



Headteacher's Newsletter



Stronger Together: A Community That Learns Side by Side

It has been an excellent week at Brownhills Ormiston Academy, one that truly captures what it means to be Ready, Respectful and Safe in all that we do. Across the academy, students have been working brilliantly within their houses, supporting one another, leading with confidence and learning from each other in meaningful ways. There has been a palpable sense of togetherness this week. A reminder that you are welcome here, you belong here, and we are proud to be part of the Brownhills community.

In lessons and beyond the classroom, students have enjoyed a wide range of experiences that have brought learning to life in exciting and memorable ways. This is only possible because students are making such strong progress in their learning at the moment. Their focus, effort and positive attitudes mean that teachers can plan ambitious, engaging lessons that stretch and inspire.

Our Year 11 students, in particular, continue to set an exceptional standard. We are able to showcase them so often because they are such superb role models. They are revising diligently, working hard in lessons and carrying themselves as a true 'Senior Year' within our school. Thank you to our Year 11s for the leadership you show every single day. You remind us all that you get one chance at your education, and we all have a duty to make it count. It is also wonderful to see our younger year groups stepping up, showing that they are the future leaders of our great school.

House Spirit in Full Flow

Our four houses; Coppice, Holland, Knaves and Phineas, have all been incredibly busy this week, and the energy around house events continues to grow. Each house is led by an outstanding House Captain: Izzie (Coppice), Becca (Holland), Mia (Knaves) and Riley (Phineas). They are exemplary role models who lead with maturity, enthusiasm and a genuine commitment to their peers.

On Tuesday, students came together for a house assembly focused on preparing for the upcoming House Drama competition. This was a fantastic opportunity to build excitement and ensure everyone understands how they can get involved. Our House Captains and House Arts Captains have been exceptional in leading the way, hosting meetings with students who are eager to participate and beginning the organisation of their houses for the competition ahead.

The House Drama competition will take place on Friday 13th February. Students from different year groups will compete in a range of categories, including a set scene, duologues, monologues, a video submission and a public speaking category. Many students have already begun planning and filming their videos, and we cannot wait to see houses rehearsing, collaborating and performing over the coming weeks. Events like this develop confidence, creativity and teamwork. Key attributes needed to enjoy a life of choice and opportunity.



Family Reading Morning Success

This week also saw some of our Year 7 students welcoming their families into the academy for a wonderful Family Reading Morning. Students worked incredibly hard during the morning, preparing delicious treats from scratch before proudly serving them to their families.

Families then gathered in our Library, where students ate, read and shared stories together. It was a truly heart-warming sight to see the Library filled with conversation, laughter and a shared love of reading. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the event, and a huge well done to our Year 7 students for their effort, organisation and maturity. We always love seeing our students' families attending school for events and working collaboratively to celebrate success and develop reading, is so important for our young people.



Testimony 360 - Holocaust Education Trust



Our Year 9 students took part in an incredibly powerful learning experience this week through the Testimony 360 project delivered by the Holocaust Education Trust. Through an immersive virtual reality workshop, students explored historical sites and artefacts connected to the Holocaust. They also had the privilege of virtually engaging with two Holocaust survivors, listening to first-hand testimony and asking thoughtful, respectful questions about life before 1939, their culture and religion, and their experiences during the Second World War and the Holocaust.

While the experience was challenging and, at times, harrowing, it was also vitally important. Remembering the horrors of the Holocaust is essential, to honour the millions of lives lost and to ensure that such events are never forgotten. Opportunities like this help young people to develop empathy, understanding and a strong sense of moral responsibility.

Our students were absolutely outstanding throughout the day. They approached the experience with maturity, respect and kindness, demonstrating excellent listening skills and sensitivity when engaging with such difficult history. We were extremely proud of the compassion they showed. This was a powerful and unforgettable learning experience, and we extend our sincere thanks to the Holocaust Education Trust and to all staff involved in making the day possible.

Looking Ahead – A Celebration of Maths

Next week's newsletter will be a special edition focused on Mathematics. We will be taking a closer look at what is happening across all year groups, celebrating the excellent work of our Maths department and showcasing how students are developing the knowledge and skills that underpin success across the curriculum.

Thank you, as always, for taking the time to read our newsletter and for your continued support. Together, we will continue to strive to be the very best we can be, ensuring every student gains the skills, attributes and qualifications they need to enjoy a future full of choice and opportunity.

With very best wishes,

Mr R T Doodson
Headteacher

