



Headteacher's Newsletter



As we return from half term, I am incredibly proud to reflect on what has been a purposeful and uplifting start to the second half of our autumn term. The energy, ambition and pride shown across our school this week is a powerful reminder of why Brownhills Ormiston Academy is such a special place. Our students continue to rise to the challenge, supported every step of the way by our dedicated staff and our brilliant families.

At Brownhills, we know our young people have one chance at their education – and we remain absolutely committed to ensuring that every child makes it count.



Spotlight on the Arts – Up & Comers Take Centre Stage



Before half term, we were treated to an unforgettable evening in the Francis Hodgkinson Theatre, where a brilliant group of Year 7 students performed their Up & Comers Concert. It was their very first performance at Brownhills and it was a superb debut!

With confidence and enthusiasm, they sang, played and performed with real Brownhills spirit. The concert reminded us that we are proudly a singing school, and that the arts are a vital part of who we are.

These performances are about more than music, they are about expression, teamwork, and having the courage to step forward and shine. Our Year 7s did us proud. Thank you to Mr Pierce and the staff who made the event possible and to the families who came to celebrate with us.

Working in Partnership – Family Information Evenings

We were delighted to welcome families into the academy this week for two important evenings: the Year 7 Settling In Evening and the Year 8 Information Evening. Both events provided valuable time for families to hear about our high expectations, our focus on attendance, and the importance of home learning.

For our Year 7 parents, it provided an opportunity to discuss their child's transition to secondary school, a huge step in any child's education. And for Year 8, it was a reminder that their journey is well underway, and ambition must remain high.

I want to thank Mrs Zaric (Head of Year 7), Mr Queensborough (Head of Year 8) and our brilliant teaching staff who supported the events, and the many families who have contacted us to share positive feedback. We value this partnership enormously. It is by working together that we give all children the very best chance of success.



Looking Ahead – Year 10 Prepare to Perform

Also before half term, we welcomed Year 10 students and their families for our Prepare to Perform evening, an important step in their journey towards GCSE success in 2027.

Led by Mr Reed (Head of Year 10), the event offered advice on revision techniques, independent study, and the mindset needed for long-term success. Curriculum leaders from English, Maths and Science shared subject-specific strategies to help students make the most of every lesson and every homework task.

The atmosphere in the theatre was inspiring with families and staff coming together, united in the belief that every child can succeed with the right support and guidance. Thank you to all who attended. The road to GCSEs starts now, and Year 10 are already stepping forward with confidence.



Celebrating Effort and Rewarding Excellence

At Brownhills, celebrating achievement is central to our culture. Our reward assemblies were a great way to reflect on the fantastic start students have made this year. Personal Tutors recognised those who have shown hard work, kindness, leadership or improvement, and we celebrated students with 100% attendance since September.

Being in school every day is the foundation of success. It builds resilience, strengthens friendships and ensures that no learning is missed.

These celebrations are not just about rewards; they are about building habits that lead to lifelong success. To every student was recognised: well done!



Wellbeing and Belonging – Mental Health Awareness Day

On Friday 24th November, the academy came together to mark Mental Health Awareness Day, a truly heartwarming day filled with positivity, reflection and community spirit.

Students took part in a wide range of wellbeing activities including yoga, dance, badminton, reading, singing, mindfulness and more. These moments reminded us all of the importance of caring for our mental health, just as much as our physical health.

Our charity cake sale raised a fantastic amount for Young Minds, a cause close to our hearts, and the generosity shown by our students and staff was inspiring. We also announced the winners of our "Race to 100" challenge and our "In It to Win It" attendance prize draw, wonderful moments of recognition for those making consistent effort each day.

As we gathered on the Central Court to celebrate our achievements, I was once again reminded of the deep sense of belonging and community that defines Brownhills. Success at our school comes in many forms - academic progress, creativity, kindness, resilience - and every student contributes in their own unique way.

Year 11 Begin Their Mock Examinations

Over the last three days, our Year 11 students began their November mock examinations, a significant milestone in their GCSE journey. Their maturity, resilience and determination have made us all proud. These exams provide a crucial opportunity for students to track their progress, make small gains, and reflect on the next steps in their preparation for final exams in just seven months' time.

Our staff are already hard at work supporting students through revision sessions and will soon begin the detailed task of marking and feedback, all with the goal of giving every student the personalised support they need to move forward.

These qualifications matter. They open doors to sixth forms, colleges, apprenticeships and careers. We are all so proud of the way our Year 11 students are rising to the challenge.



Thank You

As always, thank you for your continued support. Your role in encouraging excellent attendance, pride in presentation, reading at home, and ambition for the future is crucial. When school and families work together, our students achieve more.

I look forward to another week of progress, participation and pride, and to seeing our Year 11 students continue to tackle their mock exams with the determination that makes us all proud.

With very best wishes,
Mr R T Doodson
 Headteacher

