hunter Pony class at the Horse of the Year Show where Chloe was competing against the top 17 adult section. Mary jumped a beautiful clear round, placing the duo just one point from 2nd place.



## Swans on the Move

We are delighted that some of the swans made by Year 7 pupils are to be included in a themed display at the town library.

The swans' migration is part of a *Twelve Days of Christmas* display.

# Prep Rugby Tour



All the boys and staff who participated in the Prep sports tour to Venice had an amazing and memorable trip.

Everyone agreed that the tour highlight was the final fixture versus Grifoni Oderzo Rugby Club in the heartland of Italian rugby. The Bromsgrove team showed great courage and

perseverance in this very close match to edge out the opponent in a memorable win for all involved.

As well as training sessions and matches for both hockey and rugby, the tour included time for exploring the beautiful city of Padua, some retail therapy including sampling some

excellent local ice cream and visits to the beach.

Many thanks to teachers Mr Jones, Mr Lane, Mr Kippax and Mr Sutherland who made sure the tour ran smoothly.



## IAPS Regional Hockey



Well done to the girls' U13A hockey team who finished in third place at the IAPS regional hockey tournament and have therefore qualified for the National Finals. Bromsgrove finished second in their group, then progressed to the quarter-final where they beat St Olaves 1-0. At the end of full time in the semi final, it was 1-1 against Foremarke but unfortunately Bromsgrove conceded in the final seconds of the game. The girls played some excellent attacking hockey in the 3rd/4th playoff to beat Fettes 2-1 and so qualify for the finals.



## Brilliant Biathlete

Congratulations to Natalie Hatfield who was selected for the Great Britain team in the Biathlete & Triathlete (part of Modern Pentathlon) World Championships. Natalie won the U17 individual Biathlete and the Biathlete mixed relay. The U17 girls also won team gold meaning that Natalie is a triple world champion, a truly outstanding achievement. The Prep School team of Charissa Brobbery-

## Worcester Netball Tournament

Well done to the 1st netball team, who came second at the University of Worcester netball tournament. They competed against some very tough club teams and just narrowly missed out (22-21) to the hosts who were the winners.

Congratulations to Bromsgrove player, Louisa Maynard who was crowned player of the tournament.





## Global Voices

Global Voices have been focussing on the Arabic language and culture.

As well as learning basic Arabic phrases and looking at some Arabic script, pupils have investigated the countries around the world that speak Arabic, looking at their geographical details, traditional dress, customs and pastimes.

The enthusiastic pupils have also learnt about some traditional Arabic dishes and enjoyed an Arabic lunch, which allowed them to sample some of the recipes.

## Gardening Award

We are delighted that our Prep School gardening club have achieved The RHS Level 2 Gardening Award. Congratulations to all involved.



## Applied Science



Year 1 enjoyed using the virtual-tee app by curiscope to find out more about the human body in science lessons.



## Pupil Voice

Pupil Voice in the Prep School has started with a new committee of representatives for the 2019-2020 academic year. Regular lunchtime meetings take place where these representatives, from the both the day and boarding communities and from

all year groups, enjoy a special meal together to discuss any issues raised.

Pupil Voice members will be forming working parties to address matters highlighted both by the survey conducted last year and those raised

so far this year as being important to pupils.

Representatives will feed back to their year groups through meetings as well as through the intranet and on the Pupil Voice notice board.



## Silver Slater Boys

Congratulations to brothers Freddie and Alfie Slater, who both raced into silver medal places at the Lame International Karting World Championships in Le Mans recently.

Freddie's aim was to beat last year's second place finish in the same competition; he was leading for the majority of the week and regularly posted the fastest times in his group, only to end up on the grass in the final race. In the space of two laps, Freddie amazingly came back from ninth position to finish in second place, equalling his 2018 performance.

Younger brother Alfie meanwhile, was racing in the Cadet category, and finished just 0.127 seconds behind the winning driver, to match his brother's feat in taking a silver medal.



## Community Sing

Music for the Residents is run as part of the School's service activity. The School has an extensive service programme, where students contribute to the wider community.

Dr Thompson, director of the

International Baccalaureate at School, and a keen musician, formed and runs this activity where students visit local residential homes to provide musical entertainment. The style of music varies from folk, to classical, to popular ballads from the 1950s.

The activity sessions are enjoyed by the residents and pupils alike and residents are always keen to join in the singing.

## Yale Experience

625 Scholars from 60 countries representing the 'best of the best' scholars from around the world arrived at Yale University to compete in the Tournament of Champions. Bromsgrove's senior school team of George Hastings, Shaan Sanghera and Nicholas Hunt did well and positioned overall at 120 out of over 500 teams.

They also won twenty-five medals including five gold and twenty silver for both individual and team efforts from the different categories. Sadly they didn't win any trophies or special awards but the team enjoyed their experience, learnt a lot and met some new overseas friends.

This was the first time Bromsgrove School had entered any teams and only five UK schools were represented at this Tournament of Champions, so it really was a remarkable achievement.



The Prep School team of Charissa Brobbery-Sarpong, Ruvimbo Madzingo and Edward Hu were also competing at Yale in the Junior Division. The team all thoroughly enjoyed the atmosphere of the Global round and their efforts and hard work saw them come home with seven medals in total between them.

The Prep team engaged fully across all the academic, cultural and social activities which formed part of the main themes for the Scholar's Cup. The teamwork, the opportunity to mix with other youngsters from over 50 cultures, a tour around Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Harvard University and attending the scholar's ball all added to the pupils' sense of their own achievement and they all voiced their appreciation at being given the opportunity to take part in this fantastic event.





## Honorary Scholars

Congratulations to James Bateman, Ella Li, Hugh Abraham, Elizabeth Aston, Sakeenah Binte Syed Muhammad, Yilia Chen, Matthew Cheng, Sadie Gardner, Lucia Goodwin, Nikhil Gour, Josh Lawson, Hermione Lawther, Lauren McLean, Harrison Meadows, Max Opegeym, Oliver Owen, Radu Polschi, Jessica Rai, Max Rusling, Hamish Sutherland, Tavleen Toor, Karin Petrescu, Tundun Soyebó and Tom Stephens who have all been formally congratulated and recognised by the School as Honorary Academic Scholars.

This follows them all achieving outstanding results in their GCSE examinations and the commitment shown by them to academic excellence.



## Ballet Dream

Prep pupil Isla Bird has successfully auditioned for a part in Birmingham Royal Ballet's *Swan Lake Dreams*, a large scale performance project where she will dance on the Hippodrome stage, including the famous Dance of the Cygnets, alongside some of the company dancers in February 2020.

Isla is a student of Elite Performing Arts and also a Junior Associate of both Elmhurst and Royal Ballet Schools.

## CCF Field Day

Cadets in the Upper Fourth attended a CCF Field Day at Peck Wood Activity centre. Once there, they were split into platoons for the day and set about rotating through seven different activities which included basha building, ration cooking, camouflage and concealment, first aid, navigation, weapons training and a STEM activity provided by 37 Signal Regiment.



# Bromsgrovian News



## OB Lodge

While the School was evacuated to Wales during the Second World War, the OB Lodge was assisted by the Loyal Wye Lodge, based in Builth Wells. This created a bond which has stretched across time and is still strong today, with both groups visiting each other's meetings despite the distance involved.

On the evening shown, Christopher Price not only celebrated his Birthday but also renewed his acquaintance with Colin Bradley, who he has known for over 60 years. The OB Lodge presented Colin with some edited highlights from the original Lodge Minutes book which had been signed by his father George.

## Brothers in Arms

We were delighted that Old Bromsgrovians Nicholas Evans and John Illsley visited us for two special concerts. The audiences were thrilled to see these two iconic Old Bromsgrovians in the beautiful and intimate surroundings of the new Routh Concert Hall.



The evenings featured classics from the Dire Straits catalogue and included a Q & A by Paul Cummins (ex-Dire Straits management), leading the audience on a journey from the band's humble beginnings in South London, where songs like Sultans of Swing and Wild West End were created, to playing all over the world to millions of fans.

John and fellow Old Bromsgrovian Nicholas Evans, renowned author of the Horse Whisperer, recounted tales of their school days - much to the audience's amusement, including some previously unheard stories of their antics and memories of the School. We are very grateful to John and Nick for giving up their time for us. The proceeds raised from this event will go to the School Foundation's life-changing bursaries scheme, giving the gift of a Bromsgrove education to children who would otherwise not be able to attend the School.

## WW2 Book



Bromsgrove School was deeply affected by the two world wars. In the first conflict 96 Old Bromsgrovians died and in the second 103.

After publishing a history of the School and the Great War in 2014, former Deputy Headmaster Philip Bowen has now published his second volume, 'Bromsgrove School at War and in Wales 1939-45.'

The book launch took place in Routh Hall to an audience of the families of those affected and current and former members of the School. Mr Bowen was assisted in his presentation by former staff members Mr Andrew Maund and Mrs Catherine Maund and by the current Deputy Head Mr Al McClure.

The book is available to buy in the School Shop priced at £20. Contact the shop on 01527 579679 ext 220 to buy a copy.

## Moving the Sledge

In early November, our sledge, used on Scott's Antarctic Expedition, was successfully moved to its new home in the Archive and Heritage Centre. This treasured item was expertly moved by C'Art and is now encased in a bespoke new cabinet which will help preserve it. This was a very special moment in the School's history and we look forward to officially opening the Heritage Centre to the OBs and the School community next year.

