



Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

LENT 1 2022



A Word from the Headmaster

In the face of the discord wrought over the past two years by pandemic waves, political storms, and now the winds of war, there is a certain reassurance to be had in the seasonal certainty of the School's natural environment. Despite the tribulations that may befall its human inhabitants, the cycles that govern its flora and fauna remain untroubled. Especially now, as Winter slowly gives way to Spring and the whole Bromsgrove estate burgeons with the promise of renewal. From the oldest stalwarts, like the Gnarled Oak that has stood watch over every rugby match ever played on Lower Charford since the invention of the game, greening anew, as it has done every year for the past three centuries. To perennial

favourites, like the banks of daffodils that herald the advent of Spring along Masters' Walk. However gloomy the social landscape has been in recent time, the natural one calls out to remind us that life, in all its irrepressible beauty, goes on.

The School's wildlife echoes that refrain as the sun returns and the days lengthen. Squirrel families re-emerge, young kits exploring the grounds with the same youthful mix of trepidation and joy as any new pupil. Our resident birds of prey reappear in lazy circles over Gordon Green. The sage grey heron returns to its annual stalking of our ponds, now teaming with life. Overhead, in crooks of ancient trees and oblivious to any concerns of

those who hurry by on the pavements below, nest-building is commencing with industry and efficiency that would make the Bursar proud.

After the grey, enforced hibernation of the pandemic years, there is encouragement to be had from Nature's insistence that life must, and will, go on. We are blessed to live and work in such an affirming environment; pausing to admire our natural habitat occasionally offers a well-spring of optimism.

Peter Clague
HEADMASTER

Dramatic Fourth Form

After just three weeks of preparation, almost seventy Fourth Form students presented nine plays to a delighted audience in Cobham Theatre. The event was a triumph for all who participated, with much ingenuity required by several of the Houses to ensure a complete cast could appear onstage. The teamwork, support and good humour between performers and directors was an example of Bromsgrove School at its very best.

From the louche hilarity of Elmshurst's *Dinner For One*, through the slick role-changing shown by the cast of Otilie Hild House in *Shakers*, or the wonderfully dead-pan humour of *The Changing Room*, all the way to the searing intensity of Mary Windsor's *The Crucible*, this was an evening of diverse styles and plays that never failed to entertain.

Head of Drama, Ms Jill Bradford, was given a very difficult task in adjudicating the competition and freely admitted that deciding which play was the best out of such a clutch of excellent pieces was almost impossible.



Awards were as follows:

Best Play

Mary Windsor for *The Crucible*
directed by Ioana Voicu and Sara Popescu

Runner Up Best Play

Elmshurst for *Dinner For One*
directed by Jack Atkinson

Best Actor

Charissa Brobbey-Sarpong

Runner Up Best Actor

Neel Agrawal

Adjudicator's Special Award

Wendron-Gordon

(for most effective physical ensemble playing)

Snow Work

Amber Langford-Fennell took part in the World Rookie Tour in Livigno in Italy. Amber competed in the Grom Women category, coming second in the U16's. This fantastic result has ensured her a place at the finals in April.

Amber has also been in action in ski events - she took part in the Ambition Champs in Austria where she came 5th in the Under 16 Giant Slalom; she visited Switzerland for the Europa Cup Snowboarding competition in Crans Montana, and Bormio in Italy, where she competed in four races at U16 in the English Ski Championships.





Growing Fivers

Year 7 pupils raised a mighty £8672 for the Primrose Hospice whilst showing ingenuity and entrepreneurship by flourishing their fivers as part of their PSHE lessons. From selling colourful origami windmills, knitted hats, scarves and even knitted cats, to having fun with sponge splatting and sponsored events. The pupils all did their bit towards raising this massive amount.

U13 Netball

Congratulations to our U13A netball team who won their match in Round 4 of the Sisters n Sport National Cup Competition, beating Solihull School 35-11. This win means they have now qualified for the quarter finals.

The U13 team were also in top form at the Regional IAPS tournament. They played well in the group matches, not losing a match and scoring 40 goals with only 4 against them. In the quarter final against sister team Winterfold, they played superbly to win 16 - 2 and were then through to the semi-finals against Spratton Hall. This was the girls' toughest match so far, but Bromsgrove found their rhythm to win 11 - 5. In the final against St Hugh's School the girls played their best netball of the day to win the Regional title 15 - 3.

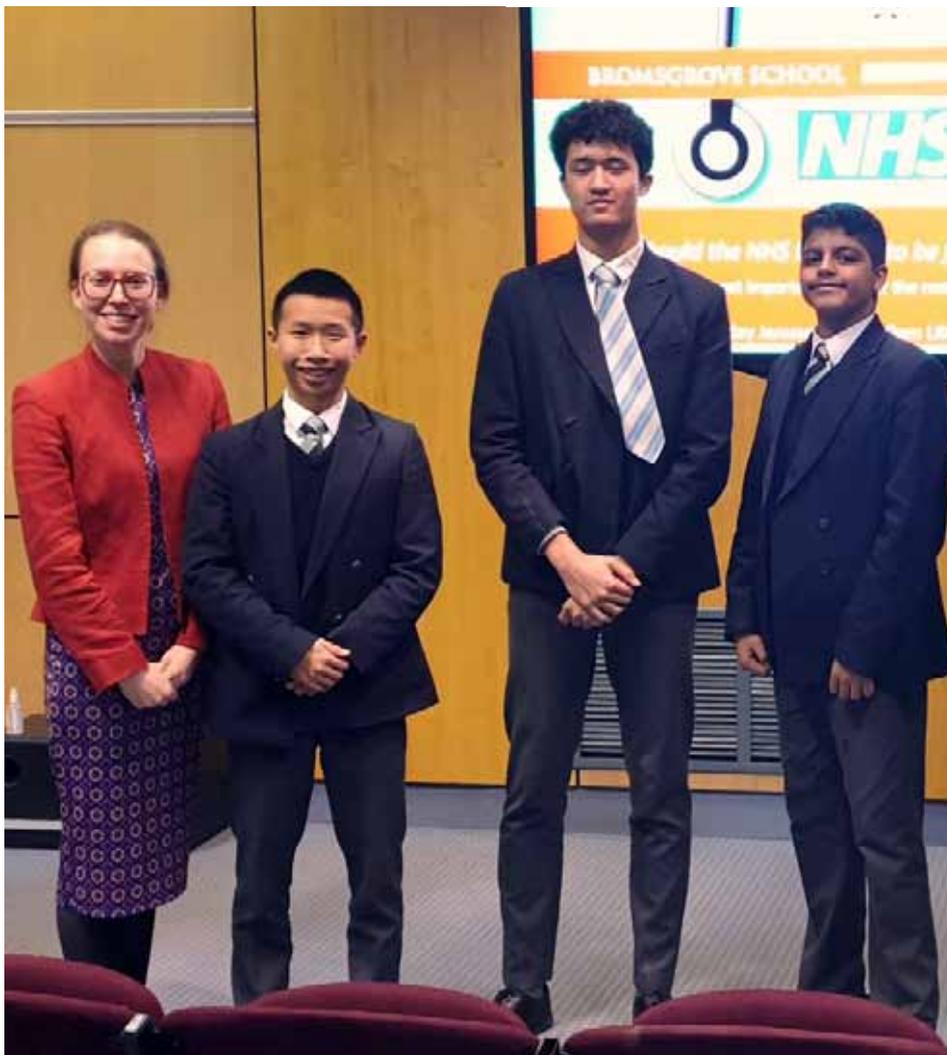
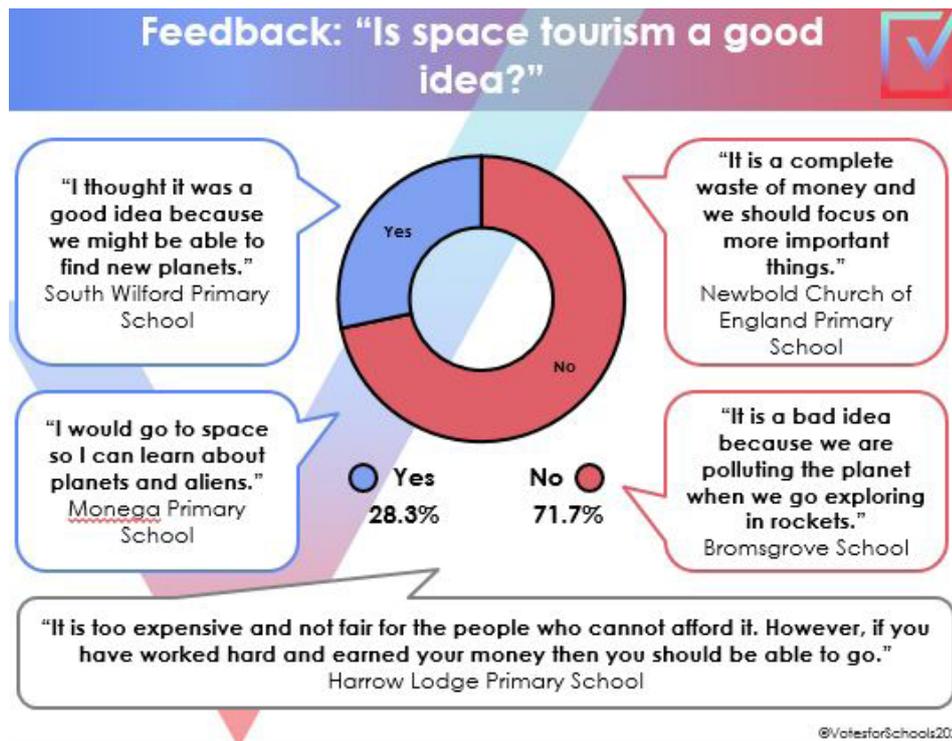
The team amassed an impressive 92 goals and only conceded 14 in all of the six matches played. We look forward to the National Finals to be held in March at Ipswich School.



Voting Rights

Years 5 to 8 have been using the website *Votes for Schools* during their PSHE lessons. This is an international initiative in which hundreds of thousands of children are voting about current issues. Each week a question is put to the pupils; following discussion and activities in the lesson, every child votes on the question and results are submitted together with comments if pupils have any. Two weeks later, the results of the vote and up to six comments from schools are presented at the beginning of the session.

Our pupils were delighted that one of the comments from Bromsgrove Prep was published on the results page. Well done to the Year 5 pupil who put their wise opinion forward in response to the question, 'Is Space Tourism a good idea?'



Research

The fifth annual Research Competition was hosted by Dr Rimmer, Master of Scholars. Teams were asked to prepare a five minute talk, accompanied by a five-slide presentation, to answer the question: **What should the NHS invest in now to be future-proofed for 2030?** This question was designed to task the teams to determine the most important focus for the next decade for healthcare in the UK.

Six teams entered the competition, with participants from Lower Fourth up to Upper Sixth, all demonstrating excellent levels of research and public-speaking skills. The judging panel was chaired by the Headmaster and accompanying judges - Mr Vice (Head of Chemistry) and Mrs Henderson (Wellbeing Nurse).

The winning team was a Fifth Form group of Bowen Cheung, George Hastings, Nicholas Hunt, and Hamza Suleman. They impressed the judges with their pragmatic and fiscally-sound ideas on improving three key areas efficacy, efficiency, and employability. Their prize is a trip to an escape room in Birmingham where they can further develop their outstanding communication and team-working abilities.

Telling Tales

The storytelling workshop at Pre-Prep has been a huge success. Some parents were invited to read their favourite children's book to pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

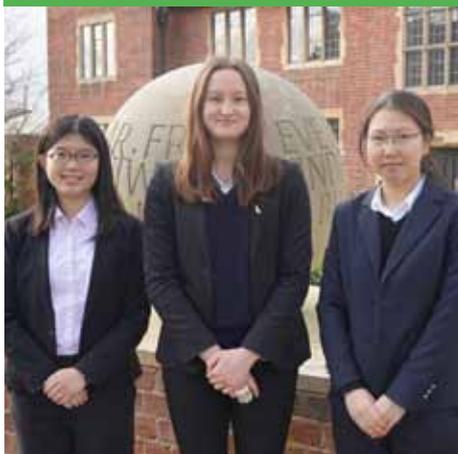
Year 1 children were delighted to share their own favourite books with the Nursery children, and Year 2 each chose a book to read with Reception pupils.



Olympic Physics

This year saw a significant increase in the number of students sitting a very challenging Physics Olympiad paper. All participants did exceptionally well and developed important problem solving skills for the future. Well done to:

- Irene Lo – Silver
- Marcus Wu – Bronze II
- Daniel Costache – Bronze I
- Vicky Hu – Bronze I
- Joelle Booth – Commendation



New Year Honours

To celebrate the Chinese New Year of the Tiger, Prep School photographers were challenged to produce artistic tiger edits in their photography activity.



Bird Watch

As part of the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch, Nursery pupils made bird feeders and enjoyed spotting different birds from the Bird Hide at Pre-Prep.



Heritage Learning

Year 3 visited the Heritage Centre, in the Senior School, as part of their topic on Ice Worlds. During their visit, the School Archivist, Ms Thorpe, told them about the history of Scott's sledge, which is on display in the Centre, and the School's connection to Scott's Antarctic expeditions.



Debating

After six heats of academic debate, the Senior House Debating Competition concluded just before half term. The winners were Lupton House (Edan Blyth and Seb Adams) and the Runners Up were Otilie Hild House (Polly Green and Esme Elwell-Thomas). The best speaker in the competition was Polly Green.



Maths Stars



A number of Senior School pupils scored Gold in the UKMT Senior Mathematics Challenge last November, they were all then invited to enter the follow on Kangaroo or Olympiad rounds. Special mention to Yanbo Dong, who scored the best result in School in the Senior Challenge and also to John Kim and Larry To, who both achieved a Certificate of Distinction.

Singled Out

More news from Darcy Dines (Upper Fourth) and his band, Split Second who have officially released a single, Ciao Bella. You can listen to a preview on the Apple Music site - <https://music.apple.com/gb/album/ciao-bella-single/1608662814>



Ciao Bella - Single

Split Second

POP · 2022

Tennis

Congratulations to Latesha Grant, who has signed a tennis scholarship with Holy Names University, California, USA. This is a fantastic opportunity for Latesha, and we look forward to more news from her in the future.

Eye Nepal



Chef Ben cooked up some Nepalese treats in order to spread awareness for EYE Nepal. EYE Nepal is a small charity dedicated to enhancing the life opportunities of the poorest children in



rural districts of Nepal through better early years education.

An own clothes day at School raised money for the charity. Contributions

raised will enable the renovation of both the Teacher Training facility the charity is investing in, and an After School Club for the lowest caste children in the area it supports.

Hockey

The U13A boys' hockey team took part in the IAPS National Final qualifier at Cheltenham College.

In the group matches, the team beat all three of their opponents, in the quarter-final. They then beat Beaudesert Park 1-0, and in the semi final they won 4-0 against Winchester House.

In the Final, they lost to an exceptionally good team from Downs Prep School, Bristol. However, their impressive second place finish has secured them a place at the National Finals.

Well done to all the squad members: Tristan Shaylor, Seth Benjamin, Henry Foster, MacKenzie Jones, Nicky Harding, Henry Greaves, Harry McGuinness, Yuvraj Sehmi, Monty Cooke, Alfie Higgins.



Jazz Moves

After last year's collaboration between the Prep Jazz Group and Winterfold's Groove Diggers, it was fantastic for them to have another opportunity to jam together. This time Bromsgrove visited Winterfold and received some expert guidance from Mr Price and Mr Cotterill as the two bands worked on a jazz version of Camila Cabelo's *Havana*.

We look forward to further collaboration with the Senior School Big Band later in the term.



Science Writing

Well done to King Sum Tong who has been shortlisted for a Prize at the prestigious National Student Science Essay Competition hosted by MedicineAdmissions.co.uk. King is proving to be a talented scientist with a passion for physiology and immunology.



Treading the Boards

Jack Hobson (Lower Fourth) recently performed as Emile in Laurence Boswell's adaptation of *Beauty & The Beast*. Performances took place in December at the Playbox Theatre in Warwick to a packed houses and received great reviews.



Cricket Tour

Talented cricketer Oliver Davidson represented Scotland in the recent U19s Cricket World cup in the West Indies, where he gave an impressive performance with both bat and ball.

Oliver was the standout performer in the Scotland team, and was ranked in the top 10 all-rounders of the whole tournament.



Photo Credit: Cricket Scotland

Volleyball

Well done to the boys' volleyball team who participated in the first round of the National Competition, qualifying for the next round.



There's a Leak

Years 7 and 8 put on a thoroughly professional performance of the fun play *There's a Leak*, to very appreciative full houses. Mr Amphlett praised the year groups for their hard work and perseverance in putting on this play.



Internet Buddies

Year 6 Buddies enjoyed talking to pupils in Years 3, 4 and 5 about the importance of internet safety. They shared scenarios that could happen online, and discussed what messages would be appropriate to send and not to send. The younger pupils also heard strategies to help them make a safer online space. Some suggestions were to; report, seek help, block the user and save the evidence. Year 6 also talked about the importance of talking to a trusted adult.



Kind Thoughts

Years 3 and 4 designed internet safety posters during Kindness Week. They thought about many important ways to stay safe and have fun online.

Also as part of Kindness week, pupils in those year groups worked hard to collect tokens for kind behaviour as a class. They were promised a special treat if they worked together and achieved twenty tokens throughout the week. The successful classes were thrilled to be rewarded with a hot chocolate station full of delicious toppings.

Planetarium



Year 2 took part in a Planetarium experience when they explored the solar system and the International Space Station, they also learnt about the birth of a star.



Hearts and Flowers



Over one hundred Prep pupils took part in the Prep School Hearts and Flowers Concert.

It was really heartwarming to welcome a full audience back into Routh Hall once more.

Ensembles from Years 3 to 8 took part, showcasing the wide variety of wonderful music being enjoyed by our pupils.



Year 5 Music

Well done to the Year 5 pupils who took to the stage with their Woodwind and Brass instruments, to record a presentation. All the pupils had worked tremendously hard learning new skills on their various Woodwind and Brass instruments, and staff and parents alike were delighted at how well they were able to perform.

Netball

Well done to the 1st team who have made it through to the quarter final of the Sisters n Sport National Cup after beating Wycliffe College 70-15.

It was great to see Issy Eaton, one of our 1st Netball team players in the starting 7 for both of Severn Stars' opening matches in the recent Vitality Netball Superleague.



Athletics



Well done to two of our Year 8 pupils who competed at the England Athletics Indoor Championships.

Isabella Davies (who also runs for Birchfield Harriers) won bronze in the 200m final (U15 category - Year 9 and under). She finished with a personal best time of 25.96.

James Hackett, was competing indoors for the first time and ran in the 60m race. James ran well finishing in a time of 7.66s; he missed qualifying for the U15 National Final by just 0.06 of a second.



Basketball

Well done to our basketball team who finished as silver medallists, out of six teams, in the Worcestershire County tournament.

Measuring Up



A group of English and Theatre Studies students thoroughly enjoyed being able to visit London in January to watch a production of *Measure for Measure* at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.



Climbing High

Year 1 pupils visited Clip n Climb to test out their mountaineering skills first hand. The children showed courage, strength and perseverance to reach new heights, cheered on by their friends. During the morning they enjoyed a range of travel-themed activities, including performing a dance using prayer flags. Everyone arrived safely back from the summit exhausted yet elated.



Tudor Wise

Year 4 have been studying the Tudors, they did some time travelling to take part in an interactive workshop including a timeline, a re-enactment of the Battle of Bosworth, sword school, crime and punishment and some courtly dancing.

The pupils' favourite fact was that at that time potatoes had not yet been discovered!

Coding

Pre-Prep Coding Club had great fun using the Sphero minis to learn the basics of coding language.



Bromsgrovian News

Wedding



Rachael Henry (HH 04-08) married Jeff Bannister in Spain on the 2nd of September 2021, after having to postpone it from June 2020. The ceremony took place at Casa de los Bates, Motril and was attended by sixty friends and family who made the trip abroad. A small contingency of Old Bromsgrovians attended; Iona Davis (TC), Claire Batham (TC), Clare Dobson (TC), Louisa Whittaker (MW), Ruth Conner (TC) and Charlie Wesson (TC).

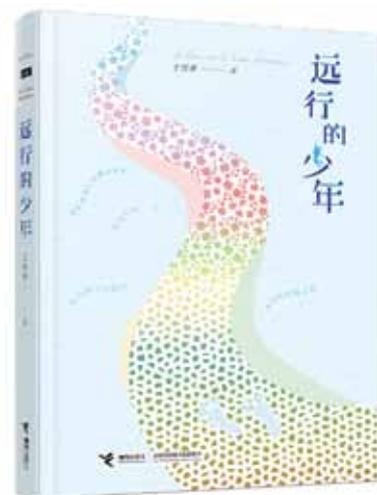
Rugby



Congratulations to Seb Atkinson (E 15-20) who has been named in the England U20s Elite Player squad for 2022.

(Photo credit: Worcester Warriors)

Heather's Published



Heather Xinting Wang (Oa 06-10) wrote a Young Adult Fiction book based on her experiences at School, which was published in 2020 by Jieli Publishing House in China. The book, *A Girl on a Long Journey* is available to buy as a hard copy, or as an e-book via WeChat Read.

Bromsgrovian News

Emily Sings



We have had recent news from Emily India Evans (16-18) who is currently an Organ Scholar at Sidney Sussex College, University of Cambridge.

After leaving School, Emily completed a gap year organ scholarship at St David's Cathedral and St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. She has been selected for The Sixteen's prestigious young artist programme; Genesis Sixteen, is a training programme for the finest young singers in the country. Emily is hoping to pursue a freelance career in singing and organ when she graduates next year.

Emily recently performed Couperin's *Trois leçons de Ténèbres* in Trinity College Chapel, Cambridge.

Flying Visit



Sam Ison (S 13-18) returned to Bromsgrove just before half term to speak to students interested in the Aviation industry. Sam is now enjoying a successful career as a First Officer with EasyJet.

Ellie Birch

It was lovely to welcome back Ellie Birch (Oa 08-17) on the last day of the half term. She started the morning in her former House for an assembly with the Oakley pupils. She then spoke to the wellbeing team at both Prep and Senior. Ellie was also interviewed for the pupil magazine, Two Zero One.

