

# Brownhills Ormiston Academy Newsletter October 2023

## PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Dear Parents/carers and families

Welcome to the second edition of our newsletter for this academic year. It has been a jam packed eight weeks of academic work and wider opportunities and enrichment experiences for our students, the highlights of which have featured in this edition. Staff are very proud of how students have conducted themselves and their engagement.

Behaviour and uniform have been good over the long half term. Before we break up for the half term holiday, students will receive reminders about how to stay safe and conduct themselves appropriately during this time, and we will carry our 'start of the new half term behaviour training' with students upon their return.

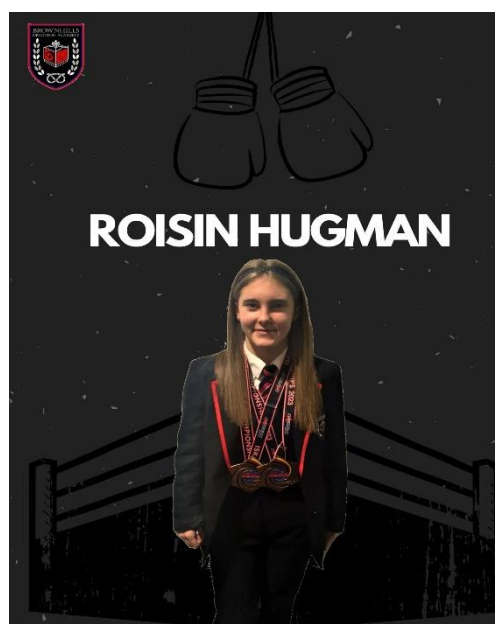
## Homework

Thank you for supporting our push on homework and home learning this half term. It is essential that students in all year groups develop excellent study habits. These habits start in year 7, so by the time they reach years 10 and 11 they can cope very well with the demands of the GCSE courses. We want our students to be able to excel academically and achieve a good set of examination results in year 11. We expect years 7, 8 and 9 to be carrying out at least 45 minutes of homework per subject every 2 weeks, and years 10 and 11 to be carrying out at least one hour of homework per subject per week. Year 11 should be studying in earnest for their GCSE mock exams, which start on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November.

Congratulations to  
Roisin Hugman,  
Year 10- BRONZE  
MEDAL WINNER  
at the ISKA World  
Amateur Kickboxing  
Championships



Congratulations to our already world champion representative for England Roisin Hugman, for winning two bronze medals at the ISKA World Amateur Kickboxing Championships for her category (15–17-year-olds) is an example to us all of how hard work, consistent effort, lots of practice and dedication leads to success. We are very proud of her achievement's this month. These medals add to her collection of successes and awards. We look forward to hearing about her future achievements.



Welcome to the second edition of our newsletter





# SCHOOL NEWS OCTOBER 2023





**EDITION 2 SCHOOL NEWSLETTER  
WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN THE  
SCHOOL AS PART OF OUR WIDER  
OPPORTUNITIES'.**



CURRICULUM?

**OAT NATIONAL STUDENTVOICE 20<sup>th</sup>  
SEPTEMBER**

(British values / PSHE link)

Student Voice runs at regional and national levels, providing students with the opportunity to effect change across the trust. This year's Student Voice elections were held across the trust on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September, and it was great to see so many of students getting involved to identify an issue about which they would like to see action occur.

**Year 11 SHELFIELD ORMISTON ACADEMY  
6<sup>th</sup> FORM TALKS 22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER.**



(Careers link)

Mrs Bradbury from Ormiston Sheffield Academy visited our year 11 students to give them an insight to what 6<sup>th</sup> form life is like at the academy, and to explain about the courses on offer, along with extracurricular activities and pastoral support.

**18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER LAUNCH OF DUKE OF  
EDINBURGH (DofE)**

**BRONZE AWARD YEAR 9**

**WHAT IS THE DOFE AWARD?**

A life-changing experience. A fun time with friends. An opportunity to discover new interests and talents. A tool to develop essential skills for life and work. A recognised mark of achievement; respected by employers.

The DofE is many things to many people, supporting generations to successfully navigate adult life.

14–24-year-olds can do a DofE programme at one of three progressive levels which, when successfully completed, leads to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

There are four awards to complete at Bronze and Silver level and five at Gold. They involve helping the community/environment, becoming fitter, developing new skills, planning, training for and completing an expedition and, for Gold only, working with a team on a residential activity.

Any young person can do their DofE – regardless of ability, gender, background or location. Achieving an Award isn't a competition or about being first. It's all about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries.

Through a DofE programme, young people have fun, make friends, improve their self-esteem and build confidence. They gain essential skills and attributes for work and life such as resilience, problem-solving, team-working, communication and drive, enhancing CV's and university and job applications. Top employers recognise the work-ready skills the award holders bring to their business/place of work.

We are excited for our 14 year 9 students, who have signed up for the award. Save the date: 10<sup>th</sup> November for your first meeting.

## 26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES



### WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES?

Throughout Europe, 700 million Europeans are represented in the Council of Europe's 46 member states and all are encouraged to discover more languages at any age, as part of or alongside their studies. This stems from the Council of Europe's conviction that linguistic diversity is a tool for achieving greater intercultural understanding and a key element in the rich cultural heritage of our continent. Therefore, the Council of Europe in Strasbourg promotes plurilingualism throughout the whole of Europe.

At the Council of Europe's initiative, the European Day of Languages has been celebrated every year since 2001 on 26th September - together with the European Commission.

- Competitions
- Find who speaks different languages
- Celebrating the diversity of the languages spoken by our students and staff
- Food tasting



### MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

We would like to thank all those who baked or 'cheat baked' to support our coffee morning. We raised an amazing £278. The generosity of our students, staff and families is always impressive during our charity fundraising events.

### WHERE WILL THE MONEY GO?

The money raised will support Macmillan's vital work. It helps them fund amazing Macmillan nurses, answer calls to their support line, give financial support to those affected by cancer, and much more.

### OAT NATIONAL COMPETITION - PHOTO THE WORLD

### WHAT WE DID TO CELEBRATE IT




We had some wonderful entries from KS3 and KS4.

### 4<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER WORLD ANIMAL DAY



World Animal Day unites the animal welfare movement, mobilising it into a global force to make the world a better place for all animals.

Many thanks to Louise, a representative from the Animal Man Company who visited us to educate students why animals are important to our ecosystems. She also provided up close and personal experiences with cockroaches, geckos, bearded dragons, guinea pigs, an owl, a snake and our favourite of them all the honey bear.

### Student voice Impact

Do you know the aims of World Animal Day?

190 /190 (100%)

Do you know about the five animal welfare needs? 190 /190 (100%)

Did you get to see animals that you have never encounter up close before? 190 /190 (100%)

Did you learn new facts about the animals during the workshop? 190 /190 (100%)

Are you glad the academy offered the animal man experience to you? 190 /190 (100%)

### Student Verbal Feedback

*Across all years "when can we do it again."*

*Aiden "I loved Phil!" (guinea pig)*

*Millie "the honey bear was amazing to see and hold".*

*Staff member "it's been amazing supporting the students today, who knew that bearded dragons stomachs where so soft!"*

### WORLD ANIMAL DAY IN ACTION



### 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER WORLD SMILE DAY



(Character development / PSHE link)

### WHAT IS IT?

Well known throughout the world, Harvey Ball, a commercial artist from Worcester, Massachusetts created the smiley face in 1963. That image went on to become the most recognizable symbol of good will and good cheer on the planet.

As the years passed Harvey Ball became concerned about the over-commercialisation of his symbol, and how its original meaning and intent had become lost in the constant repetition of the marketplace.



Out of that concern came his idea for World Smile Day®. He thought that we, all of us, should devote one day each year to smiles and kind acts throughout the world. The smiley face knows no politics, no geography and no religion.

He declared that the first Friday in October each year would henceforth be World Smile Day®. Ever since that first World Smile Day® held in 1999, it has continued every year in Smiley's hometown of Worcester, MA and around the world.

After Harvey died in 2001, the Harvey Ball World Smile Foundation was created to honour his name and memory. The Foundation continues as the official **sponsor of World Smile Day® each year.**

**Participation figures: 603 Pupils**



**1<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER - 31<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER BLACK HISTORY MONTH**



October is Black History Month in the UK, an event that has been celebrated nationwide for more than 30 years.

It was originally founded to recognise the contributions that people of African and Caribbean backgrounds have made to the UK over many generations.

Now, Black History Month has expanded to include the history of not just African and Caribbean people but all black people.

Black History Month was launched with a series of year group assemblies explaining what it is and how they can support the month. The History department launched a series of competitions to celebrate achievements of black woman.

### **11<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER YEAR 7 ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS WORKSHOP**

( PSHE link)



**Participation figures: 94.9%**

### **WHY DID YEAR 7 PARTICIPATE IN THIS WORKSHOP?**

As young people start to use the roads independently, "Streetwise", gives them the opportunity to explore risk, responsibility, and consequences as a pedestrian. This enables them to make informed decisions, manage their personal safety and understand how their behaviour affects those around them.



## OAT NATIONAL COMPETITION: DESIGN A CHRISTMAS CARD.

Please submit your entries to a member of staff from the Art department – closing date 8 Nov 2023



## PARENT PAY ADVANCE NOTICE

We are really pleased to announce a workshop for years 7-10 from medical mavericks Friday 9th February 2024. If your child loves science or is thinking of a career in the medical world this workshop is just for them.

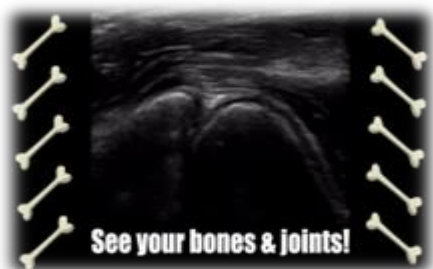
### What are medical mavericks and what do they do?

At Medical Mavericks they are opening the door to the world around the students - just enough so they can get a tantalising taste that will drive their ambition and inspire them to find out more. If they want it, they will kick down the door to open it further and do whatever it takes to run through it into a world they never thought possible.

Medical mavericks will give students the opportunity to use a variety of equipment including:

#### 1. Ultrasound Machine

Students love using the ultrasound to scan their radius and ulna bones in their arm to search for their growth plates!



#### 2. iPhone Retina Scan

This is a great activity that mixes Ophthalmic Science, Medical Engineering and Computer Science! Using an Ophthalmoscope attached to an iPhone, it can take a picture of students' retinas! Students get to see their optic disc and blood vessels that are less than 1mm in diameter!



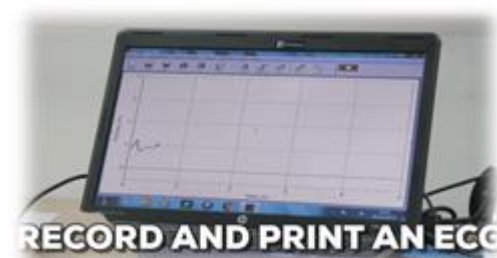
#### 3. Record and Print

#### an ECG

Students can record their very own Electrocardiogram and print a copy off to take home and stick on their fridge!

They'll get to see their P,Q,R,S & T waves!

On the back of the printout is a mini poster of all the NHS career sectors they can explore after the workshop



#### 4. Take Blood from Andy!



OK, OK... students are not taking blood from a real person called Andy! But students do get to use a REAL needle to take fake blood from a phlebotomy training arm that is called Andy!

It is all done under supervision in small groups, so it is all performed in a controlled environment.

#### 5. Try Keyhole Surgery

This activity is all performed in the safety of a special box!

Students can use laparoscopic instruments to complete simple tasks like threading string and stretching elastic bands, whilst viewing their actions through a tablet camera. It isn't as easy as it looks!



KEY HOLE SURGERY

Scanner



SCAN YOUR VEINS!

Using some very cool medical physics we can project an image of your veins onto your skin by scanning them with infrared light!

The way your body absorbs and reflects back the infrared light, changes the wavelength of the light which is picked up by the scanner and turned into the projected image you see on your skin!

**If your child would like to participate in Medical Maverick's, Parent Pay will open 9am on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November. The cost of the workshop will be £8 per student. If your child receives free school meals the workshop will be subsidised and parents will only be required to pay £5.**

## CAREERS - TOYOTA APPRENTISHIP

This is an excellent opportunity to visit Toyota in person. Students will learn more about the apprenticeship scheme they are interested in, meet both current apprentices and apprentice teaching staff and see their outstanding training facilities. Parents can book a place at one of their open evenings by visiting their website: [TOYOTA Apprenticeships \(toyotauk.com\)](https://toyotauk.com)

**PRODUCTION OPEN EVENINGS:  
TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER &  
TUESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER**

**MAINTENANCE OPEN EVENINGS:  
THURSDAY 9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER &  
THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**

If you have any further questions, please

contact [recruitment@toyotauk.com](mailto:recruitment@toyotauk.com) and they will get back to you as soon as possible.

## IT'S OPTIONS OCTOBER ON THE PARENT PERSPECTIVE

Episode 6 kicks off the first of a 3-episode run called 'Options October'. It is about post-16 options (after GCSEs) - use the following table while you listen in!

[The Parent Perspective: The Options Post-16: what are the choices facing our 16-year-olds? on Apple Podcasts](#)





# THE PARENT PERSPECTIVE PODCAST

## EPISODE 6: POST-16 OPTIONS

Amazing  
Apprenticeships

THE  
PARENT  
PERSPECTIVE

Episode 6 of The Parent Perspective Podcast is all about post-16 options. Here we share information about apprenticeships, T Levels and full-time school or college options.

	FULL- TIME SCHOOL / COLLEGE	T LEVELS	APPRENTICESHIPS
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Typically classroom based learning in a school, sixth form or further education college, studying towards A-levels or a Level 2 or 3 BTEC qualification.	A Level 3 technical qualification delivered through a mix of classroom-based learning (80%) and industry placement experience (20%) equivalent to 45 days.	Full time paid employment while gaining knowledge, skills and behaviours relevant to the role. Mainly based in the workplace with around 6 hours per week off-the-job training.
<b>AGE RANGE</b>	16+ (no upper age limit but funding options vary according to age).	16-19 (after Year 11).	16+ (no upper age limit).
<b>DURATION</b>	1 year / 2 years (dependent on qualification and level).	2 years (there is also an optional 1-year T Level Foundation Programme).	All apprenticeships are for a minimum of 12 months. The duration will depend on the level, the experience of the apprentice and the delivery model.
<b>WHEN CAN YOU START?</b>	Usually a September intake.	Usually a September intake.	Throughout the year.
<b>LEVELS</b>	Most schools will offer a range of different subjects and qualifications at level 2 and 3. Some colleges will also offer level 1 programmes.	Equivalent to a level 3 qualification or 3 A levels.	From level 2 through to level 7 (equivalent to Master's level).



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Discover more about your career options  
[www.amazingapprenticeships.com](http://www.amazingapprenticeships.com)

## (NATIONAL SCHOOL & COLLEGE LEAVER FESTIVAL) NSCL 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

NSCL Fest showcases all opportunities including Apprenticeships, Further and Higher Education, entry level roles, and general employment, offering visitors the chance to engage with England's top Employers, Colleges, Universities and Training Providers in a face-to-face, interactive environment.

The National School + College Leaver Festival is the perfect opportunity for School and College leavers, as well as young adults, parents and carers, to discover more about post-school and post-college opportunities across England, from Liverpool to Manchester, all the way down to Bristol and London, and everywhere in between!

**Register here for:**

### Individual bookings

**Want to Visit with your child?**

**Opening Dates & Times:**

Tuesday 7 November 15:30 – 18:00



## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Attendance and punctuality have a high profile at our academy and there is a whole academy approach to ensuring all students are attending every day to take advantage of excellent opportunities and prepare them for their lives beyond school.

***Attainment is strongly linked to attendance and students who miss between 10 to 20% of school (between 19 to 38 days per year) stand only a 35% chance of achieving five or more good GCSEs compared to 72% of those who miss fewer than 5% of school. On average students who miss 17 or more days in a school year lose one full grade in their GCSEs.*** We are keen to ensure that all students fulfil their

potential at Brownhills. All staff and our lead Attendance Team are keen to work collaboratively with our students and families to ensure all of young people are in lessons every day. We thank you for prioritising your child's attendance during the working week, so they have every chance of being successful in their academic studies.

### WHAT WE STRIVE FOR?

#### Attendance Ladder

How close is your child to 100%?

0 days off school	100%	Perfect!
Equates to 2 days off school each year	98%	Excellent
Equates to 13 days off school each year	93%	Good
Equates to 22 days off school each year	88%	Concerned
Equates to 32 days off school each year	83%	Very Concerned
Equates to 47+ days off school each year	75% or Below	Extremely Concerned

Clear on the importance of Attendance and Punctuality on Attainment, we are aspirational and believe all students should strive for 100% attendance. Knowing how quickly gaps in learning can occur following periods of absence, we urge parents to support their child to be in school.

### WHAT PARENTS CAN DO TO SUPPORT ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY?

Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure their child attends punctually. Parents should provide the academy with up-to-date information about points of contact and those with 'parental responsibility'.

### HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

Leave of absence is not a legal right; whilst absence due to ill health is sometimes unavoidable, a holiday taken during term time is parental choice. The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 prohibits a Headteacher granting leave of absence to a student, except where an application has been made in advance, and the Headteacher considers that there are 'exceptional circumstances' relating to the application.

Please note that if the absence is not authorised, and the holiday is taken, this may result in a Penalty Notice of £120 (or £60 if paid within 21 days) to each parent for each child taken out of school.

### PUNCTUALITY

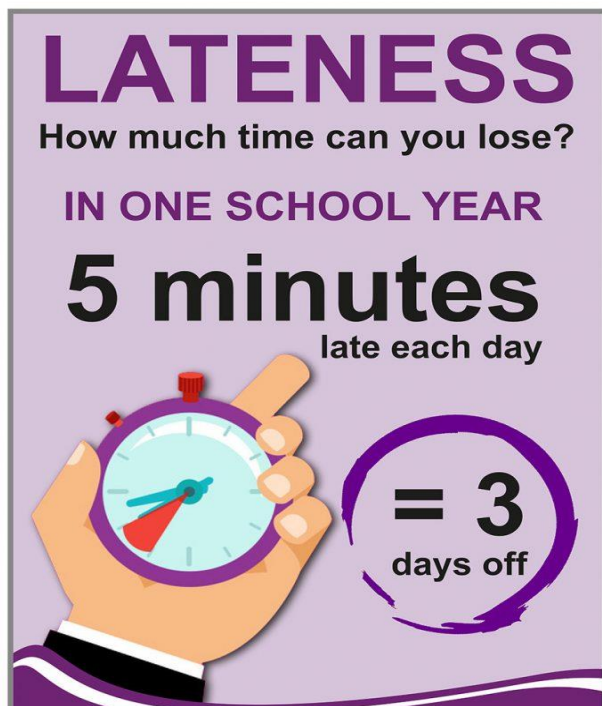


Students should be in school by 8.35am and registration will commence at 8.40am. Any student who arrives after 8.40am will be marked on the register as late using the 'L' (late) code. Students who are persistently late will receive a relevant sanction (Punctuality Sanctions), so please ensure that you encourage your child to arrive to school on time.

Given that Attendance and Punctuality have a high profile within the school community, we are keen to reward students who are punctual and are working towards our aspirational target of 100% Attendance. We regularly review Attendance Commendations based on pupil feedback.

Under existing legislation, parents commit an offence if their child fails to attend regularly, and the absences are classed as 'unauthorised' (those for which the School cannot or has not given permission). Depending on circumstances, such cases may result in prosecution under Section 444 and 444B of the Education Act 1996 which could lead to a fine of £2500 or imprisonment.

A Penalty Notice is an alternative to prosecution which does not require an appearance in court, whilst still securing an improvement in a pupil's attendance. Payment of a Penalty Notice enables parents to discharge potential liability for conviction for the period of absence included in the Penalty Notice.



## IN SCHOOL SUPPORT

If pupils are experiencing barriers to attendance, we work with the young person in school to resolve any issues, which may include support from the Heads of Year, Aspirations, Attendance Team, Well Being Counsellors and Child Protection Advocates.

## LEGAL SANCTIONS



## SAFETY

For 20 years, FIFA dominated the football video gaming arena, attracting legions of devoted fans and scooping up accolades like a digital Real Madrid. After parting ways with the sport's governing body, however, renowned developers Electronic Arts (EA) have now launched their own individual bid for the title. It's called EA Sports FC 24, and its effectively FIFA 2.0.

Familiar action delivered by the same team, of course, points to a comparable level of popularity – especially among those young gamers raised on the FIFA franchise. As our #WakeUpWednesday guide highlights, however, EA Sports FC 24 also carries many similar risks to its predecessor, including addictive gameplay, abusive voice chats and expensive in-game purchases.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about EA SPORTS FC 24

After two decades of holding the official FIFA licence, EA Sports' phenomenally successful football video game series has embarked on a solo run at goal. This season's iteration marks the debut appearance of a new name and branding, but don't let those fool you – EA Sports FC 24 is still a very similar proposition to last year's FIFA 23. Popular features such as Ultimate Team remain a big focus, meaning that potentially costly in-game spending is still among the line-up of risks that parents and carers should be aware of.

**AGE RESTRICTION**  
**PEGI 3**

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### RECURRING RELEASES

EA Sports FC 24 effectively picks up the FIFA template – meaning that after a year, we can expect EA Sports FC 25 to hit the shelves. Updates between versions of the FIFA franchise tend to be minor, but young fans of the game are almost certain to want the new edition in around 12 months' time, so they can keep playing with updated team kits, players and squad lists.

#### OFFENSIVE VOICE CHAT

FIFA 23 introduced cross-platform play, and EA Sports FC 24 goes a step further with Clubs, Seasons and Ultimate Team cooperative modes across PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X and S, and PC. That's exciting news for youngsters who love to play with friends online – but connecting a much wider audience does potentially open lines of communication between children and far older online gamers.

#### IN-GAME PURCHASES

In FIFA, Ultimate Team proved to be a profitable innovation for developers Electronic Arts (EA), and is now found in many of their other titles. Players spend in-game currency to recruit better footballers for their team, but this process can take a frustratingly long time – so young fans may be tempted to skip the grind by paying real-world cash to unlock that coveted star midfielder.

#### ULTIMATE TEAM SCAMMERS

Since the mode was introduced, Ultimate Team has been a target of scammers who attempt to coax players into buying or selling outside the terms of service from EA and console manufacturers. This shady practice can lead to accounts being banned and in-game items being lost. In some cases, young gamers have also been hoodwinked into handing over their payment details to the fraudsters.

#### POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

Just like real-life football, EA Sports FC 24 offers a thrilling, dynamic blend of tactical awareness and skill that fans find absolutely engrossing. Among younger players in particular, this could lead to identifiers of a gaming disorder as they plead for "just one more game" before bedtime or spend practically all weekend playing more matches to earn additional Ultimate Team packs.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### CONTROL SPENDING

If your child enjoys Ultimate Team mode, check that your payment details aren't linked to their account. Bundles of FC Points (the game's currency) start at just £1, so multiple payments can easily slip under the radar. You could consider setting your child an in-game allowance, perhaps through a prepaid card, which will help them to realise that online spending has a real-world effect.

### DEFEND AGAINST SCAMMERS

EA does contact players via email (although not to ask for usernames or passwords, so watch out for that scam tactic), but never through the game itself – so be wary of incoming messages and consider blocking and reporting suspected spam. Your child should avoid buying coins (the in-game currency) from external sites; it could end with them losing their money and being banned from the game.

### AVOID EXTRA TIME

Many parents of young football-oriented gamers worry about their child playing too much EA Sports FC. There's now also a companion mobile app, which can also often provide another indicator that a child is struggling to disengage from the game. You could initiate discussions around set hours of play – or take stronger action by utilising the parental controls on their console or phone.

### SHOW TOXIC CHAT THE RED CARD

Playing EA Sports FC 24 with friends is highly enjoyable, but if competitive types start to turn toxic online, it can ruin everyone's fun. You could occasionally listen in on the voice chat of your child's game for any warning signs that things may be about to boil over. This goes double when playing online with strangers; voice contact with unknown players can be turned off in the game's settings.

### CELEBRATE THE VARIETY

Ultimate Team may be the game's 'star player', but there's plenty more to do in EA Sports FC 24 – including modes which allow access to all of football's big names without needing to spend money on packs to unlock them. This new version of the game includes even more women's teams, marking another step forward in representation: an important subject to discuss and celebrate with children.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site [Gamerant](https://www.gamerant.com) and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. Always eager to test out the latest apps, games and online trends, he's also a parent who understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including [IGN](https://www.ign.com) and [TechRadar](https://www.techradar.com).

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**#WakeUpWednesday**

Source: <https://www.windowscentral.com/youngster-spends-over-6000-fifa-tbax-highlighting-predatory-game-design/>, <https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/addictive-behaviours-gaming-disorder>, <https://www.eurogamer.net/18-european-countries-call-for-better-regulation-of-foot-boxes-following-new-report>

@natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety @national\_online\_safety

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## BROWNHILLS PE DEPARTMENT THIS HALF TERM!

Brownhills PE department has had an excellent start to the first half term back at school! We have offered lots of activities, taken part in fixtures and have represented the school in competitions outside of school!

Firstly, the attendance to our lunch and extra-curricular activities have been some of the best we have seen in a long time! Over 30+ students have been attending clubs such as lunchtime futsal and our new cheerleading club after school which are fantastic enrichment opportunities.



We have introduced a new activity to our year 10 core PE groups known as Omnikin. This is a new and upcoming sport which our students have really enjoyed taking part in! The quick paced game has found students thinking outside the box and trying to outwit their opponents!



Another highlight of this half term is our house Handball competitions. Years 7-11 have competed in a round robin competition to see which team is the winner for each year group.

Students have competed against each other in a highly competitive handball tournament!



Thomas Hynes-Oughton has represented Brownhills Ormiston Academy in a cross-country event against school from across Walsall, Birmingham, and Wolverhampton.

Thomas competed against 20 other runners in his age category and finished in the top 8 meaning he goes through to the next round.

Thomas was the only student in Walsall to get through, which is a huge achievement for not only Walsall, but Brownhills Ormiston Academy! Keep your eyes peeled for the next results! Well done Thomas!

We have finally finished the half term with an after-school Water Polo session. Students voted on what they would like to do at the end of half term as their chosen activity and water polo was highly suggested. Students have enjoyed the session and are already looking forward to the next one!

## CHESS CLUB

The Year 7 Chess club is thriving at the moment with over 20 students regularly attending every Monday lunchtime in room 47. All Year 7 students are welcome, and help is on hand to show new players how to play with the assistance of Mr Casey and Mr Simmons. Older Academy students can attend Thursday's club, which is also in room 47. Chess leaders will be nominated this month which is part of the Ormiston Academy Chess Leadership program organised by Mr James who is a member of Brownhills' staff and is also the Chess Coordinator for the Trust. The Chess Club is also pushing the literacy focus of the Academy by encouraging students to watch or read a novel by Tim Crothers called 'Queen of Katwe'.



## SOCIOLEYES COMPETITION



SociolEyes is our OAT sociological competition. This year the theme is inequality, specifically patriarchy, which we feel is particularly poignant this year with many issues for women being so prominent. As well as a monetary prize £100 there are also some wonderful books to be won that fit the theme.

Students are to see Mrs Best, if you are interested in finding out more.



## JOIN THE POLICE CADETS FOR FREE!



### What is the Police Cadets Scheme?

The cadet scheme recruits 13-17 year olds from across the West Midlands. They encourage young people from all walks of life to join them.

As part of a national curriculum, police cadets:

- learn about policing, including visits to departments.
- learn new skills and to help others.
- volunteer in the community and help their own personal development.
- take part in events such as Pride or Remembrance Day.

What is a cadet leader?

- Cadet leaders are volunteers who help run our cadet units. They come from different backgrounds, and you do not have to work for us to apply to be one. All we ask is that you're over 18 and can commit to the role for at least a year.
- After vetting and a disclosure and barring (DBS) check, they will be supported and given you training about how to be a cadet leader.

A cadet leader should:

- want to inspire others and make a difference to young people.
- have good personal skills and be able to motivate.
- confidence to deliver sessions.
- be able to lead, team build and maintain discipline.

The cadet units normally meet once a week in the early evening school term time at Blue coat school.

If you are interested in becoming a police cadet or leader visit: <https://www.bluecoatacademy.org/police-cadets/>

Here you will find further information and the application form.

7 <sup>th</sup> November	Careers Selected Year 11 free of charge	<b>NSCL event at the NEC</b> The event showcases all opportunities including Apprenticeships, Further and Higher Education, Graduate schemes, entry level roles, and general employment, offering visitors the chance to engage with top Employers, Colleges, Universities and Training Providers in a face-to-face, interactive environment.
10 <sup>th</sup> November (Due to 11 <sup>th</sup> November falling on a weekend)	Personal Development British Values	<b>Remembrance Service (Sports Hall)</b> The service commemorates the signing of the Armistice which brought an end to the First World War and remembers all those who gave their lives in service to their country since 1914.
17 <sup>th</sup> November	Music	<b>Busking (onsite)</b> Students are welcome to perform for our school community enriching our environment with talent and diversity of lots of musical genre
18 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need	<b>Just Dance competition – details to follow.</b>
28 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 7 Pantomime	<b>Visiting a local theatre - Lichfield Garrick Beauty and the Beast</b>
TBC	Careers	<b>Brownhills Careers Fair</b> This in house event gives students, employers and higher education providers the opportunity to-meet one another, establish professional relationships and discuss potential further education and employment opportunities.
1 <sup>st</sup> December	Aspire award section 3 Year 7	<b>£10 Challenge</b> The Tenner Challenge is a free national challenge for students aged 11-18. Over the course of four weeks, students will use £10 pledges to get their student business ideas off the ground. It's an interactive programme that helps students to develop key employability skills including creativity, resilience, and problem solving.
1 <sup>st</sup> December	Careers	<b>NSC challenge launch</b> <a href="#">NCS   Grow Your Strengths   National Citizen Service (wearencs.com)</a> 2023 is the year to grow your strengths Get ready to build your independence. Boost your work-readiness. Make a positive impact on the world. Blossom in confidence. And form some amazing friendships along the way. And the best bit? You can do it all away from home, online, or in your local community. Whatever suits you best.
14 <sup>th</sup>	Art and design £20	<b>Art and Design Cadbury World visit</b> Students will visit the factory, taste the chocolate and participate in a a workshop to discuss the different reasons behind the designs of some popular Cadbury chocolate bars and see how the design of the bar is linked to the wrapper and the advert. See real-life Cadbury chocolate moulds used in the Bournville Cadbury factory! Look at examples of different wrappers from Cadbury past and present and discuss how these have changed over time. Find out how Cadbury Worldwide tailors wrapper design for different countries. Students will look at how Cadbury designs their products for specific demographics and target groups. Students will develop a new product based on a design brief from the Cadbury Education team and present their product to their peers
13 <sup>th</sup> December	Music	<b>Community Centre Carol Concert</b>



18 <sup>th</sup> December	Music	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Academy Show – Matilda the Musical</b></p> <p>Matilda The Musical is about Matilda Wormwood – an extraordinary child who has a gift for learning and other unusual talents. Living with her horrible, not-always-lawful family means Matilda doesn't get the attention and love she deserves.</p> <p>Being neglected by her parents means Matilda must find her own entertainment, role models and morals. But that's no problem for the resourceful, rebellious girl, even when she's pit against the dreadful, terrifying Miss Trunchbull – the child-hating headmistress at Matilda's new school. In fact, Matilda has as many lessons for the adults in her life as they think they have for her. Will she find the loving home she craves?</p>
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Music	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Academy Show – Matilda the Musical</b></p>