

Headteacher's Newsletter



Complete Pride in our Community

In a week where students have excelled in extra-curricular activities, 43 students have represented our school and country in an international music tour to Belgium, and over 50 Year 7 students have had Hot Chocolate with the Head for exceptional homework, it is difficult to know where to begin.

I remain impressed with the behaviour, attitudes and effort of Brownhills students. They are showing us why they have collectively earned over 90,000 House Points in three weeks.

I would like to thank families for their ongoing support in ensuring that students arrive on time every day, in perfect uniform and ready to learn. Brownhills is truly a great school and we must all continue to recognise the achievements of our brilliant school community.



Belgium 2025 - Concert 1: Onze-Lieve-Vrouwekerk, De Panne

After a morning visit to the P&J Chocolate Factory, the Brownhills musicians performed their first concert of the tour. They had their lunch on the beach and then walked up to a beautiful church in the middle of the town of De Panne. Seeing the Brownhills Ormiston Academy concert posters up around a town hundreds of miles away from home was a reminder that they were part of something really special. The audience grew and grew and before long there were over 200 people in the church, ready for their first performance.

The students were outstanding, the venue was stunning and the Brownhills team really rose to the occasion. The reception from the public in De Panne was staggering. The community had come out in force to watch Brownhills perform and they were greeted with so many wonderful compliments about the quality of the musicianship from our young people. By the end of the concert, it was 'standing room only' as people had heard the music ringing through the streets and come in to listen.

It was the perfect start to the tour and we were incredibly grateful to Johann and the church community in De Panne for being such brilliant hosts.



Belgium 2025 - Concert 2: The Last Post Ceremony, Menin Gate

The Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate is a service held every day in the town of Ypres. It is a remarkable place, holding the names of 54,000 British troops who died in World War 1 with no known grave. It is arguably the most famous and iconic site of remembrance in the world. Very few people get the opportunity to perform at the service and even fewer of those ensembles are schools. The students had to audition to perform there and this had to be approved by a panel from the Last Post Association, who asked us to sing 'O Danny Boy' and 'Fields of Gold' at the ceremony.

Our choir were simply outstanding. The students and staff were overwhelmed by the emotion and poignance, but once again, the BOA musicians performed with class and dignity to deliver one of the most important performances in our school's history.

Back at school, I received calls from members of the public in Belgium who has attended the ceremony. They stated that they were amazed by the conduct, respect and behaviour of the children and that they were delighted how with the music created a sense of the moment and the way we represented our country. I was extremely proud to receive these calls.

I have been attending this service for years and never have I been so moved by the music as today. Beautiful! Army Veteran, watching at the Menin Gate



Belgium 2025 - Concert 3: The Bandstand, Ostend



After a morning exploring Bruges, Brownhills arrived at their final concert venue in Ostend. This concert provided a completely different venue and style of performance for the students as they performed to the hundreds of people enjoying food and drink in the square and shopping in and around a busy town. They had to grab their attention quickly with a high energy performance to be heard over the hustle and bustle of a European market. They did so with ease and once again, the crowds formed throughout the performance.

By the end of the concert, the area in front of the bandstand was packed with people stopping to listen, applaud and celebrate this fabulous moment with our students. They even received their second request for an encore and they were met like celebrities after the concert by the public telling them how superb they are. A fantastic third and final concert!

Whole School Assembly

I spoke to the whole school on Friday to congratulate them on their continued excellent behaviour and effort in lessons. £10 vouchers were gifted to one student selected from the prize draw in each year group for 100% attendance this week. I introduced our four senior students to the school and explained the impact they were having in their student leadership roles. We recognised Year 8 for having the highest attendance in the school and Phineas house for having achieved the most House Points so far. It was a privilege to celebrate the first three weeks of the academic year.

With very best wishes,

Mr R T Doodson
Headteacher



Attendance Winners
Year 8

House Point Leaderboard
Phineas

Total House Points
95,835