

Newsletter



Brownhills Ormiston Academy Newsletter

Edition 5 May/June/July 2024



Ready

Respect

Safe



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 summer 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 April- over 80,000 points this year 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 in all year groups have produced some excellent and high-quality work full of effort and thought. Year 11 students worked very hard during their final exams in May and June. Year 11 students attended extra revision sessions before and after school and during the May half term. Over 60 students attended our Saturday maths sessions, during which both staff and students enjoyed a McDonalds' breakfast.

Year 11 students took the exams very seriously. Their consistent revision and focus on learning has meant that they exited exams feeling reassured that their hard work supported them to answer the papers to the best of their ability. I and all staff are proud of their work ethic and determination to succeed.

Another highlight of the school year so far was the Year 11 prom at Calderfields Golf Club on 28th June. Students looked stunning in their beautiful dresses, smart suits and outfits. Staff commented on how mature they were, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

A wide range of enrichment and wider opportunities continue to be fully available to all students. As I write this welcome piece, I have just attended nine consecutive workday evenings of academy events involving many students. These events include the summer concert, the year 11 prom and the sports awards evening. I and the staff are very proud when we see how talented, hardworking and enthusiastic our students are. We are currently finalising the autumn term enrichment/extra-curricular and wider opportunities calendar, and we look forward to enrolling students into many opportunities.

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

It is appropriate here that I thank members of staff, who are leaving us, for their service to the academy. We thank: Mrs Taylor (Head of Science) Mr Carnell (Maths teacher), Mr Islam (Teaching Assistant) and Ms Campbell (receptionist).

We wish all these staff the very best in their careers and life journeys ahead.

I will conclude now by wishing you all a safe and enjoyable summer break.

Remembering our Esteemed Colleague Diane Lindsay

Brownhills Ormiston Academy staff and students would like to pay their respects to and honour Diane Lindsay, who sadly passed away in June 2024.

Diane gave 13 years of service to the academy and was a highly respected and admired colleague and staff member. Diane was the academy's HR manager, yet her work and contribution went far beyond her main remit. Diane was a member of staff who fully immersed herself into the life of the academy- she was first to volunteer to support activities and events and she was always on hand to help colleagues and students. No problem was too big to overcome.

A proud moment for Diane, her family and the academy was when she was nominated and recognised for her service to the academy. She was a very deserving recipient of the OAT Award for her service to the Trust in March 2023 as part of the OAT Annual Awards.

Diane was a person who would light up the room with her infectious smile and positive attitude to life. She is missed and will continue to be missed by all.

On behalf of all academy students and staff, we would like to extend our heartfelt thank you to Diane for her commitment and contribution to the academy, and for being kind and caring to all.



Stand up to Cancer - Fundraising

This April, Dr Caldwell, a member of staff in the science department and her spaniel Flicka took part in the Stand up to Cancer 60-mile dog walking challenge. With the help of sponsorship from colleagues, family and friends, £442 was raised for Cancer Research UK. Well done to Dr Caldwell and Flicka for all their efforts to a very worthy cause.



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! | Your Child | <div><div></div></div> |
| | | | | Other Children | <div><div></div></div> |
| | | | | Equivalent to finishing in Year 10 | |
| 1 day per week | 40 Days per year | 8 Weeks per year | Over 2.5 years! | Your Child | <div><div></div></div> |
| | | | | Other Children | <div><div></div></div> |
| | | | | Equivalent to finishing in Year 9 | |
| 2 days per week | 80 days per year | 16 weeks per year | Over 5 years! | Your Child | <div><div></div></div> |
| | | | | Other Children | <div><div></div></div> |
| | | | | Equivalent to finishing in Year 7 | |
| 3 days per week | 120 days per year | 24 weeks per year | Nearly 8 years! | Your Child | <div><div></div></div> |
| | | | | Other Children | <div><div></div></div> |
| | | | | 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?

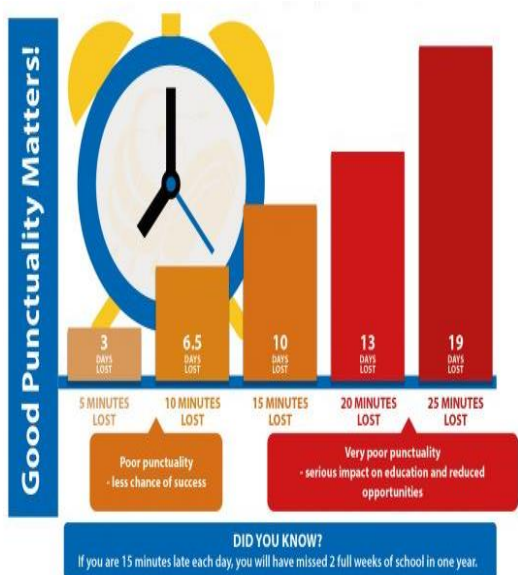
Children can sometimes feel worried about going to the academy/ a school. In the main, this is a very normal emotion. It's important to recognise that often going into the academy can help children to feel less worried than letting them stay at home.

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.

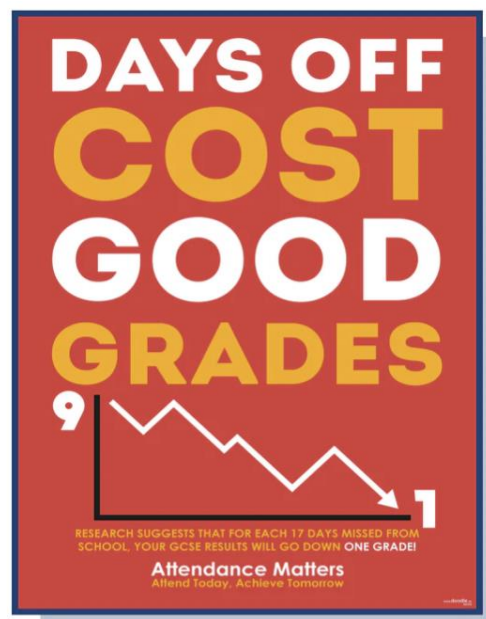


The academy day is split into two sessions – the morning and the afternoon. Students who are late to the academy may miss the morning mark, so it is important that they are on time.

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



Countdown to our trip to Disneyland Europe!

With only a few days to go, all staff and student participants are getting excited about the adventure to come, which starts on 16th July!



More to follow about our adventure in the September edition of the newsletter.

Brownhills Chess Club

This academic year, Mr. James has had the pleasure of developing Chess across all OAT academies. Consequently, Brownhills Ormiston Academy has also benefitted by giving students access to a variety of opportunities.

Firstly, there was the launch of a chess club leadership program. George Malpass, Jack Davies, Esme Morris and Amelia-Rose Grierson were all presented with chess club pin badges for their regular attendance at the chess club but also exhibiting strong leadership qualities.

In February, thirty-six primary school students from four academies participated in an exciting online chess tournament. The secondary school tournament was held in May with one hundred and twenty-four secondary school students from nine academies enthusiastically taking part in an online paired tournament. Brownhills Ormiston Academy was strongly represented with Jack Williams, Henry Grundy, Rachel Ball, Max Bagley, Jamie Jones, George Malpass, Kai Wheatly, Tabita Boziean, Jack Davies and Tariq Hayde all playing. All the Brownhills Ormiston Academy teams won at least one game and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Finally, there was the launch of 'Chess in the Community'. Each academy across the trust received a new chess board that can be lent out to students for home use. This initiative aims to promote family engagement through chess by allowing students to take the boards home. A teacher from Edward Worlledge OAT Academy expressed gratitude for the generous donation of a large portable chess

board. The board brought immense joy to chess club students, especially one novice who took it home to play with his father, fostering meaningful family connections through the game of chess.

If anyone wants to borrow the Brownhills chess board, please come and find Mr. James, who will be more than happy for students to borrow it.

We hope that academic year 2024-25 brings lots more opportunities to play chess for fun and in competition.

On behalf of OAT and the academy, we would like to say a huge thank you to Mr. James, who is a member of our staff and has been the OAT wide Chess Coordinator 2023-24. He has introduced and promoted the world of chess to hundreds and thousands of students across all OAT schools- both primary and secondary.



Year 10 Geography Field Trip

Year 10 Geographers completed their human fieldwork experience in June, making a judgement on how successful urban regeneration along Brownhills High Street has been. Students completed an environmental quality survey, field sketches and traffic and pedestrian counts to gather a primary data set. Students were a huge credit to the academy; their positive attitude and wonderful manners were commented on by lots of people within the local community, who saw them working hard.

Well done Year 10 Geographers! Thank you to Ms Sheldon, Mrs Holland and Ms Brookes for their support.



Super Saturdays & Ready, Set, Go, Revision - Mathematics

The final Year 11 maths revision sessions took place in May and June. The students demonstrated fantastic dedication to achieving their best in maths by attending revision sessions after school, in the holidays and on Saturdays. Competition was fierce as the last giraffe was assembled in a bid to outdo their peers. The Saturday sessions saw over 60 students, hungry for success, working through the problems, the practice papers and a fair few hash browns as they tucked into their free McDonalds breakfasts. Well done Year 11!



OAT MathOlympics



Congratulations to Mason in year 8 who won a top prize in the MathOlympics challenge. Mason successfully completed the Olympic(ish) Rings Puzzle and was the proud winner of a £20 Amazon voucher. The competition is open to all students at the academy and is run several times a year. Students are to watch out for an email from their maths class teacher, and next time it may be them!

Alongside the individual challenges there is also a team challenge. Our fabulous year 9 team narrowly missed out on a place in the grand final finishing a very respectable 9th out of 32 OAT secondary academy. Go Team Maths!

Olympic(ish) Rings Puzzle

Make every circle add to 21 using each of the numbers below exactly once.

Which number should replace the star?



French Play: Le Cours d'Art (The Art Lesson)

On the 17th June, our academy welcomed the Onatti Theatre Company, which was touring the UK. The Onatti Theatre Company is comprised of 3 French actors, who are performing in schools and other venues around the UK this year.

Over 150 of our Year 7, 8 and 9 students had the unique opportunity to watch the French play entitled 'Le Cours d'Art'.

The play was a comedy. It is about five students and a teacher in an art class. When the teacher leaves the lesson, she locks the door and gives the key to one girl. Not knowing that the girl has the key, all the other characters panic and turn on each other, becoming paranoid in the process and the comedy begins.

Our students thought that it was very entertaining, especially as the French actors interacted with the audience. The languages department thought that it was an exhilarating and a unique opportunity for students to immerse themselves in the French language, since the play was entirely performed in French.



Brownhills Culture Days- July 2024

This academic year, Mrs. Zaric and the school council are working on several projects:

A celebration that has happened for several years now is our "Culture Days". These focus on appreciating different cultural values and traditions. Each form decides on which country to represent. Their form rooms are decorated with items from that country; very often topped with a flag of their chosen country.



Throughout the 2-day event there is a plethora of activities that the students can get involved in, including different national sports.

We have Zumba dancing, Bhangra dancing, Aussie rules, French boules (bowls), Gaelic football, to name a few. Other activities include henna designs, which occur all week at lunchtimes with different foods from different countries on sale, so students can taste food they may not have tried before.

There will be a raffle to raise funds for charity to help children overseas.

Each form will take part in quizzes including the "Best dressed form room" competition where a trophy is won with pride.

We look forward to students and staff getting involved to celebrate many cultures

Moon Samples and Meteorites from Mars Tour to our Academy

In the Science department during June, we were immensely lucky to have moon samples, which were brought back from the US Apollo moon missions in the 1960s and 1970s on loan from the US Government to our academy.

There is a long waiting list for UK schools and academies to loan these items. It was exciting when we had a pre-visit inspection from a representative from Leicester Space Museum, who had to ensure that our academy was secure to hold the invaluable and precious items from space.

We were able to look after meteorites from space, the moon and mars. Both the staff and students were incredibly excited to view the precious samples.



The students learnt about the different moon rocks and investigated how to identify meteorites from earth rocks. The activities sparked our students' scientific interest and raised their curiosity; they had so many questions. So, next time you see the moon remember our Brownhills students have held part of it!

PE News

Walsall Schools Swimming Gala



Our annual swimming gala took place on in April with our KS3 (Years 7-9) students. Swimmers from other secondary schools came to Brownhills to compete in the Walsall Schools gala in our swimming pool. The evening was filled with some fantastic swimmers and the whole evening was very competitive. Two of our team were winners of events: Josh Bailey in Year 9 and Kaci-Mai Taundry in Year 7. A huge well done to them and to the rest of the team. The team consisted of Freya Perry (year 8), Faye Duckhouse, Layla Ellis-Gleeson and Amy Smith -all year 7 students.

Staff Versus Year 11 Events

To raise money for the Year 11 prom, Year 11 students took on staff in volleyball, rounders and netball to see who would come out on top. Student spectators donated money to watch and supported a cake sale to raise funds. These were fantastic events, which both staff and students thoroughly enjoyed. The PE department would like to say a huge well done to all staff and students who

participated, played, supported and donated towards the Year 11 prom.



Walsall Schools Dance Festival

On Thursday 23rd May, Walsall Schools Dance Festival was held at Walsall Academy. This event was to celebrate all the fantastic dancers around Walsall and to showcase the talented students who we have in our schools. Representing Brownhills Ormiston Academy was Maisie Allington, Year 7. Maisie dances outside of school and was able to demonstrate her fantastic skills. Other schools commented on how amazing Maisie was, which was thoroughly deserved. Maisie is a credit to our academy, and she performed a spectacular piece at our Sports Awards evening in July. More to come in our September edition of our newsletter.





Rounders Tournaments

Years 8 and 9 have competed in the Walsall Schools' Rounders Tournaments. On Wednesday 12th June, Year 9s competed against 7 other schools. In their group stages, the girls finished second, which led them to play for 3rd/4th place position. Unfortunately, they lost out on 3rd place by 1.5 rounders, but the girls played with great tactical knowledge in and focus on all the games throughout the whole evening.

On Wednesday 19th June, Year 8s competed in their tournament. Due to our high number of players, we entered two mixed teams. Both teams played very competitive games and made it to finals. The A team finished 1st overall across 8 schools in Walsall with the B

team finishing in a solid 4th place. Both teams represented the PE department and the school with pride, and we are so proud of them. A huge well done to Emily Morsdak and Kaci Mai Taundry from Year 7 who also stepped up to play with the Year 8s.



National School Sports Week

From Monday 17th to Friday 23rd June our academy hosted the National School Sports Week. The PE department hosted a different sport during every lesson of every day for students to sign up and take part.

It was brilliant to see the enthusiasm for sport with over 80 students signing up to each event. The events ranged from the more known team sports of football and netball to newer sports such as cheerleading and Aussie rules. On Wednesday 19th, we hosted a whole school 'Race for Life' in memory of our very special colleague and friend, Diane Lindsay. The atmosphere was extremely special, and all students showed empathy and effort throughout the race. The week was fantastic, and we are so proud of all the participants.



Sports Leadership Programme

For the second year in a row the PE department participated in the Youth Sports Trust's project called 'Beyond the Baseline', which enables girls to develop their leadership skills through sport.

The Year 10 girls had two sessions delivered to them by ex-professional tennis player Yasmin Clarke. The girls led a tennis session in July, which local primary school children took part in. In addition, the girls demonstrated their leadership skills by attending and helping at the Watling Street Primary School Sports Day.



The Black Country Games

On Thursday 27th June, our Year 8 students qualified to represent Walsall at the Black Country games. Students competed against schools from Dudley, Wolverhampton and Sandwell in a round robin tournament. Both teams played brilliantly, and the Walsall schools finished 2nd overall at the end of the tournament. Well done to our students!



Thank you to the PE Team

I am sure that you will agree that we have a jam-packed edition of sports events in this newsletter, and we have more to come this summer, which will feature in the September edition of the newsletter.

The academy extends a heartfelt thank you to Mrs. Moore (Head of PE), Mr. James (Second in PE) and all the PE staff for leading, planning and implementing a wide range of curricular and extra-curricular activities for our students to participate in. All activities engender and foster the love of sport. Sport is a very important part of our academy provision, and we will continue to make sport not only competitive, but also accessible and fun for all.

Safeguarding Children and Families over the Summer and Throughout the Year:

We will be taking a break over the summer period. If you have any safeguarding concerns, please use the following guidance.

If you are worried about the safety of a child: Call Walsall MASH 0300 5552866

Please see below for the Initial Response Numbers for the following areas:

Wolverhampton 01902 555 392

Birmingham 0121 303 1888

Sandwell 0121 569 3100

Staffordshire 01543 510 410

Cannock 0800 1313 126

Dudley 01384 813 200

In an emergency or imminent injury: Call Police 999 or 101

For advice on safety of children, **Childline** is available for young people and adults to call 0800 1111

Welfare concerns

General information can be found at Walsall Children and Young People Service Directory can be viewed <http://www.mywalsall.org>

Information on local foodbanks:

Walsall North Foodbank

07582 869895

info@walsallnorth.foodbank.org.uk

Bloxwich & Blakenall Foodbank

07747 301374

info@bloxwichblakenall.foodbank.org.uk

Ablewell Advice Walsall

Tel: 01922 639700

Email: info@ablewelladvice.org.uk

The THOMAS Project

Tel: 01922 452213

Email: office@thethomasproject.co.uk

The Black Country Foodbank

Telephone: 01384 671250

Email:

admin@blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk

Safeguarding and Safety Messages to Students for the Summer Break

Students will be reminded by their form tutors, before the holidays, that if they need to reach out for support over the six-week period, KOOTH is available free of charge, and there are more activities and information about support at Young Minds, please see the links below:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

<https://www.kooth.com/>

Students are to play safe and stay safe over the holiday break. Their guardians must know where they are and who they are with. Please can parents, carers and families pass on messages to their children to conduct themselves safely and lawfully when on or near

- Roads and highways
- Trains and train lines
- Buses and other vehicles
- The internet and social media platforms
- Swimming pools and other waterways
- Town centres/busy urban areas

Thank you to all our partners!

Thank you to our Local Primary Schools

Over the last few years, our partnerships with our local primary schools have gone from strength to strength.

Mrs. Lloyd and the academy's staff have been delighted to welcome four local primary schools to use our pool for their statutory swimming lessons. We look forward to seeing them again from September 2024.

Lots of partnership work has taken place over 2023-24, including in music, drama and sport.

Mrs. Probert, Headteacher from Watling Road Primary School, has sent Mrs. Lloyd a lovely message about the academy:

'I want to say thank you for your and your staff's support and the student representation.

Mr Pierce (Head of Music) brought a wonderfully talented group of children to perform at our summer fete in June. Students played and sang beautifully and added a brilliant element to the afternoon.

Mrs Moore (Head of PE) and Mr James (Second in PE) brought your Year 10 sports leaders to help with our whole school sports day. Both groups of girls were just credit to you; they were organised, polite, respectful and such a help. The way they interacted with the children was amazing - you should be very proud.'

On both occasions I congratulated and thanked the students, but I also wanted to let you know what a credit they are.'

We thank Mrs. Probert for her kind message, and we look forward to the joint projects and partnership work in 2024-25 with all our local primary school partners.

Thank you to Educaterers and our Kitchen staff

During the weeks leading to the Year 11 exams and during the exam period itself, the kitchen staff cooked breakfast every day for all Year 11 students. The free breakfast, paid for by the academy, aimed to enable all Year 11 students to eat and drink before their first exam of the day.

The kitchen staff team even made cakes for Year 11 one breacktime to wish them well in their exams. How kind!

Thank you to Naomi and her kitchen staff for the extra food that they cooked.

