



# Headteacher's Newsletter



## A Term of Togetherness, Ambition and Excellence

At the end of our first term of this academic year, I am delighted to share a newsletter that captures the best of Brownhills that was on full display in the final two weeks of term. Community spirit, fun, engagement and togetherness, all seamlessly married with exceptionally hard work in lessons has been a pleasure to see. Concerts, competitions, charity work and celebrations have all continued whilst staff have planned and taught lessons of the very highest quality. Our students balanced the hard work with the enrichment activities perfectly and showed why they really are the best of the best.



Before Christmas, visitors from Ormiston Academies Trust offered warm praise for our academy. They were unequivocal: our students are unbelievably impressive. We know that our school is made up of amazing young people whose hard work, dedication and superb behaviour shine every day. The positive recognition from leaders at OAT are a credit to the effort you that students put in and to the wonderful families who support this.

Our students are the reason that we are proud to be part of the Brownhills community, and the run up to Christmas proved once again that our school is a place where ambition thrives and values matter. Thank you for making Brownhills the great school it is and helping us to grow and improve every single day.

## Golden Ticket Celebration: Sweet Rewards for Excellence

Our most recent Golden Ticket winners enjoyed a special treat of an early lunch pass for cake and cookies prepared by our fantastic catering team. These tickets were awarded for outstanding achievement in lessons, spotted by teachers and leaders during lesson visits.

Reasons for awards included high-quality presentation, extended written answers, and excellent contributions to discussions. But the main theme was consistency of effort. These students are always working at the very best of their ability and come to school every day, determined to make it count.

Well done to all our winners and to everybody else, be ready for more Golden Tickets soon! A huge thank you to Naomi and the catering team for supporting this event and providing such delicious treats.



## House Assemblies: Community and Competition

In our House Assemblies, we brought students together with their Heads of House to celebrate success and plan ahead for exciting events. Each house gathered to hear updates on fundraising, House Winter Sports, and House Drama, as well as how we're continuing to grow our house communities and our wider school community.

Coppice, Holland, Knaves and Phineas prepared themselves for House Winter Sports, and heard information about House Drama will be released soon. It's all to play for. Time to get competitive and show your house pride! Well done to Team Holland who continue to lead the house point leaderboard.



## Watling Street Chess Champions!

We were delighted to host an online primary chess tournament last term, featuring schools from across the country. The performances were amazing, but it was our closest neighbours, Watling Street Primary School, who took first place!

It's fantastic to see chess masters in the making right here in our town. Well done to all involved, and thank you to Mr N James, Head of PE and National Chess Lead for OAT, for organising and leading this brilliant event.



## Christmas Jumper Day: Festive Fun for a Great Cause

We were delighted to participate in Christmas Jumper Day, and our students looked fantastic in their festive attire! We raised money for Save The Children, a brilliant cause, while getting into the Christmas spirit.

It was a day full of colour, fun, and team spirit. Thank you to everyone who took part and donated to this fantastic charity. Check out the photos of our students in their festive wear!



## December to Remember: Week 3 Winner!

Week 3 of our December to Remember attendance challenge saw hundreds of students in the draw for attending every day. The prize was an Amazon Fire Tablet, and congratulations to Lyla-Jean for taking first prize!

There will be more attendance rewards to be won throughout the rest of the year, and to be in with a chance of winning, all you need to do is make sure you are here. Our target for every student is at least 96% attendance.

## Loved Books: Year 11 Hot Chocolate Friday

Mrs J Huskisson hosted Year 11 students for Hot Chocolate Friday before Christmas to celebrate Loved Books. This is our reward that recognises superb presentation and pride in learning. This week focused on Art and Science, where students spoke articulately about their learning and the hard work they've invested.

Thank you to the students for their effort, presentation and attention to detail. These are habits that will serve you brilliantly for your GCSEs. The standard of work was exemplary; keep it up.



100%  
Attendance

BROWNHILLS  
ORMISTON  
ACADEMY

Days missed: 0  
Lessons missed: 0

Impact: Excellent grades and secure placements at post-16 institutions.

RY DAY CC

## Attendance Rewards: Waterworld Trip

On Monday of the last week of term, students with 96% attendance and above visited Waterworld as a recognition of their commitment. It's a fantastic achievement that reflects the value you place on education. Students enjoyed a great day, representing the school with superb behaviour outside the classroom.

Thank you to the students and families who are making sure that they are in school every day, making it count to build the foundation for success.

## Future Chef of the Year: Well Done Maisie & Lexi

Two of our students competed in the Future Chef of the Year competition at Edgbaston Cricket Club. Lexi cooked a superb chicken parmigiana, and Maisie prepared pork with apple & shallot gravy. Two fantastic dishes delivered with confidence and skill.

Particular congratulations to Maisie, who won first place and will return for the Regional Final in the new year! Both students did Brownhills proud so well done to both!



## Christmas Concert 2026: 81 Performers, One Phenomenal Evening

An amazing 81 students performed in our Christmas Concert, culminating months of hard work and rehearsal. The evening showcased both instrumental and vocal music, and featured a record number of soloists, each performing confidently in front of a full theatre.

The concert reminded us why Brownhills is recognised as the singing school in Walsall. Thank you and well done to every performer, technician and staff member involved. Thank you also to the governors, families and friends that came to watch. Your support of our students and school is greatly appreciated and means a lot to our performers and the staff.

We're already planning more performance opportunities across the year for you to showcase your skill and work again. Keep your eyes peeled for the 2026 concert programme and school show announcement, coming very soon!

## Community Centre Carol Singing: An Annual Festive Celebration

The day after the concert, 30 students visited Brownhills Community Centre to sing for local residents. This is a tradition we have been part of for many years and one of our favourites of the year. Students sang beautifully, and engaged brilliantly with members of the community, sharing conversation and music in equal measure.

Thank you to the Community Centre team for hosting another full house, and to everyone who attended. We always love visiting you and spending time with the wonderful members of our community.





**Belgium Music Tour**



**European Day of Languages**



**Family Reading Morning**



**Sporting Success**



**Brownhills Library Walk**



**House Cross Country**



**Primary Visits**



**Attendance Rewards**



**Student Inductions**



**Remembrance Service**



Golden Tickets



Awards Evening



Proud Table



English & Maths Masterclasses



Loved Books



December To Remember



Whole School Assemblies



Careers Fayre



Countdown To Christmas



Christmas Fayre

## Winter Sports Festival: House Spirit in Action

Students filled the Sports Hall and Gym for House Winter Sports competitions: curling, benchball, fitness challenges, and our own festive take on a "snowball fight" (a.k.a. dodgeball!).

Teams were highly competitive yet kind and supportive, showing outstanding camaraderie and commitment to house success. Thank you to our PE staff for designing and leading such fantastic events. The overall winner of Winter Sports will be announced soon. Keep an eye out for the results!



## Community Food Bank Donation: 265kg for The Lamp

In a powerful act of service, Brownhills students delivered 265kg of food to The Lamp Food Bank at Brownhills Community Centre and The Lamp. Their largest ever donation from a school, and the second-largest donation of any kind in their history.

The collection formed part of a house competition, with a phenomenal response across the academy. We are thrilled to announce the winning house: Phineas! More importantly, we are proud of the joint effort from students, families and staff to support our neighbours.

Thank you to Mrs Huskisson and Mrs Mitchell for leading this initiative, and thank you to everyone who donated. This is Brownhills at its best and community in action.



## Last Day of Term: Christmas Fun

The final day of term perfectly captured our Brownhills spirit: staff, students and families joined in festivities and fun, with rewards and celebration of exceptional work throughout the term.

We began with Father Christmas and his favourite Elf welcoming students at the front of school, with staff greeting families, chocolates, and carol singing from students and staff. The Grinch then made surprise visits during PT time, bringing some good-natured mischief to classrooms!

Across the day, the Winter Sports Festival continued, awards were presented, and the whole school gathered on Central Court to celebrate the term. Well done to all students who received attendance and excellence rewards. The final attendance prize which was a mountain bike for 96%+ attendance, was awarded to Mason in Year 7. We were thrilled to see so many students in the draw, doing everything they can to make their education count.



## Huge Honour in Our Community: Congratulations, Jan Davies

We are delighted to share that Jan Davies, BOA Governor, longstanding friend of Brownhills Ormiston Academy, and Centre Manager at Brownhills Community Centre, has been awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to the voluntary sector.

Jan's commitment to our town spans many years, and her partnership with the academy has enriched countless lives. We cannot think of anyone more deserving of this honour. Congratulations, Jan. Your recognition makes us incredibly proud and thank you for everything you do for our great school.



## Looking Ahead: Momentum into the New Term

This term has shown the very best of Brownhills: exceptional commitment from every student, the best lessons from the best teachers, and the most supportive community from our families and friends. Next term, we look forward to more success inside and outside the classroom. In attendance, achievement, creativity, leadership and service. If you would like to be part of the journey with us as a parent governor, please contact us via 'Postbox'.

We are a great school, and our students will continue to do great things. The Spring Term has started in exactly the same way. Students in Year 7-10 were fantastic in their student inductions and started their lessons this week with exactly the same effort and attitude as we saw last term. Our Year 11s continue to impress us with their determination and resilience. They have started this term with a laser-like focus on success and achievement as they begin preparations for another round of pre-public examinations.

Happy New Year everyone, and here's to an exciting 2026 at Brownhills Ormiston Academy.

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





## January 2026

**Tuesday 6th January 2026:** Return to Brownhills Ormiston Academy

**Wednesday 14th January 2026:** Family Reading Morning

**Wednesday 14th January 2026:** Voices Of The Future (Year 4 - Year 7 Choir) Begins

**Thursday 15th January 2026:** Year 11 Parents' Evening

**Thursday 15th January 2026:** Ormiston's Got Talent Auditions

**Monday 19th January 2026:** School Show Auditions

**W/B Monday 19th January 2026:** Year 7, 8 & 9 English, Maths & Science Assessments

**Monday 19th January 2026:** Brownhills Library Walk

**Tuesday 20th January 2026:** Art Gallery Trip (KS4)

**Wednesday 21st - Friday 23rd January 2026:** Standon Bowers Residential (Year 7)

**Thursday 15th January 2026:** Brownhills Band (Year 4 - Year 13 Choir) Begins

**Friday 30th January 2026:** Year 7 Virtual Work Experience Day

## February 2026

**Tuesday 3rd February 2026:** Year 11 Maths Masterclass Day

**Thursday 5th February 2026:** Year 11 English Masterclass Day

**Thursday 5th February 2026:** Year 10 Parents' Evening

**Friday 6th February 2026:** Duke of Edinburgh Award Training Day

**Monday 9th February 2026:** Year 11 PPEs Begin

**Friday 13th February 2026:** House Drama

## Brownhills Alumni: Get In Touch

If you are an ex-student of Brownhills Ormiston Academy and would like to work with us, please get in touch. We are looking for Brownhills Alumni to come together and work with our students and community on variety of different projects. If you believe you could contribute to any of the following, please email Mr J Pierce on [jpierce@brownhillsoa.co.uk](mailto:jpierce@brownhillsoa.co.uk)

- Careers Advice & Guidance
- Further & Higher Education Advice
- Music & Performing Arts Opportunities
- Sports Leadership & Opportunities
- Mentoring & Tutoring
- Launching & Developing and Alumni Network
- Any other way you would like to work with us or projects you would like to launch with our staff, students and families.