



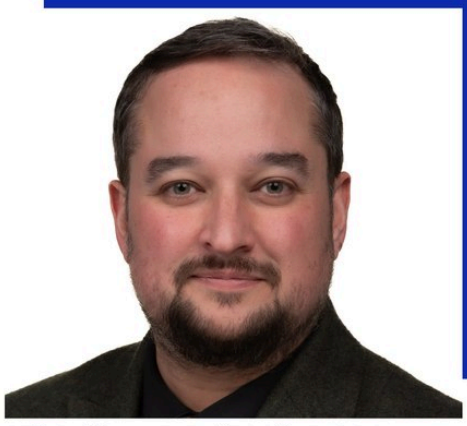
# Headteacher's Newsletter



## Ending the Half Term on a High Note

As we reach the end of this half term, there is a real sense of pride around our academy. It has been a strong and positive finish, with students and staff maintaining excellent momentum right to the final bell.

Our Year 11 students began their mock examinations this week and have approached them with focus and determination. They have worked incredibly hard in lessons and revision sessions, showing maturity and a clear understanding of the importance of this stage in their education. These moments matter. They are stepping stones toward future success, and we are proud of the way our students are rising to the challenge.



Across the school, lessons remained purposeful and full of energy until the very last day. There was no winding down, only a shared commitment to learning. Seeing so many students arrive with smiles on the final morning of term was a wonderful reflection of our culture.

It has also been uplifting to see so many staff welcoming students at the gates and wishing them well at the end of each day. Those moments show who we are as a community. A school where students feel known, noticed and valued.

Everything we do is rooted in our values of being **ready, respectful** and **safe**. These values are lived daily in classrooms, corridors and on the stage. You get one chance at your education. We all have a duty to make it count. This half term, our community has truly lived that message.

My newsletter this week focuses on our performing arts provision, of which I am extremely proud. We are a singing school and we know the power that the arts can have on children's lives and our community. I am proud to fully support and champion the arts. The future of this provision at our great school is very promising indeed and I must thank our Associate Assistant Headteacher, Mr J Pierce, for his tireless leadership of this crucial aspect of the school's work.

## House Drama: Confidence & Creativity

This week's House Drama competition was a genuine highlight of the term and a powerful reminder of the talent within our school.

Our Lecture Theatre was full and the atmosphere was warm and supportive. Students performed scenes, monologues and duologues with commitment and theatrical flair. Many stepped outside their comfort zones, and that courage deserves recognition.

The public speaking category was a standout feature of the event. The quality of writing and delivery was exceptional. Students spoke with clarity, intelligence and emotional depth. These were thoughtful pieces, crafted with care and delivered with real presence.



Jake, Shay, Thomas and Mya produced speeches of extraordinary quality. Their work showed insight and maturity well beyond their years. We are excited to share their speeches with our community soon so others can appreciate the power of their words.

The competition itself was incredibly close. Every house contributed strong performances and should feel proud. Congratulations to Coppice, who secured victory by just one point and claimed their second win of the year. A superb achievement in a tightly contested event.

We also extend our sincere thanks to Mr Nigel Anderson for serving as adjudicator. His support and encouragement added to the sense of occasion and celebration. It was a pleasure to welcome such a strong ambassador for our town into school.

Events like House Drama remind us that performing arts are about more than performance. They build confidence, communication and self-belief. They help young people find their voice. Most importantly, they show students that their voice matters.



## A Mark of Musical Excellence

I am delighted to share that the academy has been awarded the **Music Mark of Recognition for Ambition and Quality in Music Education**.

This is a prestigious recognition given to schools that demonstrate a clear commitment to high-quality and ambitious music provision for all students. It reflects the culture we have built as a singing school and the opportunities we provide for students to develop their musical skills and creativity.

Music is a powerful force in our academy. It brings people together. It builds confidence. It gives students a sense of belonging.

This award recognises the work of staff, students and partners who believe deeply in the value of music education. While we are proud of this milestone, we are equally excited about what comes next as we continue to develop our provision.



## A Strong Start for Key Stage 3 Drama

The introduction of Key Stage 3 Drama for Years 7 and 8 to our academy curriculum has been a tremendous success. Students have embraced the subject with enthusiasm and openness.

Ms S Carter has done an excellent job developing students' confidence, stage presence and understanding of performance. Lessons have focused on script work, characterisation and naturalism. This work directly supported students in preparing for the House Drama competition, where they rehearsed in lessons and refined their performances in their houses.

Drama strengthens communication skills and builds resilience. It also supports our English curriculum by helping students explore text, meaning and interpretation in a deeper way.

For some students this will lead to further study in performing arts. For others it will develop lifelong skills that will support any future pathway.



## Celebrating Musical Achievement

Our music department continues to be a place of dedication and excellence. Many students have recently undertaken external music examinations as singers and instrumentalists. These qualifications require discipline, commitment and hours of practice.

On behalf of our school community, I congratulate:

- Thea – Grade 5 Singing
- Emelia – Grade 4 Classical Guitar
- Leyshon – Grade 4 Singing and Grade 4 Drum Kit
- Freya P – Grade 3 Singing
- Darcy – Grade 3 Singing
- Skilah – Grade 3 Singing
- Sienna – Grade 3 Singing
- Hayden – Grade 3 Singing
- Freya B - Grade 2 Singing
- Tilly – Grade 2 Clarinet
- Aniya – Grade 2 Clarinet

Each success represents perseverance and a pursuit of excellence. We are very proud of them all.

I am also delighted that Year 10 student Layla has progressed to the Regional Finals of Ormiston's Got Talent. Reaching this stage is a fantastic accomplishment, and we all wish her every success in the next round.

## Partnerships that Power Our Performing Arts

So much of what we achieve in music and the performing arts is made possible through strong partnerships. These relationships enrich our provision and create opportunities that go far beyond the classroom.

Our work with the Walsall Music Education Hub is a central part of this. They provide exceptional tuition and musical opportunities for young people across Walsall. Their expertise and support allow students to access high-quality instrumental and vocal tuition and to see music as something they can pursue seriously.

We are fortunate to have a team of outstanding peripatetic teachers working in our academy. Miss R Crowson, Mrs A Hollins, Mr C Stevens, Mr R James and Mr C Hemmingsley bring a wealth of musical knowledge and passion into school each week. They are skilled musicians and dedicated teachers who inspire students through their own love of music. Their work is led and supported by the equally committed Mrs S Dufty, whose leadership helps maintain the high standards we see in lessons and ensembles.

These teachers do more than prepare students for exams. They build confidence, nurture talent and show students what is possible through hard work and commitment.

The Walsall Music Education Hub also runs over twenty completely free ensembles each week at their centre in Walsall. These groups give students the chance to rehearse and perform with others from across the borough. We



strongly encourage students to attend because these experiences broaden their horizons and develop ensemble skills.

Our partnerships extend beyond secondary education. We are proud to work closely with partner primary schools including Watling Street, Millfield, Brownhills West, Holy Trinity, Castlefort and St. James. Together we are developing a Brownhills Music Community that provides meaningful pathways for young musicians as they move through their education.

This collaboration has led to the creation of the Brownhills Band and Voices of the Future, our band and choir for students from Year 4 upwards. These groups rehearse weekly at our school and give younger pupils the chance to develop their skills in a supportive environment.

We are also delighted that our alumni remain connected to these groups. Former students return to rehearse, perform and mentor younger musicians. They model excellence and show current students where music can take them.

Finally, none of this would be possible without the encouragement of parents and carers. Your support at concerts, rehearsals and events makes a real difference. It reinforces to students that their efforts are valued.

If you are in Years 4, 5 or 6, or a part of our Brownhills alumni, and would like to join our band or choir, you can do so by completing the short form shared on our Facebook page. Choir runs from 4–5pm on Wednesdays and band meets at the same time on Thursdays. We would love to welcome you.

This is community music-making at its best. It reflects our belief that music brings people together and that every child deserves the chance to be part of something special.



## Looking Ahead: The Show Goes On

There is much to look forward to:

- Musical Theatre Showcase – Monday 23rd March
- Brownhills Big Sing – Wednesday 15th April
- Our musical production of *Footloose* – Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th July
- An upcoming Instrumental Recital
- A very exciting choral project with Lichfield Cathedral

Our performing arts provision continues to grow, and we are excited for what lies ahead.

You are welcome here. You belong here. We are all proud to be part of the Brownhills community.

Thank you to students, staff, families and partners for your continued support. I wish everyone a restful and happy half term break and look forward to welcoming you back for another successful term.

With very best wishes,

**Mr R T Doodson**  
Headteacher

