

Newsletter



Brownhills Ormiston Academy Newsletter

Edition 4 February/March/April 2024





Welcome to this edition of the newsletter!

Principal's Message- Mrs. Lloyd

We have another eventful edition of our newsletter, which includes some of the curricular, extra-curricular and enrichment activities that have taken place over the last few months.

We have had an array of end of term events leading up to the Easter holidays including our rewards assemblies for all year groups. Well done to all our students who have received awards for good behaviour, attendance, effort and hard work since January- over 62,000 points for demonstrating our academy values of Ready, Respect and Safe. This is phenomenal and we are very proud of our students.

Across the curriculum students have produced some excellent and high-quality work full of effort and thought. Year 11 students worked very hard during their final set of mock exams in February and March. Students have taken these exams very seriously and from conversations with many of them, they want to work hard at closing any knowledge and skills gaps. With effort and hard work, year 11 can achieve their full potential. All staff will support them during the final few weeks of their exam preparation journey.

A highlight of the school year so far has been the Matilda show in December. We have featured it in this edition of our newsletter as the show took place after the publication of edition 3. We have so much to praise and showcase. Our students, whether they were

in the cast or part of the supporting team, excelled and were exceptional. Please read on for more exciting information.

This spring our students' musical successes continue. The Academy Choir was chosen by the Trust's Executive Team out of 32 secondary academies in the Trust to perform at the Ormiston Academies Trust's Annual Presentation and Awards Evening in March at the Grand Hotel in Birmingham. After an exhilarating, pitch perfect and uplifting performance, the students received a standing ovation from all delegates. I was proud to be there to see the students perform exceptionally well and to dazzle the audience with their singing talent.

The Academy Choir also sang for the OAT Chair of Trustees, Julius Weinburg when he visited the academy in February. He was impressed by their talent and encouraged them never to give up singing.

I would like to thank all the students, staff and parents/carers for their support of our great academy during the spring term.

It is appropriate here that I thank a member of staff who left us in March and thank her for her contribution to our academy's important work, Mrs. Best (Assistant Principal).

Mrs. Best has achieved a promotion and will be missed by colleagues and students. We wish her well in her new post.

I will conclude now by wishing you all the very best for our summer term.

**Rewards at Brownhills Spring Term 2024:
Attendance and Behaviour**

Well done to the 130 students with 100% attendance and excellent behaviour over the spring term, who attended the spring term reward trip to Drayton Manor in April. It was a wet but an enjoyable day! Students had an exhilarating and well-deserved trip in recognition of their achievements over the entire term.



All academy students have started the summer term eligible to attend the next reward trip. Regardless of their previous attendance and behaviour records, all students have a fresh start for the summer term. **Every Brownhills' student who achieves 100% attendance along with excellent behaviour will be invited to our next reward trip.**

We are extremely proud of our students who uphold our Brownhills values of Ready, Respect and Safe. As well as regular verbal praise, students can also receive praise phone calls, praise post cards and achievement points (via Class Charts). **So far, this academic year, students have been awarded over 62,000 achievement points on Class Charts for upholding our values.** This is a phenomenal number! Well done to every student up has upheld our values.

A special well done to the top 10 awarded students in each year!

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Jones, David	Baptiste, Aniya	Downes, Izzie
Horton, Sienna	Perry, Freya	Wall, Aj
Rodgers, Archie	Oke, Oluwatumise	Tennant, Paige
Lowndes, Jenson	Henderson, Katie	Brownhill, Skilah
Boon, Lacey	Gavril, David	Craig, Alfie
Hubble, Tru	Whittaker, Aimee	Crossman, Rihanna
Morgan, Anabelle	Wyatt, Thomas	Allou, Astrid
Platt, Tilly	Hemmings, Maisie	Mohammadi, Hany
Wright, Jake	Penn, Ruby	England, Angel
Steane, Isabella	Taylor, Summer	Hollis, Olivia

Year 10	Year 11
Daniel, Matilda	Baker, Fraser
Dolan, Jack	Desmond, George
Jones, Jamie	Holas, Rahela
Tonks, Sophie	Moore, Emily
Hartshorne, Georgia	Chiwade, Ryan
Wheatley, Kai	Cartwright, Sophie
Baptiste, Acacia	Oke, Tomi
Williams, Jack	Llewellyn, Selina
Bargiel-Pietrzyk, Julia	Machin, Evanie
Borthwick, Keleigh	Machin, Thalia

Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

Does Attendance Really Matter?

1 or 2 days a week may not seem like a lot but...

If your child misses...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...	Which means the best your child might perform is...						
1 day per fortnight	20 Days per year	4 Weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years!	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Your Child</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Children</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Equivalent to finishing in Year 10</td> </tr> </table>	Your Child		Other Children		Equivalent to finishing in Year 10	
Your Child										
Other Children										
Equivalent to finishing in Year 10										
1 day per week	40 Days per year	8 Weeks per year	Over 2.5 years!	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Your Child</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Children</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Equivalent to finishing in Year 9</td> </tr> </table>	Your Child		Other Children		Equivalent to finishing in Year 9	
Your Child										
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Equivalent to finishing in Year 9										
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years!	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Your Child</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Children</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Equivalent to finishing in Year 7</td> </tr> </table>	Your Child		Other Children		Equivalent to finishing in Year 7	
Your Child										
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Equivalent to finishing in Year 7										
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years!	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Your Child</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Children</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Equivalent to finishing in Year 6</td> </tr> </table>	Your Child		Other Children		Equivalent to finishing in Year 6	
Your Child										
Other Children										
Equivalent to finishing in Year 6										

If you want your child to be successful at school then
“YES”,
 attendance does matter!



Attend Today Achieve Tomorrow!

Ready | Respect | Safe



Well done to over 350 students who achieved over 95% attendance to the academy over the spring term! The aim for the summer term is for as many students as possible to achieve a 100% attendance record.

For most students the best place to be is in the academy, surrounded by the support of their friends and staff. This is important not just for students' learning, but also for their overall wellbeing, socialisation, wider development and their mental health.

We know that there are times when there are reasons why students have not attended the academy such as:

- Generally feeling unwell/illness
- Medical reasons
- Mental health
- Peer issues
- Transport/uniform issues
- Specific family circumstances

Our academy's aim is to work in partnership with families to find a way to support students to attend every day. So, if there is a reason why a student cannot attend, we strongly encourage parents/carers to get in contact with pastoral staff or the attendance team. Where possible, please ensure that a child attends the academy in the first instance, and we can work together to support them throughout the academy day. Some of the ways that we can support students are:

- Pastoral support from HOY/PSL
- Referral to school counsellor

- Informing class teachers of specific strategies/adaptations to support a child
- Use of our pupil support unit (PSU) for a short period of time (a smaller classroom environment)
- Referral/signpost to further support from outside agencies

What if a student is too ill to attend the academy?

It's usually safe for parents and carers to send their children to the academy with minor illnesses, like colds, a headache, a cough, runny nose or sore throat. If this is the case send the child with a note in their planner or tell them to speak to their Head of Year so that we can plan the best way to support them throughout the day. If necessary, parents/carers can phone the academy too.

We understand that parents/carers know their child best and there will be occasions when a student may need to stay at home and take the time to recover from an illness.

What if my child is too anxious to go to the academy?

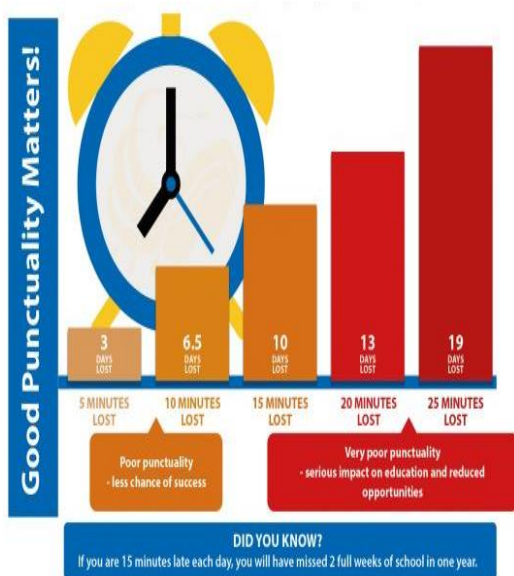
Children can sometimes feel worried about going to the academy/ a school. In the main, this is a very normal emotion. It's important to recognise that often going into the academy can help children to feel less worried than letting them stay at home.

If your child is anxious on a more frequent basis, please get in touch with staff at the academy to see what support can be offered.

What does it mean if a child is persistently or severely absent?

Children who are registered at an academy but regularly fail to turn up are officially referred to as being 'persistently' or 'severely' absent.

Students who have missed more than 10% of possible sessions are considered persistently absent, whilst children who have missed more than 50% of sessions are referred to as severely absent.

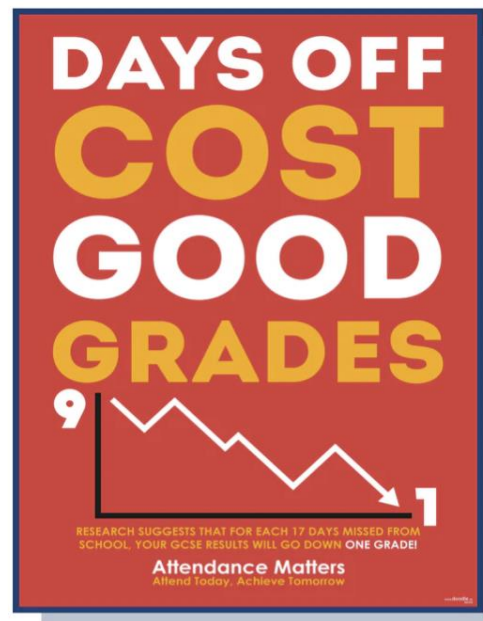


The academy day is split into two sessions – the morning and the afternoon. Students who are late to the academy may miss the morning mark, so it is important that they are on time.

What time do students need to be at the academy by in the morning?

Students must attend for 8:30am to give them time to use the toilet and make use of the free breakfast club before attending form time, which starts at 8:40am. Students who arrive after 8:40am will receive a 'L' (late) mark. Students who attend after

9:30am will receive a U mark, which affects their attendance percentage and counts as an absence. For example, if a student attends the academy every day for a year, and attends after 9:30am on one occasion, they would not be classed as having 100% attendance.



What should a parent/carer do if their child needs to be absent from the academy?

Parents/carers must contact the academy as early as possible to explain why their child is absent, for instance if they are too ill to attend.

If not, the academy will contact parents/carers on the first morning of an absence to find out why. All parents can request a 'leave of absence' (LOA) for their child which gives them permission to be absent from the academy.

All LOAs must be agreed with in advance by the Principal, Mrs Lloyd. In following the Department of Education's guide, permitted

absence will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.

What rewards are in place for good attendance?

Research has shown that there is a clear link between attendance and attainment. Students with excellent attendance achieve better GCSE results. Therefore, the ultimate reward for students with good attendance is that they will see the benefit by fulfilling their potential and making good progress in their GCSE grades, the core purpose of the academy. This of course will give students more opportunities when applying for college, 6th form or apprenticeships. At Brownhills we feel it is important to show recognition for excellent attendance on a more frequent basis as follows:

- Weekly attendance reward merits on class charts
- £25 voucher draw for 100% attendance in last week of term (one per year group)
- £50 voucher draw for 100% per term (2 winners)
- Students with 100% for a week can win (2 winners in each year group):
 - Jump the queue pass (with one friend)
 - £1 voucher in the canteen
 - Free drink voucher from canteen
- Best form attendance trophy in assembly (weekly)
- End of Term 100% attendance certificates
- End of Term Rewards Trips



Congratulations to Three Brownhills' Students: Annual OAT Awards

We are very proud that three students, who were nominated by Brownhills staff, were shortlisted for the final awards out of thousands of students from 36 OAT secondary academies.

Congratulations to

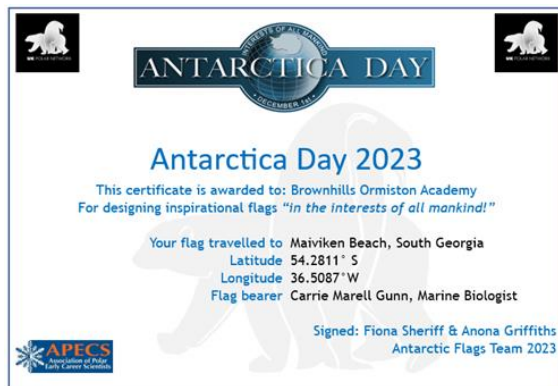
Adam Shelton, Year 11, nominated for 'Most Improved'.

Lily Mae Smith, Year 11, nominated for 'Sporting Champion'.

Rebecca Hoye, Year 10, nominated for 'Budding Linguist'.

UKPN Antarctic Flags Project

Two Year 7 students from our Geography Club have participated in the UKPN Antarctic Flags Project. They have designed inspirational flags based on Antarctica. Their flags travelled to Antarctica with Carrie Marell Gunn. Carrie is a Marine Biologist for the British Antarctic Survey. She took the below photo at Maiviken, South Georgia, near one of the Gentoo Penguin Study colonies in December 2023



Human Geography Fieldwork Experience – Year 11.

An important element of the GCSE Geography Course is for year 11 students to complete a human geography fieldwork study, with a focus on urban regeneration in our local area. With the recent changes to Brownhills High Street, including the opening of a new McDonalds, closure of some shops and updates to the Civic Court, Brownhills High Street is the perfect example of where regeneration has started and has been 'somewhat' successful. Our students chose three sites to carry out their fieldwork and were able to gather data that will support them in their final summer exams. The students conducted themselves impeccably, with lots of positive comments from local passers-by and shop owners.



'For our Geography fieldwork experience we visited three sites along Brownhills High Street to determine if it (the High Street) has been successfully regenerated. We spent time collecting data such as a pedestrian count and a traffic count and creating field sketches. We also completed an environmental quality survey at each site and managed to conclude that regeneration has, to a certain extent, been successful.' Alfie Fox – year 11.

Derby Faith Trail

On Monday 26th February 2024, 42 students from Year 7 and Year 8 visited the Derby Open Centre to experience places of worship belonging to three of the world's major religions- Islam, Hinduism, and Sikhism.

Students visited a Hindu Temple where they viewed the main prayer hall and the shrine with the deities. Every time a member of the community visits, a loud bell is rung to symbolise their arrival in the presence of God.



Following on from the Hindu Temple, students visited a Mosque to get an insight into a Muslim place of worship. Students were taken to the washrooms used for Wudu, which is where Muslims must always visit prior to the prayer hall to ensure they have washed.



The Muslim guide explained the importance of the direction of prayer (facing Mecca) along with six clocks which signify the five times a Muslim prays each day along with a sixth clock for a special prayer on Fridays – the holiest of days in the week.



The last place of worship was a Sikh place of worship - the Gurdwara. Students were taken to the prayer hall for a talk about the Sikh way of life. This included the 5K's – where students had an opportunity to look at each item in turn and understand its significance for the Sikh community. There was also an opportunity to play the Jori – a South Asian percussion instrument made up of two individual drums and to see the Sikh leader demonstrate the spinning of a Chakar – a big wheel with weights at the end of each spoke. This is used in battle as a shield but has also been used in ceremonial dances.

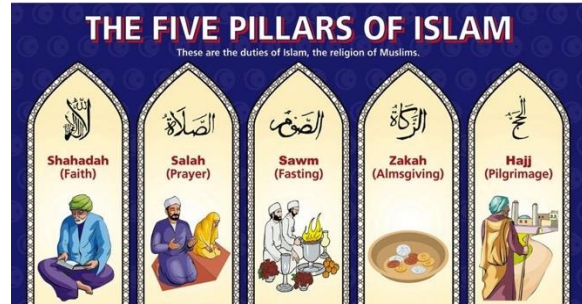


Students also had an opportunity to visit the langar kitchen to try some of the food provided by the community. Hot meals are served here free of charge for anybody in need of food. People sit on the floor and eat together. The langar kitchen is maintained and serviced by Sikh community volunteers as a way of giving back to the community and providing valuable charity work.



Learning about Ramadan - The Holy Month of Fasting for Muslims

In March as part of PSHE programme and our celebration and appreciation of the diversity of our student and staff body, all year groups learnt about the holy month of Ramadan, which forms part of the Islamic calendar. Students learnt that Ramadan begins and ends with the appearance of the crescent moon. Because the Muslim calendar year is shorter than the Gregorian calendar year, Ramadan begins 10-12 days earlier each year.



Forming one part of the five pillars of Islam, millions of Muslims around the world fast. The definition of fasting is, 'to restrain from eating/drinking from sunrise to sunset'. This means not even a drop of water can be consumed.

Most importantly, students learnt about the significance of Ramadan. Muslims go to school and work as usual during Ramadan, but more time is spent praying, reading their holy book, the Quran and being charitable to the poor. Ramadan teaches us about being compassionate and caring. Ramadan is the ultimate test of patience and self-control. Even though Muslims are hungry and thirsty they wait until the appointed hour to eat. Patience and self-control are important virtues to hold.

We wish all our students and staff of Muslim faith Eid Mubarak.

Medical Mavericks- A Practical Science Experience

In February, over 90 students in Years 7-11 took part in the medical maverick workshops.

The hands on workshops gave students the opportunity to use a variety of equipment and learn about:

- Ultrasound Machines
- iPhone Retina Scans
- Record and Print an ECGs
- Taking Blood
- Keyhole Surgery
- Infrared Vein Scanners

Two medics explained and demonstrated. The students really enjoyed the experience and we hope that students may have gained insight into the many careers that can be undertaken in the world of medicine and science.



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE)- Our Latest News about our Bronze Participants

The DofE group of students are making great progress towards achieving their Bronze Award this year. Participants are currently completing their volunteering – with some helping with our year 7 reading programmes in the academy.

Expedition Skills Training Day 1:

In preparation for their overnight expedition in June, participants took part in a skills training day, led by Premier Leadership Ltd. The group have a varied amount of experience but braved the cooler weather to learn how to use their stoves to make hot chocolate and to work together in their expedition teams. They looked at expedition menus and had an introduction to route planning. Learning to pitch tents and an off-site navigation training day are the next steps for our intrepid teams before the final expedition on Cannock Chase.

A big thank you to Mrs. M Moore (DofE Leader) and Mr. Baker for their support.



Sections of the Award Explained:

There are four main sections of a DofE Programme, Skills, Physical, Volunteering and Expedition Sectional activities. At Bronze level it is typical for activities to be weekly and to average an hour a week. It will usually take participants at least 6 months to complete their Bronze Programme.

Time spent:

Volunteering section: 3 months

Physical section: 3 months

Skills section: 3 months

Expedition section: 2 days/1 night

PE News

Undoubtedly our students have had a fantastic few months of sports and physical education achievements and opportunities.

Female British Cycling Talent Identification Workshop

In February our year 9 and 10 girls completed a British Cycling Talent Identification workshop where they cycled as hard as possible for 60 seconds. The purpose of the session was to identify if any of our students could progress onto the next stages of talent identification.



A huge well done to all students, and especially to the top 5 students, who have been identified for the next stage: Lola Webster, Sophie Tonks, Paige Borthwick and Princess Jeffery.

Every girl worked extremely hard and tried their upmost best to impress talent ID scout Chris Heaton, from the British Cycling Team.

We are grateful to Christ Heaton for coming into the academy to lead a great workshop!



Marley Roberts: Selection for the West Midlands County Football Team

Marley first went for trials for the West Midlands County Football Team in September 2021. He represented the academy. He eased through the stages and made it onto the team. Well done to Marley!



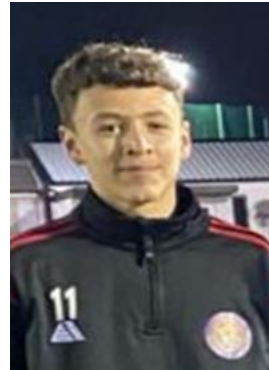
During his first season representing the county, the managers were so impressed by his talent that he was automatically put through to the second and third seasons. Marley always turns up for practice and events looking very smart in his academy uniform.

Marley has impressed many in the world of local football. He was a member of Wolverhampton Wanderers under 11 football team five years ago and went to trials for Walsall Football Club (FC). Within 3 weeks they offered Marley a two-year contract with the club.



Marley has progressed and worked extremely hard since joining our academy. His determination and dedication to training has got Marley to where he is today. He has now been with Walsall FC for five years. Recently Marley made his debut appearance for the under-21 team. Although he was the youngest on the pitch he still managed to

make a great impression on the coaching staff.



During the academy summer holiday in 2023, Marley attended the Walsall FC academy from 9-4 every day working extremely hard on his dream of becoming a professional football player. Marley is currently playing for the under 18/19s team where he fits in and plays well. Marley has recently been offered a scholarship at the football academy where he will be working towards playing for the first team whilst studying BTEC level 3 in Physical Education and Sport.

A huge well done to Marley and we can't wait to see what the future brings for him!

Glow Football

On Wednesday 31st January, our year 9 and 10 girls were invited to Walsall College for a glow football event. This event was a football tournament with a twist! The girls were competing under UV lighting with a glow in the dark ball, vests, head and wrist band and face paints. This was a completely new version of football and something the girls were extremely excited about! The girls enjoyed a brilliant day and can't wait for the opportunity to play again!



House Quidditch

Students in our 4 houses took part in a house quidditch competition for World Book Day in March. Each lunchtime during the week of World Book Day, students represented their houses to compete to try to make it to the final. On Friday 8th March Team Thomas and Team Hoy took part in a head-to-head final. All students worked extremely hard and it became a close fought game. Team Thomas took the victory and were champions of house quidditch. Well done to all students who took part!

United by 2022 Commonwealth Games workshop

Our year 7, 8 & 9 students took part in a United by 2022 Commonwealth Games workshop on 11th March- a legacy project of the Commonwealth Games 2022. Students enjoyed learning about local athletes and their stories of how they got to compete in the Commonwealth Games held in the Birmingham and the Black Country area in July 2022. The workshop was interactive and brought out our students' competitiveness and resilience. Well done to all students involved!



Well done to Liam Record (Year 9) who came fourth in the National School Trampoline Finals in March.

The academy and his family are extremely proud of him! He was only 0.5 point away from gaining third place in the competition.

The national finals were held at Telford International Arena. Liam worked very hard to get through two previous shortlist rounds, the regionals heats and then the finals. He competed against students from all over England.

The top three competitors were classed in a higher difficulty level than Liam, which adds to his success. This event was Liam's first competition in the intermediate classification level.

Liam is now through to the third round in the Regional Challenge Cup. Hopefully he will achieve well and will be able to represent the West Midlands again at the Utilita Arena in July 2024.

We wish Liam all the best in his next competition and look forward to hearing more about his achievements.

The Matilda Production

In December 2023 the students of Brownhills performed their production of the hit musical Matilda for 15 local primary schools and 500 members of the public. The show was a huge success, and our fantastic cast and technical crew did the academy proud once again.

We want to say a massive well done to all of the students involved and a thank you to the staff who gave up so much time and energy to support the production. A particular well done to the Year 11 students in the production for whom this will be their final show in a Brownhills uniform.



OAT Awards

After our work towards #WeWillSing and performance at the #WeWillCelebrate event last year, we were asked to bring 25 singers to the Grand Hotel in Birmingham to perform at the OAT Awards event. This is an event attended by all of the principals and executives of OAT at which they celebrate the achievements of young people and staff across the trust.

We opened the ceremony with a medley of songs and the students were outstanding. They performed brilliantly and got a

standing-ovation from the audience. We have received a number of comments from attendees who couldn't believe the high quality of the singing and performance. Well done to everyone involved.



World Book Day

On Thursday 7th March we celebrated World Book Day at Brownhills with a week of activities all about our favourite books. During the week there were performances for local primary schools, a House Quidditch tournament and student readings of stories, poems and news articles.

On the day itself, Year 7 & 8 had a day full of lessons linked to their favourite books and their Read Aloud books. They did a 'Book Choice Bistro', storytelling, epilogues, Blue Peter Badge applications and book quizzes as well as monologues on the playground from our Year 10 students.

We had a fantastic day and thank you to all of the staff and students involved. A special thank you to our staff members who dressed up as literary characters for the occasion!



Jekyll & Hyde

As part of the Speak Up Project, in March Brownhills students in Year 9 & 10 were treated to a performance in our Lecture Theatre from the National Theatre of their adaptation of Jekyll & Hyde by Evan Placey.

The performance was outstanding and it was amazing to have the UK's leading theatre company performing on our stage. The students and staff loved it, and we can't wait to continue the project and our work with the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.



The opening of our new outside food pod

The long-awaited opening of our new, high spec and beautifully equipped food pod took place on 21st March. The opening was a great success. The students and staff were impressed with new look, and they made lovely comments about it. The students were calm and orderly when queuing in two lines, and they continue to do so.

The larger food pod has increased our serving capacity. Students are passing through the tills quicker than before the installation. This means that they have lots of time to have fun with their friends or attend one of the many lunchtime clubs that we run.

Thank you to the Estates Team at Ormiston Trust and to Educaterers Ltd. for their work and support during this project.

Thank you for reading our newsletter!
Look out for our summer edition later in the year 😊