



Brownhills Ormiston Academy

NEWSLETTER | WINTER / SPRING 2025

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Principal's Message from Mrs Lloyd

Dear Parents/carers, families and readers of our newsletter,

Welcome to this first edition of our newsletters for this academic year. It has been a jam-packed schedule of academic work, wider opportunities and enrichment experiences for our students since September 2024, many of which have featured in this edition.

A wide range of enrichment and wider opportunities continue to be fully available to all students.

Staff and I are very proud of how students have conducted themselves and their engagement in academy life.



Good behaviour Demonstrated by our Students

We have carried out three 'start of the new half term behaviour training' sessions with all students upon their return to the academy in September and October 2024, and in January 2025. These sessions remind students of our expectations, rules and routines, so that they conduct themselves in a manner which supports them to learn more to be successful students, and ultimately to be very ready for the rigour of their academic work.

In our staff survey in January 2025, 100% of staff said that most students' behaviour is good. This demonstrates how well our students behave, so they are equipped to be responsible citizens when they leave us.

Students wearing their uniform with pride has been very good and visitors always compliment how smart and professional they appear.

Praise and Rewards for Demonstrating our Values and Much More!

Well done to all our students who have received awards for demonstrating our values of Ready, Respect and Safe, for good behaviour, for good attendance and for effort, progress and hard work. Over 50,000 rewards points have been issued from September to December 2024! This is a phenomenal figure, and we are very proud of our students, who have earned these points.

Rewards Assemblies took place in October and in December 2024 to give recognition, praise and rewards to students meeting expectations.

Reward activities that took place in December 2024 included:

- A reward trip to Waterworld for 150 students
- High profile raffle for students with excellent attendance and behaviour. Prizes were a mountain bike, Alexa Echo, tablets and wireless headphones
- Culture of rewards: Chocolates for top 10 achievement points in each year

Homework and Good Study Habits

Thank you to parents and carers for supporting our consistent drive on homework and home learning and understanding why it is necessary and essential. It is important 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 high content demands of the GCSE courses.

We want our students to be able to excel academically and to 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. In year 10 we expect students to carry out at least one hour of homework per evening, if not more. Year 11 students should be studying more and in earnest for their GCSE exams than in year 10. Remember that 100s of 1000s of students from across the country sit GCSE exams every summer and we want our students to be able to compete strongly with these peers for the best grades.

All homework is set on Class Charts. Parents and carers should have downloaded the app. Homework is also set each week on Sparx Reader (years 7, 8 and 9), on Sparx Maths and on Sparx Science.



Road Safety

We teach and remind students how to stay safe and conduct themselves appropriately in and out of the academy. I especially want to draw attention to their safe conduct in and around Deakin Avenue and the A5 before and after school. We teach about road safety in PSHE lessons, and we hold a road safety presentation every year. We issue frequent reminders to students. Thank you to parents and carers for also discussing road safety with their child.

Parents and carers must not park on the double yellow lines on Deakin Avenue. We need to be mindful of our Deakin Avenue neighbours.

Compliments and praise from our visitors about our amazing students

As I end my message, I want to share some of the many positive messages I and staff have received about our students:

Whole School Remembrance Day Service in November 2024

"The students' behaviour was impeccable and those reading did so with confidence and clarity. The poppy art installation in the Remembrance Quad was effective, so a big well done to everyone involved in that. Another proud day for Brownhills Ormiston Academy."

Mrs. Tomlinson - Academy Governor

Respectful Students in October 2024

"The school has a lovely atmosphere. Here pupils are polite and behave very well."

Visitor - job applicant

Settling into a new school in September 2024

"My son is doing so well and has settled in really well-making friends and just enjoying his time at Brownhills."

Parent - Year 7 Student



Year 7 Up and Comers Concert in November 2024

"The students were superb in every way and sang so well."

Parent comment

Year 11 Geography Students carrying out GCSE Field Work - November 2024

"The behaviour and the engagement of your students shone through with some excellent questions and a genuine interest in what they could see around them. The students were polite and very capable of listening, following instructions and ultimately working independently using the skills that had been demonstrated."

From my point of view, it is always good to hear that our volunteers have enjoyed their school sessions, and it is students like yours that mean they keep on coming back to support us here at Carding Mill Valley!

Hopefully we will see you in the valley again in the future."

The Manager - The National Trust Carding Mill Valley Centre on the Long Mynd in Shropshire

Enjoy reading our news and articles!

Attendance

At Brownhills Ormiston Academy, all our staff strive to create an environment where there is mutual respect and that all members of our school family feel valued. We want students to wake up every day thinking, that staff and students in my school really care about me and want me to do well.

Students know that by working ‘with’ their class teachers and fellow students they can make excellent progress in their studies. However, students are also very aware that if they are not in school, they will ‘miss out’ on valuable learning and that success will be limited.

Every year, we see the difference between those students who attend regularly and those who do not. Those students who have consistently attended school each year, walk out on results day with a set of results that they deserve. Unfortunately, for some students with low attendance, they end up being disappointed with their results as they simply were not in the room when the content was taught. Every day’s absence means that students lose 5 hours of learning. Students with 90% attendance over just one year, will lose 195 hours of learning. If a child has had attendance of 90% for several years, there is even more lost learning. For those students who attend school more regularly, they will make better progress and the evidence suggests that they will overtake those that do not.

It is crucial that over the spring and summer term, your child attends daily.

To recognise those students who have demonstrated excellent attendance over the autumn term, a weekly draw took place in December where students received a range of prizes.

Well done to our attendance winners over December:

- Year 7:** Tommy Betteridge
Attendance Prize: Gaming Headset
- Year 8:** Layla Mathews
Attendance Prize: Amazon bluetooth speaker
- Year 10:** Astrid Allou
Attendance Prize: Amazon Fire Tablet
- Year 9:** Jeremiah Nseula
Attendance Prize: Carrera Mountain Bike



EVERY MINUTE COUNTS		
MINUTES LATE PER DAY	EQUIVALENT OF MISSING	HOW MANY LESSONS THIS IS MISSED
5 MINUTES	3.4 SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR	17 LESSONS
10 MINUTES	6.9 SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR	35 LESSONS
15 MINUTES	10.3 SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR	51 LESSONS
20 MINUTES	13.8 SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR	69 LESSONS
30 MINUTES	20.7 SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR	104 LESSONS

Punctuality

Punctuality to school is extremely important as all students receive key information during personal tutor time to ensure that they are set up for the school day. We understand that there may be the rare occasion where students are late to school; however, it is important that parents and students are aware of the different attendance codes that are used nationally:

L (late) mark - students have arrived in school after 8.40am but before 9.10am. Students are marked present in school, but are recorded as late. Overall attendance is not effected.

U (unauthorised absence) mark - students have arrived late to school but after 9.10am. Students are marked present in school but the student is recorded as an unauthorised absence. Overall student attendance is effected. The U mark is the equivalent of an absence.

Rewards

Students at Brownhills know that we have a strong recognition and reward culture. When you work hard, attend school regularly and uphold our values of Ready, Respect and Safe your efforts deserve to be rewarded.

In October we held our annual awards ceremony. This prestigious event is an opportunity to shine a spotlight on those students that have been truly been outstanding members of our school community.

Over 60 students were carefully selected to receive special recognition for their achievements over the 2023-24 academic year. Students received awards from each faculty area across the school as well the five main trophy winners:

Principals Award: Thea Roberts

Determination & Courage Award: Itohan Ogalar

Endeavour Award: Oluwatumise Oke

Brownhills Community Award: Zack Thatcher

Outstanding Achievement (y11 leaver):
Evanie Machin and Thalia Machin

Students, parents and guests were privileged to hear from our key note speaker Dave Healey who delivered an inspirational speech that aligns with our values that in life, you do not get what you want, you get what you work for.

As is our tradition, we ended the term with rewards assemblies for all year groups. Over 200 students were carefully selected to receive rewards certificates from their class teachers, personal tutors and Head of Year. Over 150 students also attended the end of term rewards trip to Waterworld, in Stoke. All the students had a well earned enjoyable day, displaying exemplary behaviour at all times. Well done to all those that were eligible to attend.



Brownhills Ormiston Academy (BOA) recognised by Ofsted for ambition for students in October 2024

BOA has been commended by Ofsted for the clear progress it is making to raise expectations for student achievement, as it continues on its journey of improvement.



During the monitoring inspection in November 2024, Ofsted highlighted that the academy has made significant progress to ensure they are delivering high quality provision, which reflects the high expectations and ambition held for students.

Throughout the report, inspectors highlighted the hard work of leaders to drive rapid improvements.

Ofsted highlights many positive areas of the academy including:

- The clear signs at the academy of increased ambition and support for students,
- Students speak positively about a range of recent improvements and the high expectations the academy has set for them, ensuring there is a calm and orderly atmosphere.
- How Ormiston Academies Trust is supporting the academy effectively.
- How, with the support of the Trust, the academy has recently reviewed its curriculum to raise the level of ambition for students and improve standards.
- Thanks to training, leaders are clear about how they lead curriculum areas and have made necessary improvements in their curriculum design.
- How the academy has worked to ensure students are well prepared for their next steps. Students are aware of a full range of ambitious destinations open to them.

- How the academy has a strong personal development offer for students.
- Students appreciate the many clubs and trips which the academy organises for them, speaking highly of the many performing arts opportunities.
- Staff report very high levels of satisfaction with how the school consults and works with them.

Ofsted commented that leaders at Brownhills Ormiston Academy are clear about the next steps of their improvement journey and are committed to pushing forward on an upward trajectory. This includes areas such as building on learning, reading and support for students with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), whereby Ofsted has recognised the work the academy has done already to bring about swift and effective change.

Ann Lloyd, Principal at Brownhills Ormiston Academy, said:

"I am pleased that Ofsted has acknowledged the dedication and hard work of our team in driving improvements at Brownhills. We have been working closely with our leadership team, those at the Trust and our governors to ensure we make effective progress, and I would like to thank our fantastic staff and supportive parents for all they have done and continue to do. We are fully committed to continuing to make significant progress and remain focused on maintaining this positive trajectory to deliver the highest quality education for our students."

PSHE related events to support students' personal development

Reflexions workshops

Throughout the year, a Mental Health Support Team called Reflexions have been attending the academy to conduct various student and parent workshops. We have held four already since September 2024. These workshops, some of which focus on mental health, support with transition and the importance of sleep or support with exams aim to give parents and students the information, strategies and tools they need to successfully navigate challenges they may face throughout the year.

Bullying and Mental health performance

On 23rd September 2024, as part of our Personal Development programme, all students in Years 7, 8 and 9 enjoyed a performance by Joel Foster, an indie rock musician from the Midlands. After playing some of his songs, Joel talked with the students about his own experiences of bullying and

mental health. Students then asked him questions about these experiences and about how he became a musician. Many of the students stayed behind to get Joel's autograph. He has since contacted our Head of PSHE, Dr Caldwell, to say how much he enjoyed his visit, and to thank those students that left positive messages on social media for him.



Trip to Parliament

On Thursday 17th October 2024 a group of Year 9 students went on a trip to London to visit Parliament. This was a reward trip for a positive attitude to learning in PSHE lessons. Students were given a tour of the Parliament buildings and were lucky enough to watch debates in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords. They also visited the Great Hall where the late Queen Elizabeth's coffin lay in state before her funeral.

After the tour students took part in a workshop on the power of petitions and they met two people who work with our local MP Wendy Morton. We were told that only 1% of the public in the UK have ever visited the places we were shown. After the Parliament visit, students carried out a walking tour of the local tourist attractions such as Buckingham Palace, the Household Cavalry and Downing Street. Students were complimented by members of the public and people working in Parliament on how well behaved and polite they were and how smart they looked. The Year 9 students made the teachers on the trip very proud.

HS2 Project

On Monday 7th October 2024 HS2 came into school to do a project with a group of year 8 students. The students worked brilliantly in teams to design, plan and present an imaginative and innovative train station of the future. The groups then had to work collaboratively to design and build a strong tunnel frame in which a model train could pass through. The winning team was the team that could hold the greatest number of 1kg sandbags. The winning design used a lot of triangular shapes in their design. Students worked extremely hard all day in a thoroughly engaging project, Students were a fantastic representation of the school.

Workshops

As part of the PSHE programme this academic year we have had several visits from external speakers or companies to deliver workshops to whole year group of students. In October 2024, all students were spoken to by a representative from the West Midlands safer travel partnership regarding travelling safely and responsibly on public transport. We also welcomed a company called 'Streetwise' to the academy earlier in the month to deliver a performance to year 7 regarding road safety, which considering the location of our academy, we deem to be highly important for all students to experience. On the 26th November 2024, year 8 experienced a performance by a group called 'Hooked' who delivered a powerful message regarding the dangers of vaping. We look forward to welcoming more external speakers as the academic year continues.

PE Department



Sports Awards

On Thursday 4th July 2024, the PE department hosted our annual sports award evening. The evening celebrated the success of all our brilliant students and their successes in sport across the year. The evening was presented by England Roses netballer Niamh Killagen. She shared inspirational stories with all our students in relation to how she was able to get into a high level of professional sport.

The evening was a success and was able to highlight the hard work and commitment of all our students from years 7 to 11. The PE department would like to congratulate all students that received an award, and we look forward to next year's awards evening which will be held on Monday 14th July 2025.

Sports Day

On Thursday 11th July 2024, our annual sports day took place with students from years 7 to 11 competing for the house trophy. Students took part in a range of activities such as football, rounders, tennis, badminton and athletics. Throughout the day, students gained points for their houses to attempt to be the overall winner. The scores were tight throughout the day but in the last activity of the day, team Thomas (now known as Knaves) took victory over all of the houses. A huge well done to all students who took part and a big thank you to all members of staff who led the activities throughout the day.

Futsal Tournaments

Futsal is one of the most popular lunchtime clubs at the Academy. Therefore, during the autumn term, the PE department hosted several internal futsal festivals. The first one was the Year 7 and 8 tournament. Four teams were entered with Michael Hawkes, Frank Cooper, Kyran Harrison, Asante Jones and Liam Green being the eventual winners. It was great to see so many players involved, especially from Year 7. Hopefully, more Year 8 students will take up the challenge when we hold another festival in 2025. Well done to Oscar Allen for being player of the tournament.



Cross Country

The Year 7 Cross Country team were entered into the Walsall Cross Country Championships held at St. Francis School on in July 2024. Millie Thompson started things off with an outstanding run in the Year 7 Girls race over a distance of 2000m. She came in 8th place out of over 40 runners. Hopefully this is enough for her to get picked for the Walsall school team.

The Year 7 boys followed with eight boys entered, Lucas Rogers, William Main, Andrew Humpage, Frank Cooper, Harry Mills, Archie White, Bobby Barratt and Asante Jones. This race was over 3000m with Bobby coming 10th, Frank 15th and Lucas 17th. In a highly competitive race all the boys did fantastically well with the team coming 7th overall.

Clubs

Clubs have been brilliant since returning in September 2024. The numbers of students attending Football, Netball and Cheerleading have been consistently high every week. Lunchtime clubs have also been a huge success with 30+ students attending clubs daily. Thank you to all students who took part. The latest lunch and extra-curricular timetables were issued in January 2025.



Winter Sports Days

It is that time of year again when we hosted our winter sports days. Students from all year groups competed in a 2-hour sports day against each other's houses. The competition between dodgeball and bench ball was very competitive in all year groups. All students represented their houses with passion and determination to win. All the students showed excellent sportsmanship throughout and thoroughly enjoyed their activities. The competition is on for the next house competitions as we enter the spring term.

Music & Performing Arts

The Music & Performing Arts department have had a fantastic start to the academic year 2024-25, with lots of musical and performance opportunities for students already.

We started the academic year with two theatre trips to Wolverhampton Grand to see *Wonder Boy* and the RSC in Stratford-Upon-Avon to see *Romeo & Juliet: The Ballet*. Our students had a wonderful time watching two very different pieces of live theatre and came back inspired to get involved in more theatre themselves. In the spring term we are off to Birmingham Symphony Hall and Wolverhampton Grand again to watch the prestigious City of Birmingham Orchestra CBSO and *Dear Evan Hansen* – we can't wait!

Peripatetic lessons have been running again with more lessons than ever and lots of students taking graded exams in the past 12 months. We currently have students learning the flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, guitar, bass, drums and piano. Well done to Emelia Lis who recently completed her Grade 2 Guitar exam and good luck to the students completing exams this term.



Rewards evening in October 2024 was our first concert of the year, performing four songs for the parents and students at Brownhills to celebrate their academic achievements. We then entered the Barnardo's National Choral Competition; the largest choir competition in the UK, competing against the best choirs in the country. Finally, we ended last term with 101 students performing to a 300-strong audience in the Lecture Theatre in our Christmas Concert. It was a fantastic evening and a huge well done to every student involved.

Now, we are looking forward to our trip to Belgium in September 2025 a memorial performance in March 2025 and our upcoming production of *Oliver!* in the summer of 2025! Auditions took place on Monday 20th January 2025 ready to start rehearsals for our shows.

Students Shine in Energy

Ormiston Academies Trust's Saving Challenge

BOA Students won the top prize!

In November 2024, our year 8 students were challenged with a real-world problem: finding innovative ways to reduce electricity bills while ensuring homes remain comfortable.

The project, part of the science curriculum, was launched across all 32 OAT secondary academies. The Science Cup as it was called sparked creativity, critical thinking, and a deep dive into energy efficiency and sustainability.

The challenge tasked students with researching practical solutions to save energy, reduce costs, and minimise environmental impact. They were then required to present their findings on a single A4 page, showcasing their research skills, creativity, and use of scientific language.

From smart thermostats, LED lighting, solar panels to better home insulation, students explored a variety of solutions. Many entries demonstrated an impressive grasp of both the science behind energy efficiency and the importance of sustainability.

Congratulations to all the students who participated for their hard work, creativity, and commitment to addressing this important issue. The Science department had to judge and select two entries to submit to the competition.

One standout idea was the integration of renewable energy sources like solar panels and wind turbines, paired with energy-efficient appliances to reduce household electricity consumption. This entry exceeded the expectation of a paper entry and created a large model with working devices.

Another student highlighted the importance of small behavioral changes, such as pegging out washing rather than using the tumble dryer, proving that even minor efforts can make a big difference. This entry was supported with several maths calculations.

Fast forward to January 2025 where Mrs McGowan, Head of Science, received the fabulous news that both entries had placed in the competition. Without further a do, may we congratulate Amelia Adkins who came 1st in the competition and Jamie Wells who won 3rd place.

Both students were awarded with several prizes, including science kits and vouchers, plus a certificate in assembly from OAT headquarters.

The Science department are so proud of Amelia and Jamie who took the time to enter this competition to such a high standard. Their success will surely be a motivation to the rest of the academy.



Students had to find a way to ensure that a house could reduce its electricity bill and save energy. Our winning entry was Amelia Adkins Year 8 who produced a wonderful model of a house, which even included a working wind turbine.

A. Amelia made a working model of a turbine to power lights in the model house, showing understanding of alternative energy. Excellent technical skills were demonstrated by her and by our science students. **B.** An example of using green energy. Here are some solar panels. **C.** Use of greenery for biodiversity. **D.** Our science students applied their knowledge to be conscientious about the environment. **E.** Good thinking shown here, collecting water from rain so nothing is wasted.



Science News: Solar System Model

Brownhills students continue to produce excellent science work. Here is a brilliant Solar System Model made by Year 7 student Elizabeth Harborne. Excellent work Elizabeth. Look at the inner planets showing the correct colours for the red planet Mars and the detail on the outer planets, including the rings of Saturn and the belts on Jupiter.



Literacy Enrichment



National Memorial Arboretum Trip

On Monday 21st October 2024, 48 students from years 7, 8 and 9 visited the National Memorial Arboretum. Students participated in a guided interpretation tour, focusing on different memorials and their significance. Students had to reflect on the meaning of each memorial and the importance of the design. Following this, students participated in an act of Remembrance which included reading the poem 'In Flanders Fields' by John McCrae and laying a wreath to remember them.

Warner Bros Studio Trip

On Wednesday 20th November 2024, 48 students from years 7, 8, 9 and 10 visited Warner Bros Studios. Upon arrival, they completed an English Pitching lesson, where they had to create a persuasive movie pitch. They were shown the real costumes used within the films- Hagrid's jumper and Sirius Black's coat. Students had to describe the features of the costumes and were taught the thought process and physical process behind making them. Following this, students completed a tour of the studios to see different real life sets from the Harry Potter films.



Sparx Reader

Since September 2024, our students in Year 7, 8 and 9 have completed an amazing 1,102 hours of reading on Sparx Reader, which equates to 555 books read in just 4 months! We are so proud of all of our students who are spending so much time on Sparx Reader to develop their reading skills and explore a wide range of texts. Their work is paying off and we can see students' reading ages improving on the system, every week. Our students in Year 7, who achieved over 1,000 points in the final few weeks of last term, were treated to a film afternoon in the Lecture Theatre in December 2024, watching Percy Jackson & The Lightning Thief that they are currently reading in Read Aloud sessions. Well done to all of our young readers in the academy!





Green Flag: Eco-schools

So what is green Flag?

It is an internationally recognised award for excellence in environmental action and learning.

Young people care deeply about environmental issues and have a strong desire to actively protect our planet, and at BOA we are no exception.

At BOA we want to empower the students to make a difference in our school environment. Since 1994, millions of young people around the world have worked through the Eco-Schools Seven Steps before being recognised for their efforts with a prestigious Eco-Schools Green Flag, so we wanted to join in.

We started off inviting students to come to meetings and develop areas we already have around school to see how environmentally friendly we can become and ensure we are sustainable. We started working on our greenhouse area and our pond area in order for us to develop these places this academic year.

We had a 'litter picking' squad who not only picked litter off the field at lunchtime in the summer, encouraged other students to simply put their rubbish in the bin. We spoke to the catering staff to ask for sustainable cutlery in the canteen which was encouraged and we have produced hanging baskets

along with bird feeders again made in DT from re-cycled wood left in the DT areas. We have now produced an ECO board for all to display posters that the students have created ensuring all staff and pupils are aware of our students great work.

As a result of all this hard work at the end of the academic year we were awarded the green flag with **Distinction!**

This years plans: To make our ECO Squad bigger enabling us to grow bigger and better at BOA we are: Planting our own seeds to encourage vegetable growth which in turn will be used in cookery classes. In Art and DT we are building our own bug houses, and using the old Pallets build raised beds to encourage wildlife into our gardens. The pond area is being cleaned and fish will be added to the pond creating a calming area for students to visit at lunchtime. Each light switch will remind students to ensure lights are switched off after use. We will apply to have more trees planted on our vast fields to develop fruit growth for students to eat at lunchtimes and again can be used in cookery lessons. We do hope parents and the surrounding community get involved in either donations of seeds or helping with the planting as we will have family events coming up. Please keep reading the newsletters for information on up coming events.



BOA Mental Health Awareness Day



The final day of October half term finished with a celebration of all things Mental Health. Staff and students came together to raise money for Young Minds a charity working to support the mental health of young people and their families.

Staff proudly wore their yellow ribbons and yellow outfits with students joining in accessorising their uniform with yellow scarves, headbands, earrings and socks, to name but a few.

Throughout the day students were able to participate in a number of activities that could support their positive mental health they included; Walking outside, cooking, mindful colouring, a mindfulness session by trained practitioner Mrs Adams, darts and chess, some sessions were so oversubscribed we had to put additional sessions on.

The day was such a success, and we are already planning October 2025 to be bigger and better.

At BOA we take mental health seriously and support our students in a variety of ways. We have a range of programs running in our Academic Resilience Centre and have a longstanding partnership with the Wellbeing Crew who run both 1:1 and group sessions, for example, in December we ran an aromatherapy group session. Since September we have ran four Reflexions workshops working with parents and students to support them to talk about mental health issues and have plans for another six.

Remembrance Poppy Installation by the Eco Team



Well done to the Eco Team for collecting 100s of red plastic bottles for the Remembrance Poppy Installation in the pond area of the academy in November 2024.

The Eco Club worked very hard over two terms- managing and maintaining the pond area. Together with the artwork, the space looks stunning. The poppy work is impactful and thought-provoking.

Thank you and congratulations to the list of students for their hard work and commitment:

- Samaila Azeem
- Courtney Bailes
- Aniya Baptiste
- Daisy Bevan
- Madison Burns
- Finley Jones
- Eddie Read-Darlow
- Antonia Rogers
- Phoebe Thompson
- Demi-Leigh Tooth
- Lexi Walker Jones
- Faith Morris
- Jake Woolridge



Disneyland Paris July 2024

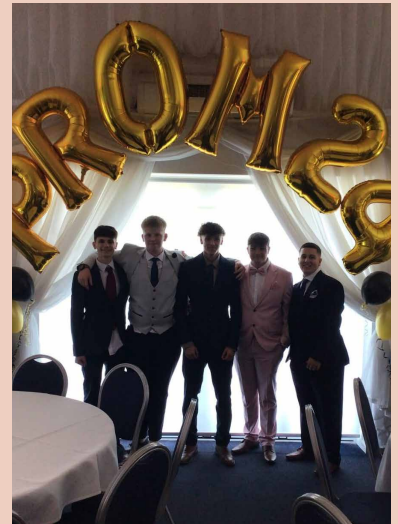
In July 2024 50 students in years 8, 9 and 10 participated in a 4-day trip to Disneyland and Paris. We included a visit to a chocolate factory, during which students discovered how artisanal chocolates are made, and they got to sample some. In the Disneyland and Universal Studios Parks great fun was had by all! On s'est bien amusé! The fireworks and lights display on day 1 were spectacular. Students represented the academy very well.

We look forward to our next Disneyland Paris Trip in July 2025 with students in years 8, 9 and 10.



Year 11 Prom Friday 28th June 2024

The year 11 students enjoyed a wonderful prom at Calderfields Golf Club at the end of June 2024. The students enjoyed a catered buffet, photo booth, DJ and had their photographs taken by a professional photographer. The year 11 prefects had fundraised throughout the year to contribute and took leadership of the decorations for the room. All the students looked incredible as they arrived on the red carpet in style, ready for the evening. Staff who attended the event agreed it was a perfect way to end the year with our fabulous students.



Sandwell Charter Mark

In November 2024, we were thrilled to be awarded the Sandwell Well-Being Charter Mark that recognises the academy's commitment to supporting the wellbeing of all our students, staff and families.

Our Senior Mental Health Lead, Mrs. Chaplin, worked with a team of Educational Psychologists from the local authority in gathering student, staff and parent voice to evaluate how the school community worked together to improve wellbeing, and identify areas to improve our practice and procedures. The pastoral team then worked on creating an action plan, and reviewing the actions taken, to help work towards achieving the award.

Some of the things that have been put in to place as a result of the action plan are the communication and information about what was happening in school in our

weekly Brownhills Broadcast; more celebration of students' hard work in our Hot Chocolate Fridays; and further support in signposting to get support if needed on the school website.

A huge thank you to our pastoral team and SEND team for their work, and to all the staff, students and families for their support.

We continue our recognised work on emotional and mental health throughout the school year.



Year 11 Pre-Public Exams (PPEs) Mocks and Study Support for Exam Success

Year 11 successfully completed their Pre-Public (Mock) Examinations in November 2024 and are to be congratulated on their attendance and conduct.

When the results were given out on Monday 9th December they were received with mixed emotions. Remember that if you are in year 11 and haven't yet reached the grades that you are aiming and hoping for there are still 16 weeks from December 2024 before your final exams begin – there is time to make a difference!

Well done to all the students that have been working hard, engaging with the intervention on offer and have been able to celebrate the impact on their grades.

The final PPEs take place from Tuesday 25th February to Friday 7th March 2025.

The final exams start in May 2025.



Please look out for all opportunities that are being offered to you in the remaining weeks and make the most of them. A selection of these are shown below:

- Parents Evening Thursday 9th January 2024
- Lesson 6 (3:10-4:00pm) from 13th January until 14th February 2024 with Maths every Monday and English every Wednesday. The free 4pm coach will run on these 2 days for any student who takes part in lesson 6 in these two subjects.
- Lesson 6 (3:10-4:00pm) in science every Thursday
- Lesson 6 (3:10-4:00pm) in other subjects every Friday
- Lunchtime subject sessions- by invitation from subject teachers
- During the school day interventions in English and Maths
- February half term sessions (Monday 17th, Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th February 2025)
- Easter Holiday sessions (Monday 14th, Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th April 2025)
- There will be 2 Saturday sessions for the core subjects in May and June 2025- before exam papers

Bug Houses



Personal Development Events and Activities for Students

Spring Term 2025

Careers events:

- 12th Feb** Unifrog apprenticeship fair (virtual) 4 - 6.30pm
- 3rd-8th Mar** National Careers Week
- 21st Mar** Y10 Applications for Unifest 2025 deadline
- 7th Apr** Y8 Mock Interviews
- 8th Apr** Y8 Aspire Future thinking workshop begins (30 student only)

Wider opportunities:

- 28th Jan** UKMT Int Maths Olympic challenge
- 3rd Feb** Year 10 history trip to West Midlands Police Museum
- 3rd Mar** Smashed it PSHE event- Year 8
- 6th Mar** Connexions workshop Year 10- mental health/World book day
- 12th Mar** Symphony Hall music trip
- 17th Mar** Faith trail KS3 RE trip
- 2nd Apr** Theatre trip - Dear Evan Hansen
- 9th Apr** Drayton Manor attendance rewards trip
- 10th Apr** Connexions workshop year 8 - mental health

Enrichment:

- 7th Feb** NSPCC Number Day
- 10th Mar** British Science week
- 14th Mar** Pi Day

Summer Term 2025

Careers events:

- 9th May** Y7 BOA 10x Challenge Launched
- 23rd Jun** Y10 Work Experience Week
- 2nd-3rd Jul** Y7 Pop up summer fair at Oliver performance as part of the £10 challenge
- 7th Jul** Y10 Mock interviews

Wider opportunities:

- 1st May** UKMT Junior Maths Olympic challenge
- 8th May** Connexions Workshop year 7- mental health
- 14th May** Connexions Workshop year 10- importance of sleep
- 17th Jul** Attendance rewards trip TBC

Enrichment:

- 1st May** UKMT Junior Maths Olympic challenge
- 16th Jun** National Schools Sports Week
- 27th Jun** Year 11 Prom
- 2nd-3rd Jul** Oliver school show production
- 8th-11th Jul** Disney Land Paris trip
- 9th Jul** Sports day
- 14th Jul** Sports Awards Evening
- 15th Jul** Culture Day

Our Mission:

Brownhills Ormiston Academy (BOA) supports every child to achieve their potential regardless of their background and starting point.

Throughout their BOA career our students are supported to become well-adjusted members of the academy and wider community with high moral values and self-discipline.

The academy is committed to academic rigour. We expect students to work hard to develop knowledge and skills, and to be highly ambitious about their futures. All students are encouraged to be life-long learners and to think deeply; they are supported to be curious and to develop their confidence to learn more and experience more.

BOA collaborates with parents and families to keep students safe and to ensure that students are happy and are very ready for their next steps in education, training and employment.

The academy, through its excellent pastoral support and enrichment opportunities, develops students' character, so they are respectful, have good manners and know how to respond appropriately in different social situations. They learn how to be ready for life as responsible young adults.



Our Values:

The values of the academy are exceptionally important to us and underpin our work and interactions.

We believe that our values are important within the academy community and throughout life.

Ready to learn and to thrive.

Respect for ourselves and others in all we say and do, and **Safe**: Safe in our choices and actions for a happy and caring community.

Safe in our choices and actions for a happy and caring community.

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



Brownhills Ormiston Academy

NEWSLETTER | WINTER / SPRING 2025