



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

# Bromsgrovian

NEWS REVIEW

LENT 2023  
ISSUE 2



## A Word from the Headmaster

As I write this, Lent term has just ended but many pupils and staff continue to be busy. Some are participating in School trips, others are engaged in Easter revision courses, caring for boarders or running the holiday activity camp. Bromsgrove School rarely pauses for breath.

In the pages that follow you can read about some of the highlights from the past term. In many cases, pupils have taken opportunities, developed or indeed discovered new talents, and achieved great things by working together. This approach will serve young people well, both through

their time at School but also in the world which needs talented individuals who can work successfully with others with ambition and purpose.

I particularly enjoyed the recent Cultures Connect event in which our pupils from across the globe produced a variety of excellent performances to celebrate their different cultures. There have been a host of other drama and music events, all of the highest quality; you will see news of some outstanding success in sport, events to support friends in the community, sustainability projects, not to mention

activities to enrich the curriculum. We also value our links with our Schools in Thailand and China and indeed with Old Bromsgrovians; all are part of the Bromsgrove family.

I wish your family a very happy Easter and thank you for all your continued support for your children and the School in general. I look forward to seeing many of you again next term.

MR PUNT  
HEADMASTER



## Top IB Award

We are delighted to have been certified as a Top IB School by Education Advisers Ltd, reaching no. 11 in the 'large cohort' list for 2022.

The International Baccalaureate (IB) is a globally recognised diploma. It seeks to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young adults who are prepared for the modern world. It provides a vision of education that hopes to inspire, motivate and focus the work of schools and teachers, uniting them in a common purpose.

## RHS Award

Pupils attending Prep School Gardening Club were delighted to receive their RHS Level 4 award. They have worked hard to receive this, holding a sale before Christmas, making leek and potato soup with our produce as well as continuing to plant, maintain and harvest produce throughout the year. Well done to all our keen gardeners.



## CCF Range

Thirty-three members of the Contingent took part in full bore shooting at Kingsbury Ranges. Despite a chilly start, the weather was kind, and the experience was enjoyed by all who took part.



## Cross Country

Congratulations to our Years 5 - 8 cross country runners who took part in the National Prep Schools Cross Country Championships at Malvern College.

All of the participants faced an extremely tough hilly course that tested pupils to their maximum, with the junior course being 2.8km, and the senior course 3.2km.

Overall, Bromsgrove Preparatory School has been crowned third best Prep School in the country from the combined scores.



The U13 boys came first in their division. A phenomenal achievement and as well as being the first time in Prep School's history that we have won these Championships. Our U11 girls' team came in 37th place and the U11 boys' team came 30th. The U13 girls came in an impressive 7th place, with most girls representing the category being a year younger.



Pupils also competed in the County Cross Country event having qualified to represent the District. There were outstanding performances across all of the age groups. Those who finished in the top 8 positions qualified for the National Schools Cross Country Final.

Seven of our Prep School pupils ran in the English Schools' Games National inter-counties championships at Prestwold Hall in Loughborough. Well done to:

Year 5: Sophia MacCormick (129th) and Monty Yiend (31st).

Year 7: Sofia Neale (12th), Martha Blower (60th), Ella Cunningham (83rd), James Longworth (7th) and Harry Helmore (38th).



## RAL Trip



The Physics department took nineteen students out to the Rutherford Appleton Laboratories in Oxfordshire. They had a tour of Diamond Light Source - the UK's largest particle accelerator, and took part in a Particle Physics Masterclass, analysing data from the Large Hadron Collider to determine the mass of J/Psi and Z bosons.



## Art Exhibition

It was lovely to see so many young Bromsgrovians receiving awards across so many categories at Malvern St. James Junior Art Exhibition. Rowan Reijmer and Samuel Middleton won their age group, Rowan also received the honour of being crowned 'Best in Exhibition'.



## BIST Early Years

Ms Alison Bedford, Head of Early Years Campus at Bromsgrove International School Thailand (BIST) enjoyed a day at our Pre-Preparatory & Nursery School. Thank you to all the pupils, teachers and parents who made her feel so welcome.

## Flourishing Fivers

The success of the Flourishing Fivers team was celebrated at the end of the Lent Term as half of the pupils will soon be heading off on study leave. They have worked incredibly hard over the past couple of years to raise nearly £5000 for Primrose Hospice, and we are so grateful for all of their hard work.



## Prep PA Donation

The Prep Parents' Association delivered over 500 Easter Eggs to the Starting Well Partnership based in Bromsgrove. The Prep pupils voted to donate their Easter Eggs which will be used for Easter Egg hunts for limited income families in the local area during the Easter holidays.





## School Shop

Students undertaking BTEC Business have been working with the School Shop to learn about different visual merchandising and display techniques.

Window and internal displays, product positioning and effective promotional techniques are all important aspects

of visual merchandising designed to increase store traffic and sales volume. In the School Shop, pupils have tried out product placement, through the use of mannequins and props. As well as discussing the legal and safety aspects of visual merchandising.

The displays created in the School Shop form part of their assessment, demonstrating some of the practical skills and techniques that retailers use to tempt customers into stores.



## Cake Sale

Year 1 held a cake sale and enjoyed practising making different amounts of money. They have been learning about food from around the world as part of their 'Voyages of Discovery' topic.



# Netball

There have been many netball successes this term both at the Senior and Prep School.

The U16 team were crowned the second-best team in the country at the National Schools Finals at Oundle School, after finishing as runners up in the final against Redmaids High School.

The U14 team also qualified for the National Finals, sadly they just missed a place in the semi-final, but we are proud that they are one of the top 8 teams in the country.

The U13 team became undefeated county netball champions, being awarded their gold medals and shield.

The U12 team became undefeated IAPS National Champions. After some hard-fought games, their determination resulted in a win.

Well done to all who took part, some great achievements.



# Bird Houses

The Eco Committee at Prep school decided to make birdhouses in a pupil-led initiative, in order to encourage more wildlife into our school grounds.



# Cricket

Congratulations to the U13 girls' cricket squad who were runners up in the County Indoor competition at the University of Worcester .

The team won their group and batted superbly to win their semi-final game. In the final they faced The King's School Worcester; this was a close game that Bromsgrove narrowly lost despite their best efforts.



# France

The Year 6 2023 French Trip was to Etaples, in Northern France. This year's sights and activities included a land art workshop, biscuit making shop, football, fun on the beach, bowling, a market trip in Le Touquet, some French goûter, a trip to Nausicaa (complete with sealion show) and visiting a supermarket. The trip was a resounding success- due in equal measure to the care and diligence shown by the staff involved and the overall positive nature of the pupils. Sincere thanks go to the five accompanying staff members: Mr Sutherland, Mrs Finnegan, Mrs Boardman, Mrs Hathaway and Mrs Townsend.



## Equestrian

Well done to Chloe Chan who won the area winter BSPS worker 100m class, qualifying for the championship in April at Arena UK.

Also, Chloe riding Monarch of the Glen won the first qualifier of 2023 at Onley Grounds Equestrian Complex.

## Field Trip

IB Geography pupils travelled to London for a field trip. They took in sights across the capital including the new Elizabeth line, Westfield and Queen Elizabeth II Olympic Park. The day ended with a tour of the London and the West Ham stadium.



# Rugby

The U12 rugby team were in superb form at the Bishop Vesey's 7s tournament, showing off their excellent range of handling skills combined with their aggressive defence. They won their group comfortably and their good form continued in a hard fought semi-final, leading them to win the cup final in impressive style. Well done to all of the players on a fantastic achievement.



Three of our boys' rugby teams participated in the Rosslyn Park National 7s, all performed brilliantly:

The Senior Boys' U18 Rugby 7s team produced a number of superb performances on their way to the semi final.

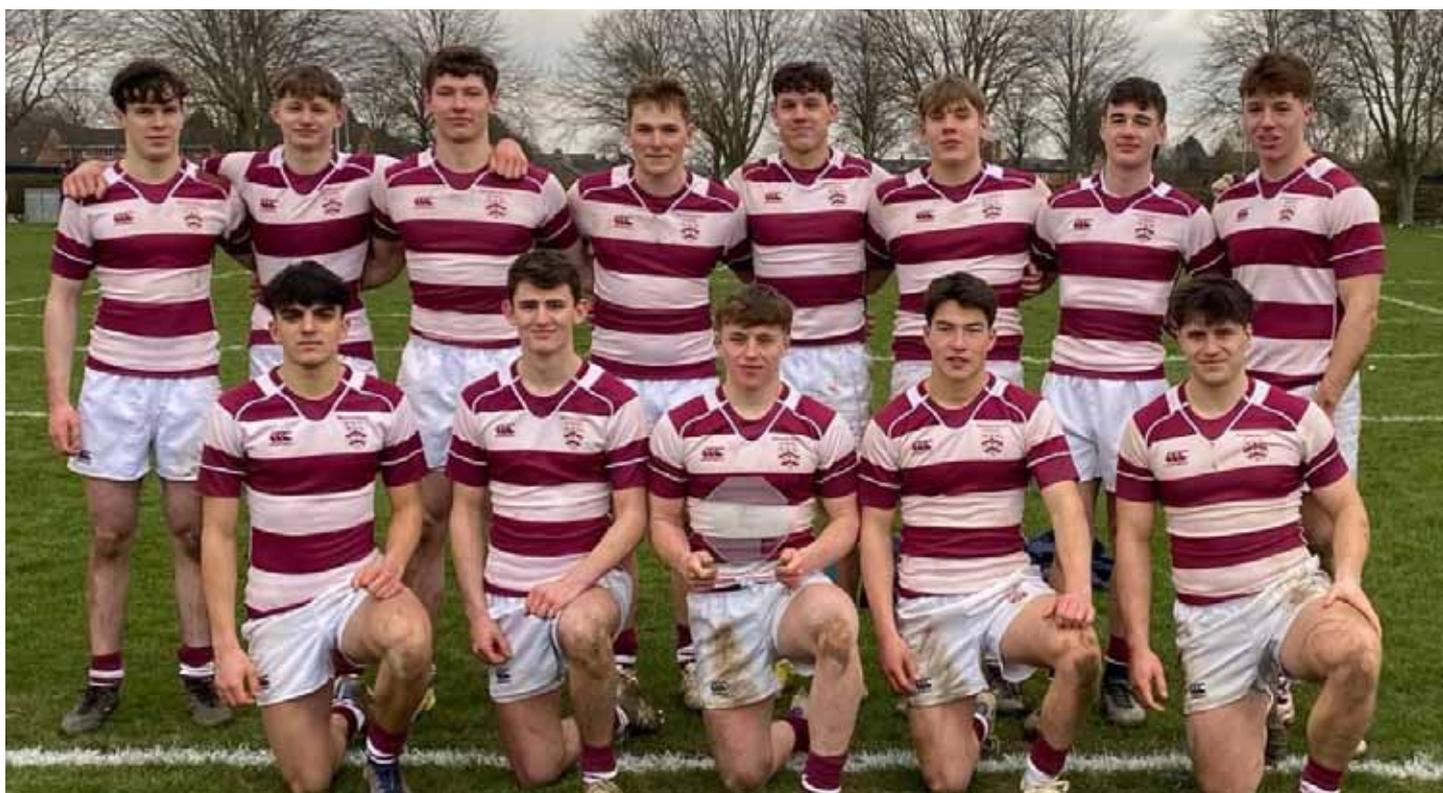
The U16 team were crowned runners up in the final. The Bromsgrove side performed brilliantly all day, and every team member should be proud of their



The U13 rugby team also competed in the Rosslyn Park national competition. The boys came away with two victories,

two draws and one loss. There was much of great rugby on display by our teams and it was satisfying to see

so much improvement over the past couple of weeks.



## Woodwind & Brass

The Brass and Woodwind Prep Series Concert was a wonderful showcase of the musical talent of our beginner performers. For many this was their first ever public recital, and they demonstrated real strength of character playing in such an awe-inspiring venue.

The pupils were professional in both their presentation and their skill. The concert is now available to watch on the school's YouTube channel.



## Voyages

Year 1 pupils performed brilliantly in front of their families in the Pre-Prep Hall. They sang songs, spoke lines and starred in videos all about their topic, Voyages of Discovery.



# Fencing

For an individual sport, the Fencers demonstrated great camaraderie participating in the Public Schools' Fencing Championships, held at Lee Valley athletics stadium. With over 300 fencers taking part each day in both Foil and Epee, the competition was fierce. Day 1's best result came from Alvis Luk, who finished 34th and on Day 2 Laura Floricic who finished 10th in the Senior Girls' Epee competition.

Well done also to Edward Nuttall who fenced in the highly competitive U12 boys' category at the West Midlands Age Group Épée Championships. He finished with a bronze medal in third place. As a result, Edward has now qualified for the British Youth Championship National Finals.



# CAS Celebration

IB2 pupils celebrated the completion of the CAS element of the IB Diploma programme with tea and cakes.

Dr West led the presentation by reflecting on their CAS experiences, concluding that the students have completed an astounding 20,160 hours of Creativity, Activity or Service over the last eighteen months.

Activities included raising money for charity, helping people in the local community or giving back to the School through Bromsgrove Service and other initiatives.



# Senior House Drama

The Senior House Drama competition was a sell-out, and was an impressive evening of live theatre that will long remain in the memory. Almost 100 students appeared on stage, thirty-two of whom had never appeared on stage before, but there was a uniformly high standard from all. The BBC writer and Producer James Hall, who adjudicated the competition, was genuinely impressed by the level of precision, commitment and professionalism.

Best Play - Lyttelton House for *The Birthday Party* by Harold Pinter

Best Play Runners up – School House for *Metamorphosis* by Stephen Berkoff

Best Actor - Jake Wingfield (School House)

Best Actor Runner up – Olivia Whitfield (Ottilie Hild)

Best Director - Paola Djarova (Housman Hall)

Special Adjudicators Award - Thomas Cookes House for *Our Friend Jack* by Paris Siviter



# Art Workshop

Mark Lippett, an award winning Fine Artist from Staffordshire, spoke to Years 7 and 8 during assembly about his journey from taking GCSE Art to being an exhibiting artist. He is mostly known for his architectural work depicting abandoned buildings, which have been exhibited across the UK in a number of solo and group shows. In the classroom, he worked with small groups across Years 5 to 8 to show the pupils his drawing technique and explain how they can utilise these skills in their own work.



# Litter Pickers

Prep Eco Committee pupils have enthusiastically given up their time to help clean up the local environment. It was pleasing that a local resident stopped us to say how grateful she was that we undertake the Litter Picks and how we are making a real difference. Thank you to all involved.



# Photography

The Prep Photography Club have been busy capturing signs of Spring around the School.



# Cultures Connect

We were very excited to be hosting Cultures Connect 2023 as it has been several years since this event has taken place due to the pandemic. The show did not disappoint, and we saw a range of students performing songs in English, Chinese, and Korean. Any

performer who was a little nervous about getting back on the stage received the loveliest support and cheering from the packed audience, who were treated to rock bands, light shows and some light humour from the compères. Students also made

a compilation video which gave the audience their own thoughts on what it meant to be connected culturally, and there was a midway quiz which tested the audience's knowledge on all things cultural. It was a delightful evening with a lovely atmosphere.



# House Quiz

Otilie Hild, Walters, Lupton and Mary Windsor took part in the final of House Quiz 2023. After a set of quick fire questions, each House moved on to the buzzer round. The results of the previous two rounds whittled the teams down to the final two – Walters and Lupton went head to head into the creative round. At the end of the quiz, Lupton were victorious.

## Football

In the final week of the Lent Term, the U16 girls' football team played Prince Henry's High School in the Worcestershire County Schools Cup semi-final, which they won. They now progress onto the final to be played in April.



## Primrose Hospice

Well done to Sophie Ostroumoff and Max Morgan who both decided to fundraise for Primrose Hospice.

Sophie fundraised with her Grandma. The event took place at the Redditch Golf Club and entailed collecting, labelling donated clothes, books, accessories and then selling them. Sophie loved helping and the event was a success.

Max helped with Bromsgrove Farmers Club annual Big Breakfast. He worked on the tombola and cleared dirty plates. The morning ran from 8.30am to 12.00pm, a record breaking £5000 was raised and will be split between Primrose Hospice and Cancer Research.



## West End

Congratulations to Abi Round who has been involved in the West End production of Newsies The Musical. Her involvement came through Stagecoach, a performing arts group for children.

## Dentist Visit

Year 4 were fortunate enough to have Emily Purdey (OB) and her colleague Lara come in to discuss how our teeth develop, what the functions of the different types of teeth are and how to keep good dental hygiene. At the end of the presentation, they asked some thought-provoking questions. A great, engaging way to explore their Science topic.



## Stories

Cat Weatherill, author and storyteller, visited the Pre-Prep School as part of our World Book Day celebrations. She enthralled each year group with different magical stories and activities. She also brought some wonderful musical instruments to accompany the stories and bring them alive.



## Global Voices

The theme for Global Voices this half term has been all things Turkish, culminating in a delicious lunch in the Prep dining hall.



## Pop and Jazz

In the year of the Coronation, it was a very different King who stole the show at this year's Pop & Jazz event. In a packed Routh hall, the crowd enjoyed two and a half hours of emotionally charged and heartfelt performances. Some standout moments included Ben Hornigold singing Tom Waits with his very own trio. It was also fantastic to welcome back stars of the Cultures Connect concert to perform a brand new set for one night only. But the performance that no one will forget has to go to Joe Boardman who brought the King of Rock n Roll to life with an incredibly authentic performance of the Elvis classic, Suspicious Minds, accompanied by the lush sound of the String Orchestra.





## Hockey

Congratulations to the U12A girls' hockey team who finished as runners up in the Midlands regional hockey finals. They improved throughout the day and played some excellent attacking hockey in the group stages.

The U11 girls competed in the In2hockey regional finals. They narrowly missed out on a semi-final place, finishing third in the group. The girls showed excellent determination throughout.



The U12A boys' hockey team travelled to King's Taunton to compete in the regional IAPS Hockey finals. The team played some terrific hockey. The boys competed very hard in the quarter final in a game that went to golden goal and then penalty flicks. The boys were unlucky to lose in this manner but can be tremendously proud of their efforts throughout the day.

Congratulations to the U13A boys' hockey team on winning a bronze medal at the ISHC National Finals at Beeston Hockey Club, Nottingham.

## Tennis

Gina Obrey and Grace Hadley won the Grade 4 U14 doubles event in Rugby. They were the number 1 seeds and had a bye in the first round. They won the semi-final 4,1 4,1 and beat the number 2 seeds in the final 4-2 4-2.



## Doughnut Sale

The organisers held a fantastic lunchtime sale of Krispy Kreme doughnuts. In addition, they also gave the option for people to pre-order boxes. Thank you to everyone who purchased a doughnut - the money raised for the Basement Project will help support young people experiencing homelessness in the community.

# Eisteddfod



This week the whole of Prep School celebrated the Arts in the Eisteddfod. This is a festival with origins dating back to the 12th Century. At Bromsgrove we are proud to continue this tradition, especially as we have such historic links with Llanwrtyd Wells in Wales.

The day was separated into three main events – Year 3 & 4, Year 5 & 6 and Year 7 & 8 – with categories for Art,

Poetry Recitation, Poetry Composition and Music Performance. The Art exhibition in the foyer of Routh housed wonderful pieces of work featuring ceramics, textiles and painting and visitors were able to view these before the recitals.

The music performances from pupils were expressive, joyous and beautiful, ranging from Dance of the Sugar Plum

Fairy on the Trombone to The Blackout, U2 on the Drums. Poetry composition showed great depth of maturity and expression. Poetry recitation featured dynamic performances across modern and old with poems from AE Houseman, Shel Silverstein and many more.

The pupils demonstrated unprecedented skills in all areas and were superbly supportive of each other.



## Coronation Competition

Congratulations to the winners of the Prep House portrait competition, in honour of King Charles' coronation this year.

Well done to everyone involved, some very creative and inspiring pieces.



## Aquathon

Well done to William Pridden who took part in an aquathlon for British Triathlon. This was the first competition of the season, and he finished in second place.



## Tennis LTA

Tennis players who had not yet played in any matches took part in a LTA internal Match Play event. Twenty pupils took part, ranging from ages 7 to 14. All those who took part had a great day of competitive tennis in a fun environment. There will be further opportunities for players in other age groups over the coming months.

# Bromsgrovian News



## Visit

We welcomed back a group of Old Bromsgrovians at the end of the Lent Term. Bob Wilson (S 61-66), Simon Wood (Cooles 63-68), John Massey (S 62-67), Father Dennis Touw (S 62-68), Philip Powell (L 62-67) and Matthew Horton (Cooles 62-67, Foundation Trustee, Former Chairman of Governors and Vice President of the School) looked around the Heritage Centre and had a wonderful afternoon reminiscing about their School days.



## Radio Show

Soweto Kinch (L 91-96) is presenting a new three-part series on BBC Radio 4 called 'Rethinking Music'. He looks at music education across the UK and assesses how cutbacks and policy changes over the years are playing out. Reflecting on his own route to music, Soweto asks what music education could look like, and how much it matters if we don't get it right. Contributors include Nicola Benedetti, Anna Meredith, Nubya Garcia, Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason, Jamie Njoku-Goodwin and a range of music professionals and providers across the UK.



## Thailand

Chris Edwards (Former Headmaster 04-14) met up with Lee Falconer (Academic staff 07-13) whilst in Thailand for the FOBISIA Conference. The conference is held annually and provides an opportunity for Heads and senior leaders from FOBISIA's Member Schools to share best practice and engage with leading educational thinkers from the UK and elsewhere.



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## Misson Hills

The Headmaster and Miss Scannel visited Bromsgrove Mission Hills China. They met Pupils, Staff and Old Bromsgrovians, photographed is an Old Bromsgrovian, Charles Tsai.



## Commemorations

On Friday, 24th March, the Housman Society gathered at the A.E. Housman statue in Bromsgrove to commemorate the anniversary of his birthday.

Later that day, we were honoured to welcome members of the society for a special lunch at School.



If any Bromsgrovians have news that you would like to share with us, or you would like to arrange to visit the School, please do get in touch with the Bromsgrovian office: [oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk). All photos featured on the Bromsgrovian pages, including individual's names and years, can be found on the Bromsgrovian Facebook site.