



# Headteacher's Newsletter



## Making The Most Of Every Opportunity

This week at Brownhills Ormiston Academy, I am highlighting the range of opportunities beyond the classroom and the powerful difference they make to our young people. Education is, of course, about academic success, but it is also about shaping resilient and ambitious individuals who are ready to step into the world with their heads held high.

We are incredibly fortunate to have a staff team that goes above and beyond to organise and deliver meaningful experiences for our students. These opportunities build self-esteem, develop character and broaden horizons. They help students see what is possible for their futures and give real context to why their learning matters.

You will have heard me say many times now that, "you get one chance at your education. We all have a duty to make it count." This extends beyond lessons and into every experience we offer. Our students deserve the very best, and we are committed to helping them gain the skills, attributes and qualifications they need to enjoy a life of choice and opportunity. Above all, we want every child to feel: You are welcome here. You belong here. Proud to be a part of the Brownhills community.

## Adventure and Teamwork: Year 7 at Standon Bowers

Our Year 7 students recently returned from their adventure residential at Standon Bowers, and what a remarkable experience it was. The trip was packed with challenge and excitement, including archery, orienteering, high ropes, climbing, fire lighting, axe throwing and bridge building. Each activity required courage, communication and determination.

The learning did not stop when the sun went down. Evening activities included a "flying egg" competition, where students engineered parachutes to protect their eggs, a night-time photo trail and a scavenger hunt. These activities fostered problem-solving and collaboration.

What stood out most was the camaraderie and teamwork on display. Students supported one another, celebrated each other's successes and showed real resilience when tasks were difficult. They also demonstrated our core values of ready, respect and safe at all times. Students completed chores, kept areas tidy and treated the site and staff with great care.

The staff at Standon Bowers were genuinely impressed by our students' politeness and positivity. They commented on what a fantastic group they were to host. We could not be prouder. This trip was about more than fun; it was about developing independence and friendships that will carry into the classroom and beyond.



## Inspiration in the Capital: GCSE Art Gallery Visit

Our Year 10 and 11 GCSE Art students had an exceptional opportunity to visit Damien Hirst's Newport Street Gallery in London to view the Triple Trouble exhibition. This exhibition brings together three iconic street artists: Damien Hirst, Shepard Fairey and Invader.

For Year 10 students, who have been studying Shepard Fairey's work, seeing his pieces up close was a powerful and inspiring experience. Observing the scale, detail and impact of professional artwork helps students deepen their understanding and raise their own aspirations.

For Year 11 students, who have just begun their examination preparation, the visit came at a perfect time. Exposure to high-quality, thought-provoking art plays a vital role in shaping their ideas and supporting their development work. Opportunities like this enrich coursework and motivate students to aim high in their creative journeys.



## Careers in Focus: Year 7 Virtual Work Experience

Our Year 7 students also took part in a Virtual Work Experience Day focused on exploring future careers. This was an engaging and eye-opening experience designed to get students thinking about their futures from an early stage.

Students worked on a real-life style project for Tesco, where they were challenged to design a brand-new meal deal to fill a gap in the market. They considered product design, packaging and how to present their ideas as if ready for store shelves. This required creativity, teamwork and commercial thinking.

Throughout the day, students learned about marketing, the variety of roles within the industry and the real challenges professionals face. The experience concluded with a talk from a marketing professional who shared their career journey and showed how school experiences can shape future pathways.

We were impressed by the enthusiasm and determination shown by our Year 7 students. Their ideas were imaginative, and their effort was outstanding. This was a brilliant introduction to the world of work and a meaningful step towards understanding future opportunities.

## Music, Performance and Community: A Stage for Everyone

The music department has been buzzing with excitement as preparations begin for 'Footloose' which will be performed on Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th July at the Francis Hodgkinson Theatre. Auditions this week saw over 70 students attend, a testament to the passion and confidence of our young performers. Rehearsals are now underway, and we cannot wait to see the production come to life.

We are also preparing for our Musical Theatre Showcase on Monday 23rd March, with rehearsals progressing brilliantly. Our choir continues to thrive, rehearsing every Tuesday lunchtime and Wednesday after school.

We have been delighted to welcome 16 Brownhills alumni back to rehearse with us for this concert. It is wonderful to see former students maintaining their connection to the academy. We are equally proud to have local Year 4s, 5s and 6s join us as well and we cannot wait to share the stage with them soon.



## The Best for Our Students, Because They Deserve It

All of these experiences share a common purpose: developing the whole child. They build confidence, communication skills, resilience and ambition. These qualities directly support academic success. Students who feel inspired, connected and motivated bring that energy into the classroom.

We truly believe our students are the best of the best, and they deserve the best of the best in return. The opportunities we provide are not extras; they are essential parts of an education that prepares young people for a life of choice and opportunity. Please encourage your child to make the most of the opportunities available as soon as possible.

Thank you to our families for your continued support, to our staff for their tireless dedication and to our students for embracing every opportunity with such positivity. When students get involved, try new things and push themselves, the impact on progress and grades is real and measurable.

Together, as a community, we will continue to aim high, work hard and make every chance count.

With very best wishes,  
**Mr R T Doodson**  
Headteacher



## A Word From Our Year 11 Mathematicians

I got an 8 in my last Maths mock exam but I am going to push for a Grade 9. I have always really enjoyed Maths but I remember it really started to make sense for me in Year 9 when I had Miss Gilbert. She was really good at explaining the more difficult ideas and my Maths really improved. Although, that can be said for every teacher I've had at Brownhills, they have all made a big difference and really helped me. Algebra is definitely my specialism. I have applied to do Maths, Further Maths, Physics, Chemistry A-Level so it is definitely going to be big part of my life.

Grace, Year 11

I managed to get a Grade 8 in my last mock and I hope I can get a 9 in the summer. I have done lots on First Class Maths and I think Sparx Maths is really beneficial as well. It really helped me to get the result I did in the last mocks. Algebra is definitely the element of Maths I enjoy the most. It just works for me now I have practiced it so much. Miss Green and Mr Windsor have been very influential for me this year and they are pushing me for the Grade 9 I want to achieve. I have applied for Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Geography and I hope to go to university after my A-Levels.

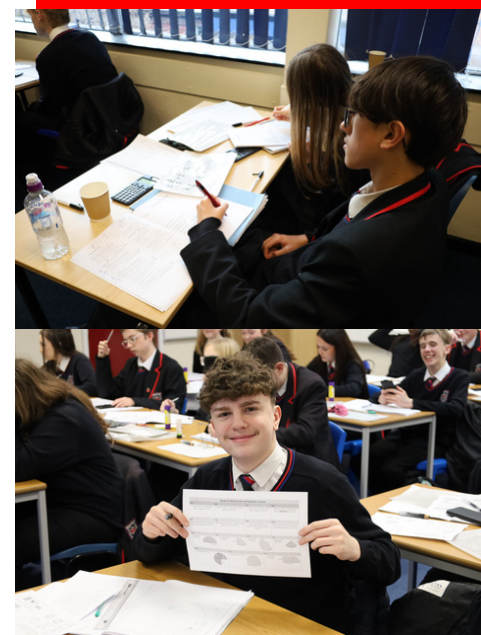
Will, Year 11

## The Final Push That Changes Lives: Year 11 Mathematicians

Our Year 11 mathematicians have shown extraordinary commitment, attending interventions, masterclasses and additional sessions to refine their understanding and exam technique. This effort matters. What they achieve in Maths now can genuinely transform their future.

Securing Grades 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 opens pathways to sixth forms, colleges, apprenticeships and universities. It supports our shared aim: to gain the skills, attributes and qualifications needed to enjoy a life of choice and opportunity.

We are immensely proud of Year 11. Their determination, resilience and ambition embody everything Brownhills stands for. Now, the message it to keep going. Your mock exams are fast approaching and the time between now and your actual GCSE exams in the summer will fly by. Keep doing the work now and results will come. We are so proud of your achievements and effort and thank you for doing everything you can to make it count.



## Together, Towards Mathematical Excellence

We are incredibly fortunate to be led by Miss A. Gilbert, whose leadership, vision and commitment ensure our Maths department continues to thrive. Alongside a passionate and expert team, she ensures every student is challenged, supported and believed in.

Remember: to revise Maths, you must do Maths. Regular practice through resources such as Sparx Maths is essential. Complete every task, practise deliberately and go beyond.

You get one chance at your education and Maths is key to making it count. Well done to all of our wonderful students and staff who are working brilliantly together to continue to provide the best Maths education possible.

With very best wishes,

**Mr R T Doodson**  
Headteacher

