



Headteacher's Newsletter



Spring Term Celebration

Dear families, friends and our wider community,

Welcome back to the summer term 2026! As you will no doubt expect, we have an exciting programme of events lined up throughout this term to provide opportunities, learning experiences and enjoyment for our school community.

I hope that you enjoy reading this rather larger than normal edition of my newsletter, which celebrates the achievements and activities of the past few weeks. As ever, I am indebted to our brilliant staff team, whose dedication, hard work and expertise make all of these things possible.



Family Reading Morning

A group of Year 7 students and their families joined Mr Pierce for a reading morning in our school library. The morning started with baking biscuits for our visitors to enjoy and they then went on to explore different books in our school library. It was lovely to see children reading to adults, as well as adults reading to children.

At Brownhills we tell you that 'the more you read, the more you know'. It is true that reading is good for relaxation as well as learning. There are so many wonderful stories for our students to enjoy. I encourage everyone to borrow a new book this half term.



Year 11 Maths Masterclasses

Our Year 11s have shown amazing dedication to their Maths studies throughout this year. Our masterclasses are a way for students to prepare intensively for their upcoming examinations by focusing on the Maths topics that they need the most support with.

Well done to Year 11 for their efforts. Thank you to Miss Gilbert and our Maths team for all their expert support and guidance.



Proud Table

The Proud Table has continued to be a huge success this term. It has been brilliant to see so many students bringing their achievements to us every week. We continue to see an exciting range of success stories from excellent pieces of extended writing in lessons, to musical performances, to trophies for international dance competitions and much more. Please keep sharing your stories with us every Wednesday breaktime.



Music Exam Success

Congratulations to our students who have undertaken music exams this term. We have seen exceptional results in singing, clarinet, drums and classical guitar grades throughout the term. This is only possible due to hard work and rehearsal outside of school. It takes real commitment and resilience to learn an instrument and prepare for these exams and we are so proud of you for this achievement. Well done and keep up the brilliant work and you move towards your next grades.



GCSE Art - London Gallery Trip

Some of our Year 10 & 11 artists travelled to London to enjoy the 'Triple Trouble' exhibition at the Newport Gallery, Vauxhall, London earlier this term. They were looking at the work of Shepard Fairey, Damien Hirst and Invader. This has inspired their GCSE work and the students were fascinated by the exhibit.

Thank you to our wonderful artists, led by Mrs Drake and Mrs Mander, for your commitment to Art. It has been brilliant to see such beautiful work come from your lessons as always and we hope this inspires you to go to more exhibitions like this in the future.



Standon Bowers

In January, our Year 7s went on a residential visit to Standon Bowers. The students worked brilliantly as a team throughout the visit on all of their activities, which included archery, climbing, orienteering, axe throwing and bridge building. It is fantastic to see our students being so adventurous and taking risks.

Residentials are a huge undertaking for staff who spend time away from their families to support the trip, so I am very grateful to our team for their dedication.



Year 7 Virtual Work Experience

At Brownhills, we encourage students to think about their futures and their careers. Work experience is a brilliant way for our students to see different working environments and explore possibilities for the future.

Our Year 7s took part in a *Virtual Work Experience Day* in which they took on a variety of marketing roles. They experienced what life would be like working in these kinds of roles for Tesco. Well done to Year 7 for your creativity and hard work and thank you to Mrs Adams for organising the opportunity.



Footloose Rehearsals Begin

Our school show this year is *Footloose* and rehearsals are well underway. Our students have been working incredibly hard in rehearsals already and we are already excited about songs like *Holding Out For A Hero* which is already sounding great.

The shows are on Wednesday 8th & Thursday 9th July and we look forward to seeing lots of you there. Well done to the cast for an excellent start to our school show this year.



The Mercians

We were treated to an excellent performance from *The Mercians*, a band from the Midlands, for students in Years 7-10 in February. They put on a brilliant show of their original songs and a very popular cover of 505 by Arctic Monkeys which went down very well with students.

This was an inspiring event linked to our PSHE and personal development curriculum, because the band shared very candid stories with us about mental health and the importance of speaking up. We would like to thank *The Mercians* for their honesty and a superb performance.

Golden Tickets

More *Golden Tickets* were awarded this term to recognise exceptional and sustained effort in lessons. Leaders were out and about in lessons looking for students going above and beyond, doing everything they can to make it count. It is proving harder and harder to choose students for these awards as the standards of work across the school continue to amaze us.

Well done to all of our winners and we hope you enjoyed your *Pizza In The Foyer!* There will be more *Golden Tickets* throughout the summer term.



Maisie - FutureChef

I am delighted to share news of Maisie's national success at the Springboard FutureChef competition. Maisie made it through to the final 12 out of 16,000 entrants nationally! A truly incredible achievement.

Well done, Maisie, for your exceptional commitment and culinary skill. You have represented our school brilliantly and we are so very proud of you. We look forward to seeing where this takes you.

House Drama

In February, we launched our first ever *House Drama* competition. This was an inter-house competition in which students in Year 7-10 prepared scenes, monologues and duologues performed in front of all of Year 7 and the rest of the performers in the Francis Hodgkinson Theatre. It was adjudicated by Nigel Anderson, a longstanding friend of the school who works with local theatre companies.

Congratulations to Coppice for winning *House Drama* and thank you to all of the students involved. It was a joyous morning.



Public Speaking

As part of our *House Drama* competition we had a public speaking category, which was absolutely outstanding. Jake, Mya, Shay and Thomas prepared speeches of the highest quality based on quotes from Socrates, Confucius, Wilde and Aristotle.

I was absolutely delighted with the intellectual prowess shown by all four students and the passion with which the speeches were delivered. This was very impressive work from all of you and I felt very moved. Congratulations!



Holiday Revision

In the February half term and over the Easter holiday, our Year 11s have been in school putting in the extra hours to prepare for their upcoming GCSEs. Students have been using the opportunity to work with their teachers on areas of the course they are focusing on at the moment. They are working hard on their exam technique and making those final preparations to ensure they are already for their exams in a few weeks' time. Well done Year 11 and keep it up; the hard work will pay off.



Ormiston's Got Talent - Final

After two very competitive rounds of video auditions, Layla was selected to go through to the final of Ormiston's Got Talent 2026, which included schools from across the West and South regions. She performed brilliantly, supported by Emmanuel on the cajón. Layla was supported by a fabulous group of students who came to watch.

It was a brilliant day with so much talent and Layla represented Brownhills superbly as she sang *I See Red*. Well done Layla and Emmanuel for your performance and well done to all of the students who entered.



The Lightning Thief Musical

Our Year 7s have been reading *Percy Jackson & The Lightning Thief* in their Read Aloud sessions and with that in mind, Ms Carter took thirty students to go to Birmingham Hippodrome to watch *The Lightning Thief Musical*.

The students had a fantastic afternoon and said the performance was excellent. Students told me when they returned that it had really brought the story to life. They were thrilled by the whole experience. There will be more theatre visit opportunities coming soon.



Year 3 Reading Picnic

As part of our World Book Day celebrations, we invited Year 3 students from Watling Street Primary School to our Library to be read to by some of our Year 7 students. They brought their lunch with them and sat around our students as they read some beautiful children's stories to them.

Our readers delivered their stories with excellent energy and really engaged the Year 3s. Well done and thank you to our friends at Watling Street for coming to visit us. We always love having you at Brownhills!

Community Reading Morning

On the week of World Book Day, we also invited members of the community in to read with us in the Library. We were joined by a number of parents, grandparents, siblings and other family members of students who sat and read with their children, which was lovely to see.

I was also very grateful that two of our governors, Mr Pedder and Mrs Sheehy, came to read with students as well as former member of staff Mrs Hopkins. A fantastic morning!



World Book Day 2026

Once again, World Book Day was a huge celebration at Brownhills. There were brilliant costumes from the staff and students, and exciting activities throughout the day, it was a true celebration of reading and the atmosphere in school was electric.

Our students wrote poems and newspaper articles, participated in debates and shared books with each other in the *Book Choice Bistro*. Team Brownhills really committed to the spirit of World Book Day. We are a reading school and we really showed that again this year. Thank you to Mr Pierce, Miss Walsh and Ms Carter for their leadership of the day.



Carding Mill Valley

Our Year 11 geographers completed their field work for their GCSEs this term with a trip to Carding Mill Valley in Shropshire. They put their skills to the test with some fascinating practical work, working in the river. The students worked collaboratively across two days and the team at Carding Mill Valley were so impressed with the way they conducted themselves.

A massive thank you to Miss Sheldon and the rest of Team Geography for leading this visit for our brilliant students.



National Shakespeare Week

As part of our National Shakespeare Week celebrations, we asked students to record themselves performing one of The Bard's most famous monologues or sonnets connected to their current focus in English.

Congratulations to Leyshon for his beautiful performance of Sonnet XVIII and to Amelia for her exciting delivery of the prologue from *Romeo & Juliet*. Some really engaging work from both of you.



Year 10 - Lesson 6

Year 10 are preparing for their first round of mock exams after Easter, and to support them with this, we began running Lesson 6 sessions for them this half term. The turnout has been excellent with so many students staying after school for Maths on Monday, English on Wednesday, Science on Thursday and their options subjects on Friday.

Year 10, you have shown a fantastic commitment to your studies so far and it's clear that you are approaching these mock exams with real purpose and determination. A great start to your GCSE revision!



Year 11 Revision Treats

Amongst all of the hard work students are putting in, I have been keen to make sure they are being rewarded for their diligence, effort and dedication. As a result, during one of their Maths Masterclass days, we arranged for a visit from the delightful *Fairy Good Cakes*.

The students (and staff) loved it and we were treated to a delicious selection of cakes and cookies. Well done Year 11 and thank you to the team at *Fairy Good Cakes*!



Headteacher's Brunch

Another reward this term was the Headteacher's Brunch. This is awarded for consistently exceptional effort across the curriculum. Students were treated to a range of delicious breakfast items in the Community Lounge as a thank you for their hard work.

Well done to all of our winners and thank you for a lovely morning. It really is getting more and more difficult to select students for these awards as so many students are working so hard.



Fairy Tale Courtroom

A number of our Year 7 and 8 performers took to the stage for a performance of *Fairy Tale Courtroom* by Dana Proulx this month and they were superb. The story sees the Big Bad Wolf and the Wicked Witch put on trial for their crimes as we were treated to every famous fairy tale character you could think of on stage!

They were two excellent performances with a lot of laughs from the audience. Performing a play is really challenging and it's clear that their KS3 Drama lessons are really paying off! Excellent work and thank you to Mr Windsor and Ms Carter for their work on the production.



Ski Trip 2026

I am delighted that we have been able to bring a Ski Trip back to Brownhills and this year, 30 of our students went to Italy. It is clear from the pictures and videos on Facebook that everyone had a brilliant time, and also that there was a lot of progress made by the students in their skiing skills across the course of the week.

The students behaved impeccably and the Brownhills team and staff at the resort were so pleased with our students as always. Thank you Mrs Mitchell, Mrs Adams and Mr Shaw for making this possible and well done to all of the skiers.



OurJay Foundation - Defibrillator

We are very proud to announce that we now have a defibrillator in a case on the front gate to school that can be accessed by the community in an emergency, thanks to the OurJay Foundation, a charity setup in memory of a young man named Jamie who tragically passed away.

Jamie's grandfather, Paul, was the coach driver on our music tour to Belgium. We were pleased to welcome them to school for the unveiling of the defibrillator and we cannot thank them enough so this gift to our community.

Red Nose Day 2026

Charity and giving back to the community is incredibly important to our school. This Red Nose Day, our students and staff came together to raise as much money as possible for this fantastic cause.

We had face painting, busking, a talent show, a raffle, student-staff matches and a non-uniform day on Friday. The atmosphere was brilliant in school and it was the perfect way to end the term.



Musical Theatre Showcase

On Monday of the last week of term, we held a very special Musical Theatre Showcase in the Francis Hodgkinson Theatre. We were joined 11 members of the Brownhills alumni who performed alongside the Brownhills Choir in a fantastic evening of musical talent, performing songs from modern musicals.

The concert was superb and I was thrilled to see so many excellent performances from current and former students. We were very pleased to be joined by Mrs HB Keenan, who had been the Headteacher for many of the alumni performing. Mr Hodgkinson, a former governor of 42 years, was also with us as he continues to support so many arts events at the school. Mrs Keenan was very pleased to see the arts continuing to thrive at our great school.



House Swimming

On the last week of term we held another house competition. This time, it was House Swimming. It was a competitive afternoon with students from our four houses working incredibly hard in all of their races. The support from poolside was enough to raise the roof of the pool and showed great competitive spirit.

Congratulations to Coppice who took first place and to all of the swimmers involved in another brilliant competition!



Sporting Success

The last week of term also brought sporting achievements from our students in Handball and Dance. On Monday our Year 8 girls took part in the Walsall Schools Handball tournament and put in a brilliant performance. On Tuesday our dancers went to Dudley for the *Great Big Dance Off* finishing 9th out of 28 schools in the competition with their cheer routine.

Well done to all of the students involved. It takes so much training and dedication to prepare for competitions like this and we are so proud of your achievements.



A Final Well Done

Alongside all of these opportunities throughout the term, and most importantly of all, there have been curriculum lessons taking place, every day, across our great school. This is where the real work happens and where students spend five hours per day with expert teachers. I am asking our students to work harder than ever to reach their potential and I am asking for the support of all families in ensuring that. In order to benefit from the expertise of our great teachers, students must be in school. every day.

I would like to thank all of our students, staff and families for their continued support. Through working together, we are ensuring that our students make their one precious chance at their education count. We look forward to another brilliant term at Brownhills.



With very best wishes,
Mr R T Doodson
 Headteacher