

Ready Respect Safe



Headteacher's Newsletter



24 Days to Make It Count

As we begin this half term together, I have been reflecting on the simple but powerful message that sits at the heart of our academy: You get one chance at your education. We all have a duty to make it count.

We have twenty-four days this half term. Twenty-four opportunities to make huge progress. Twenty-four chances to take risks, be ambitious, be curious, resilient and creative. Twenty-four days to take meaningful steps towards gaining the skills, attributes and qualifications needed to enjoy a life of choice and opportunity.

I could not be prouder of how our students have returned. Ready to learn, respectful in their conduct and committed to keeping our community safe. Our classrooms are prepared, our expert teachers have crafted exceptional lessons and the atmosphere across the academy has been purposeful and positive.

Before half term, I spoke to a number of students about what they were proud of. Their answers were thoughtful and varied: improvements in assessment scores, acts of kindness, leadership moments, creative successes. What struck me most was the quiet confidence with which they spoke about their own growth. At Brownhills, there are hundreds of moments to be proud of every single day. It is a privilege to witness them.



Ambition in Action: Year 7 and National Shakespeare Week

Our Year 7 students have exemplified what it means to be ready from the very first lesson of this half term. As part of National Shakespeare Week, I visited English classrooms where students were immersed in the study of Romeo and Juliet.

The focus was exceptional. Students were analysing language with maturity, writing with ambition and demonstrating the resilience that underpins strong scholarship. There was a tangible sense of intellectual curiosity in the room. Students were grappling with complex ideas and rising confidently to the challenge.

Beyond their lessons, many have also been preparing performances of the iconic prologue for our Shakespeare competition. I am really looking forward to watching those performances this week and seeing our fantastic students rise to the challenge, yet again. Performing Shakespeare takes a lot of skill. It requires students to step outside their comfort zone and trust in their English and drama skills to tackle the language and style of performance.

This is what "making it count" looks like. A brilliant start to the half term and a powerful example of students living out our values of ready, respect, safe in every sense. Well done, Year 7!



Brownhills Talent Shines: Layla at the Regional Final

It was an absolute pleasure to see Layla, alongside a wonderful team of student supporters, at the regional final of Ormiston's Got Talent at Ormiston SWB Academy. Layla earned her place in the final through a successful video audition earlier this term which was a tremendous achievement in itself.

She performed "I See Red," accompanied on cajón by the talented Emmanuel. Together, they delivered a stylish and assured performance. Layla represented Brownhills with poise and professionalism, and we are immensely proud of her.

Equally impressive was our student audience. They supported not only Layla but every performer with warmth and respect, embodying the very best of our academy community.

Thank you to Ormiston Academies Trust for providing such a valuable platform for our young people to shine, and to every Brownhills student who entered the competition.



Year 7 Theatre Experience: The Lightning Thief

Learning extends far beyond the classroom walls, and our Year 7 visit to the Birmingham Hippodrome this week was a perfect example of this. Students attended a performance of *The Lightning Thief*, the Percy Jackson-inspired musical, and returned brimming with enthusiasm, offering it a unanimous "10 out of 10".

I was delighted to hear that our students conducted themselves impeccably, demonstrating respect throughout and representing Brownhills with pride.

My thanks go to Ms Carter and Mrs Harriman for organising and leading the visit. We're really pleased to be able to offer these opportunities to our students and I'm grateful to the staff who give up their time to support the events.

We are incredibly lucky to have so much fantastic performance venues so close to us. Birmingham Hippodrome, Birmingham Symphony Hall, The Grand in Wolverhampton to name just a few. We hope this inspires them to attend more shows in the future and we look forward to providing more opportunities like this for our students.

Service and Leadership: Duke of Edinburgh Commitment

Our Year 9 and Year 10 students continue to show tremendous dedication as they work towards their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Completing the volunteering and skill development elements requires commitment and perseverance. Qualifies that will serve them well throughout life.

This week, several of our Duke of Edinburgh students supported our Year 9 Options Evening by providing refreshments for parents and carers. Their professionalism and willingness to serve our community did not go unnoticed. They demonstrated, in a very practical way, what it means to contribute positively to something bigger than themselves.

Thank you so much for your time and efforts. Keep up the brilliant work!



Looking Ahead: Choice, Opportunity and Celebration

The week ahead is filled with opportunity.

It is National Careers Week, a timely reminder of our shared commitment to ensuring that every student gains the knowledge, skills and attributes needed to enjoy a life of choice and opportunity. Through assemblies, lessons and targeted events, we will encourage students to think ambitiously about their futures and the many pathways open to them.

We also look forward to celebrating World Book Day. As always, there will be creativity, costumes and a genuine celebration of reading across the academy. Literacy is foundational to success, and we relish every opportunity to promote a love of books within our community.

Finally, our Year 11 students complete their pre-public examinations this week. They have worked with determination and resilience throughout this assessment period. I know the effort they have invested, and I look forward to celebrating their successes and reflecting on the progress they have made. We are incredibly proud of them.

As I consider the energy and achievements of this week, I am reminded of our third motto: You are welcome here. You belong here. Proud to be a part of the Brownhills community.

Thank you to our students for their hard work and positivity. Thank you to our staff for their unwavering dedication. Thank you to parents and carers for your continued partnership and support.

Together, we will continue to make these 24 days count.

With very best wishes,

Mr R T Doodson
Headteacher

