

Proud to be a part of the **Brownhills community.**



# Headteacher's Newsletter



## Welcome Back To Brownhills

Dear students, families and members of the Brownhills community,

What an incredible first week it has been!

It has been my absolute privilege to begin my journey as Headteacher of Brownhills Ormiston Academy, and I could not be prouder of the strong, positive start we've made together. The energy, enthusiasm and ambition I've seen from both students and staff has given me great pride and confidence in our collective future.

From the very first moment on site this September, the atmosphere in our academy has been exceptional. Our students have returned with purpose, positivity and pride, and it's been clear to me that they are ready to grasp every opportunity that lies ahead. Our students have one chance at education, and at Brownhills, we are making it count.



## A Week of Exciting Change and Progress

This week we've marked the beginning of a new chapter in the story of Brownhills Ormiston Academy, and it's been exciting to see the transformation taking shape around us:

We've opened our brand-new Reception, Operations Office and Meeting Rooms, offering modern, professional spaces that reflect the high standards we hold for ourselves and our community.

New fencing has been installed to provide additional safeguarding, further strengthening our secure, closed site to keep all students safe.

Our new bike sheds are now open in a more accessible location, making it easier for students to travel sustainably.

The removal of the coloured railings at the front of the school has created a larger, dedicated social space for our Key Stage 4 students.

We've launched our spectacular new MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) with brand-new tennis courts, netball posts and equipment, giving our students access to the very best facilities for sport and physical development.

Refurbished corridors and inspirational signage now run throughout the academy, creating a welcoming and professional environment that tells every student: You belong here. You matter. This is your place to succeed.

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**Every lesson has been really fun! It feels like I have a once in a lifetime opportunity to be here at Brownhills. The older students have helped me around the school and I have earned 35 house points in my first week! Science was my favourite lesson of the week. We learned about Bunsen Burners and Mr McAleenan-Marks was really clear with his teaching so I really understood it. I love it here!** *Bonnie, Year 7 (Phineas)*

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## Culture, Belonging and Ambition

Everything we do at Brownhills is rooted in a belief that every child matters, every child belongs, and every child deserves the best. We place a huge emphasis on culture and belonging, because when students feel proud of their environment and proud of who they are, they go on to achieve amazing things.

Our academy culture was the focus of our staff training day on Monday 1st September, where we came together to strengthen our approach to safeguarding, wellbeing, curriculum development, teaching & learning, and inclusion. I shared my vision for the future of our academy with all staff: a future where ambition knows no limits and every student is equipped with the skills, attributes and academic qualifications to enjoy a life of choice and opportunity.



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**Returning to Brownhills after ten years away has felt like coming home. The staff have been fantastic with many familiar faces who have made me feel incredibly welcome. It has also been great to see the marked difference in the approaches the students have to their education, showing how far school has come on its journey of improvement over the last decade.**

*Mr A Bartlam, Head of Computer Science & IT*

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## A Warm Welcome to New Faces

We're delighted to welcome several new staff to our team this year. Each brings energy, expertise and a deep commitment to our students:

- Mr A Bartlam – Head of Computing
- Miss E Chapman – Sport & Health teacher
- Mr D Cook – PE and Computing teacher
- Miss J Glover – Pastoral & Behaviour Leader for Year 7
- Miss P Mills – History teacher
- Mrs L Moya-Pugh – Cover Supervisor
- Mr A Queensborough – Head of Year 8 and Maths teacher
- Mr K Smith – Cover Supervisor
- Mr M Windsor – Maths teacher

Mr Shaw, who has earned a well-deserved promotion, now joins the Senior Leadership Team as Director of Safeguarding & Wellbeing and our Designated Safeguarding Lead.

We also welcomed our brilliant new Year 7 students on Tuesday. They made a fantastic first impression during their induction, demonstrating the values of being ready, respectful and safe in everything they did. Mrs Zaric (Head of Year 7), Miss Glover (Year 7 PSL), the Year 7 PTs and all the staff involved were immensely proud.

On Wednesday, the academy came alive with the return of all students for a full induction day. Assemblies in the Lecture Theatre, culture and expectations lessons in the Sports Hall and key messages shared during line-ups in our newly named spaces – Central Court for Key Stage 3 and The Forum for Key Stage 4 – were powerful moments that set the tone for the year ahead.

## An Amazing Community, A Shared Responsibility

I want to offer my heartfelt thanks to our Student Leadership Team for their outstanding support this week. Our Head Students, Kayla and Olivia, and our Deputy Head Students, Astrid and Grace, have worked with real maturity and passion, ensuring student voice continues to shape the decisions we make.

I'm also hugely grateful to my Deputy Headteachers, Mrs Chaplin and Mr McGlynn, whose leadership and support have been instrumental in this smooth start to the year. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and talented team.



**The atmosphere in school has been really positive. Everyone has been working hard in lessons and it's been great to see so many students earning so many house points!** *Olivia, Head Student*



## Looking Ahead

This first week has confirmed what I already knew: Brownhills Ormiston Academy is a special place. Our students belong here. They are capable of great things! They have one chance at their education, and we will do everything in our power to ensure they leave us with the skills, attributes and academic qualifications they need to enjoy lives of choice and opportunity.

I look forward to working closely with every one of you – students, families, staff and community partners – in the weeks, months and years ahead.

Let's continue to aim high, work hard and support one another. The future is bright at Brownhills.

With very best wishes,

**Mr R T Doodson**  
Headteacher

