



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

COMMEMORATION DAY

SATURDAY JUNE 29TH 2024

Commemoration Day is the Senior School's traditional end of year celebration. It is a very special day for the School and especially for our Upper Sixth Leavers. Commemoration Day is the most important day in our School year and all pupils are expected to attend. In 1693 Sir Thomas Cookes re-endowed the School and enjoined that once a year a sermon should be preached to the Scholars of the School in St John's Parish Church. It is this that the School commemorates as well as celebrating the end of the academic year with prizegiving.

Following a very small private ceremony in Cookes Room celebrating our founder Sir Thomas Cookes, the senior pupils (Fifth and Sixth Form) proceed to St John's Church for the Commemoration Service. Parents of Upper Sixth Pupils will be invited to apply for tickets for the Church Service from Mr McClure's office. As space is very limited in the Church, admission is by ticket only and is limited to two tickets per family. Upper Sixth parents will receive a letter with all the information required to reserve their tickets for the Service. If you have any queries about Church Service tickets please email commemoration@bromsgrove-school.co.uk

After the Church Service everyone returns to School and takes their place in the speeches' marquee. The School and parents are addressed by the President of the School and the Headmaster. Prizes are awarded to Upper Sixth Leavers and other pupils.

Lunch and various displays and events then happen around the School grounds and at 4.15pm all pupils attend Final Call-Over.



SPEECHES AND PRIZEGIVING

Speeches take place in the marquee on Routh Green, and all parents and friends of Bromsgrove are welcome to attend. Parents are asked to be seated no later than 11.50am - the Marquee begins to fill up from 11.30am.

During the Speech Day Ceremony the President, Vice Presidents, Governors and Trustees of Bromsgrove School are in attendance to witness the awarding of the end of year prizes including seven special prizes. Prize Giving finishes at about 1.00pm and is followed by lunch in your chosen venue.

WHAT OPTIONS ARE THERE FOR LUNCH?

After speeches, everyone enjoys lunch before Final Call-Over, and we very much encourage you to make the afternoon a family occasion.

The **School PA** organise an excellent **lunch in the Parents' Association Marquee** on Gordon Green. Pre-booking is essential. You will be charged for meals booked as an extra on your School fee invoice. A letter with information about making a reservation for the PA Marquee will be sent out after half term.

Many Houses have a **House marquee** on Lower Charford, by the Cricket pitch where you can take lunch. Your child's Houseparent will be able to give you information about arrangements for their marquee since all the Houses look after this through their individual House Parents' Association.

Many parents and friends **relax in pre-booked gazebos** on Lower Charford. Information about booking Gazebos will be sent to parents.

A **picnic zone** is set up on the grassed area on Lower Charford for families who may either bring their own picnic or take advantage of one of the excellent outside suppliers who join us for the day.

This year we have **mobile catering from local suppliers** for you to enjoy including: **Fish and Chips** from Our Plaice, Hagley; Wood Fired Pizza freshly cooked by **Pizza Heaven**; **Bayleys of Bromsgrove** are bringing their popular prosecco and cocktail bar; the **Fizz Truck** will be selling champagne drinks and the ever-popular **ice cream van** will be serving chilled treats and **new this year** - freshly made lemonade. All these options are reasonably priced and no pre-ordering is required.

Any unaccompanied pupils may have lunch in the Dining Hall at 1.00pm. They must sign up for this in advance through their House. Houseparents can advise about this.

At 3.30pm, afternoon tea will be served on Gordon Green for parents.

WHAT OTHER EVENTS HAPPEN ON THE DAY?

After speeches and lunch there is the opportunity to walk around the School grounds and enjoy some of the extra events we will be running.

The traditional **Challenge Cricket Match** of U15 v U14 XI teams starts at 2.00pm (weather allowing).

There will be an **end of year exhibition** of pupils work in the ADT building.

The **Heritage Centre** will be open with a display of historical artefacts and OB memorabilia and the opportunity to use the the interactive displays and to see exhibition work by our Archive Club students.

At 3.30pm the **Jazz Band** will perform in the Band Stand on Gordon Green.



OLD BROMSGROVIANS

we are delighted that many Old Bromsgrovians choose to join us for the day and we welcome them to enjoy hospitality in the OB marquee on Lower Charford. *Please contact the Old Bromsgrovia Office to let us know if you are intending to come to Commemoration so that we can allow sufficient catering.*

Many OBs also bring picnics or purchase snacks and drinks from the street food stalls.



DRESS CODE

The dress code for parents is formal day wear – hats are not a pre-requisite but many of our ladies do wear them.

The dress code for pupils is summer uniform, with boaters required for the Lower Fourth, Upper Fourth, Fifth Form and for Sixth Form boys. Girls in the Sixth Form wear smart formal dress or skirt/trouser combinations with a jacket and a hat or modest headpiece. Some Sixth Formers wear their traditional national dress.

Guidelines regarding the Commemoration Day dress code for Sixth Formers are published on the School website, Houseparent or the Senior Master or Senior Mistress are happy to advise if you are unsure.



CALL OVER

At 4.15pm the Chapel Bell begins to toll, calling the School to Final Call Over. This traditional end to the year sees all the pupils line up in Houses on the Parade Ground between Kyteless and the Chapel with their Houseparents, Housemothers and Tutors. Each House in turn moves forward and every pupil shakes hands with their House staff, the Heads of School and the Headmaster. Boaters must be worn by all pupils (except Sixth Form girls), unless a School Cap has been awarded, in which case pupils may wear their colours cap.

The final ceremony of the day is the lowering of the School flag by the Heads of School. The flag is folded and handed to the Headmaster, who in turn hands it to the Deputy Head for safekeeping until the start of the next academic year. This is a fitting, traditional and moving end to the School Year.

WHEN DO PUPILS LEAVE?

Pupils are free to leave after Final Call-Over at around 5.15pm. Upper Sixth Leavers and their parents are invited to a brief farewell celebration after Final Call-Over on the Green outside Wendron-Gordon (or if the weather is inclement in the Kyteless Marquee), where they will be able to say goodbye to their teachers and friends.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

If you have any specific questions about the day, please email commemoration@bromsgrove-school.co.uk or contact your child's House for more details. Useful documents about Commemoration Day can be found in the Resources section of the website.



