



CLASS OF
2031

BROWNHILLS ORMISTON ACADEMY **TRANSITION BOOKLET**

*Giving your child the skills,
attributes and qualifications
to enable them to enjoy a life
of choice and opportunity.*





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1.

OUR ACADEMY



Mr R T Doodson
Headteacher

Welcome to Brownhills Ormiston Academy. We are extremely proud of our school and the community that we serve. The five-year journey at BOA presents an exciting opportunity for students to work very hard and to be highly ambitious for their future.

At Brownhills, we have exceptionally high expectations of our students. We expect every student to work hard in lessons and at home. We make no apologies for being a home learning school, where study and revision at home is recognised as vital for success. We expect all students to behave with respect, to wear our academy uniform with pride, and to be ambassadors for our school in this brilliant community.

Beyond our ambitious curriculum, students will have access to a range of wider personal development opportunities, competitions, events, trips and clubs. I strongly encourage you to do as much as you can, to throw yourself into life at Brownhills and to benefit from the expertise and energy of our brilliant staff.

I must highlight the importance of attendance and the clear and obvious link between being in school every day and achievement. Students must be in school so that they do not miss out on vital learning opportunities.

I am very clear that Brownhills students have one chance at their education and that school, families and students have a duty to make it count. This means that our September 2026 intake must and will leave Year 11 in 2031 with **the skills, attributes and academic qualifications to enable them to enjoy a life of choice and opportunity.**

I know that you have chosen Brownhills Ormiston Academy because you support our values and ambitions. I know that you have chosen Brownhills Ormiston Academy because we share your determination for your child to achieve excellent outcomes to allow them the future that they deserve. I look forward to your support as we work together to make the next five years a success.

I hope that this transition booklet provides you with a range of useful information before starting at Brownhills Ormiston Academy in September. I look forward to meeting you in person and welcoming you to the school community.



OUR VALUES

Our values at Brownhills are central to our work as a community.
Our values drive every choice that we make, every day:

Ready



Ready to learn
and thrive

Respect



Respect for yourself
and others in all we
say and do

Safe



Safe in our choices
and actions for a
happy and caring
community

3.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



4.



YOUR HEAD OF YEAR

It is a great pleasure to be writing to you today as we welcome you to Year 7 and to our school community. Starting secondary school is an exciting milestone, full of new opportunities, new friendships and new challenges. We are delighted that you are joining us at BOA and cannot wait to see all that you will achieve in the years ahead.

As you begin this journey, it is important that you understand the high expectations we have for every student. We expect you to arrive each day ready to learn, to show respect to staff and one another, to work hard in every lesson and to take pride in everything you do. Success does not happen by chance, it comes from resilience, commitment, determination and a willingness to challenge yourself even when things feel difficult.

You only get one chance at your education. The habits you build now, the effort you put in and the attitude you bring to school every day will shape your future opportunities. We are committed to supporting you every step of the way, but you must also take responsibility for your own success. Make the most of every lesson, every opportunity and every experience available to you.

We strongly encourage you to embrace all aspects of school life, including sports and music. These opportunities help you to grow in confidence, develop teamwork and leadership skills, and create lasting memories and friendships.

Your tutors and teachers are here to guide and support you throughout your time with us. Listen to their advice, ask questions when you need help and always strive to be the very best version of yourself.

You have chosen to join a school with high standards, strong values and ambitious goals for every student. We are proud to welcome you into our community and I look forward to working with you and your families over the coming year.



Mr A Cox
Head of Year 7

5.



ACHIEVEMENT DIRECTOR

As Achievement Director for Year 7, I will oversee students' academic progress and support them in making a successful transition into secondary education. A key focus in Year 7 is the development of strong academic habits. These habits are closely linked to positive outcomes and help students build the foundations they need for long-term success and a life of opportunity.

Students have one chance at their education, and we have to make it count. Working together we will ensure that all students finish year 11 with a set of qualifications and skills to live a life of opportunity and success. This starts now, students must take ownership of their education ensuring they are on time and ready learn every day. They must take opportunity of the fantastic enrichment programme and push themselves to be the best they can be in everything they do.

Homework plays a vital role in this process. It is used to reinforce classroom learning, develop the habit of regular revision, and encourage independence and personal responsibility. Through consistent homework and personal study, students begin to understand how to organise their learning and manage their time effectively. Two essential skills for academic success.

By embedding these habits from the start of Year 7, students are supported to grow in confidence, resilience, and academic readiness for the years ahead.



Mr A Reed
Achievement Director

KEY PLACES



School Gate



Operations Hub



KS3 Entrance



The Courtyard



Francis Hodgkinson Theatre



Green Dining Room

EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE

You are about to read about all of the fantastic opportunities we have on offer at Brownhills Ormiston Academy. In order to benefit from everything we have to offer, you have to be here. If you aren't in the building, working with us, every day, you are missing out on gaining the **skills and attributes you need to enjoy a life of choice and opportunity.**

Every student should have a target of 100% attendance. Statistically, students who obtain the closest to 100% attendance achieve the best **academic qualifications.** We put a lot of things in place to encourage you to attend every day, but the biggest motivation to attend, should be learning. **A fantastic set of results is the ultimate reward.**

For students who achieve 100% attendance, there will be prize draws throughout the year. This year, students have won Uber Eats vouchers for their families, places on trips to Drayton Manor and even a bike! Students come together at the end of every term to celebrate those with 100% attendance through rewards assemblies and celebrations with the whole academy on the playground.

You also need to know that we will provide support and intervention if your attendance starts to drop:

- If your child arrives after 9:10am, they will receive a 'U' code which is an unauthorised absence.
- You must inform us by 9am if your child is going to be absent with a reason for their absence.
- If you are booking appointments for your child, please do this outside of school time. Your child will be expected to attend the academy before and after any appointments.
- Leave of absence and holidays during school time will not be authorised.
- Unauthorised absences can lead to home visits, warning letters, fixed penalty notices, attendance panel or court proceedings.

We have a **moral duty** to provide the best possible education for your child and we can't do that unless their attendance is excellent.



OUR PARENTS SAY

Over 90% of responders to our recent parent survey agreed or strongly agreed that:

- their child feels safe at the academy
- their child is given clear guidance on how to behave.
- the academy promotes the importance of good attendance and encourages their child to attend regularly.
- the academy enables their child to understand the importance of attending school regularly.
- the academy encourages their child to be a good timekeeper and to be punctual.

Parent quotes:

- BOA is a wonderful school. My children and now my grandchildren attend this school, and I constantly recommend this school to others.
- My child has moved schools, and the difference is unbelievable in her attitude to learning.
- It is great to receive praise on Arbor as I can see daily the progress made and how well he is behaving.
- My son has been made very aware of how to behave at school. He follows the rules all the time and he encourages his peers to do the same.
- I can't find fault in BOA. This school has been the making of my son.
- I think the school supports music and sports very well. You can see this from all the communications received and the passion those subject teachers have.
- Thank you to BOA staff for yet another fantastic term. I am still in amazement at how happy my son is!
- Brownhills is a fantastic school that I have recommended to many Year 6 parents year on year. My child is thriving there.

OUR ACADEMY DAY

8:25-8:40am	Breakfast Club Strongly Encouraged
8:40-9:10am	Personal Tutor Time Registration/Assembly
9:10-10:10am	Period 1
10:10-11:10am	Period 2
11:10-11:30am	Break
11:30am-12:30pm	Period 3
12:30-1:30pm	Period 4
1:30-2:10pm	Lunch/Enrichment
2:10-3:10pm	Period 5
3:10pm-Finish	After School Clubs/Enrichment Strongly Encouraged



STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

At Brownhills, students must show **STAR** in lessons.

STAR

Sit Up
Straight



Track The
Teacher



Ask/**A**nswer
Questions



Respond &
Review



OUR UNIFORM

Our academy uniform is a matter of pride. Our students must create a good impression of both themselves and the academy in their dress and personal appearance. Our uniform is compulsory and students are required to look smart and presentable at all times.

No part of the uniform may be omitted or substituted.

- Plain black shoes: No logos, decoration or boots.
- Black trousers or skirt.
 - Trousers must be plain black. Students should not wear jeans, tight fitting trousers or leggings.
 - Skirts must be knee length and made from a plain cotton and polyester material. Students should not wear tight-fitting skirts.
- White school shirt with a top button done up. Students should not wear polo shirts.
- School tie at all times.
- V-neck jumper in black plain-knit with a red and blue stripe and the academy badge.
- Black blazer with red and blue trim and the academy badge. Blazer sleeves must not be rolled up.
- Necklaces, bracelets and face piercings are not permitted.
- Students may wear one single earring stud in both ears.





GETTING TO OUR ACADEMY

Travelling to secondary school is often different to primary school as you may live slightly further away. **The vast majority of secondary school students walk, cycle or get a public bus and begin to find their independence.** All students should be at school by 8:30am and must be on site by 8:35am at the very latest.

If you choose to cycle to school, we have a secure bike shed where you can leave your bike locked up during the day. You will need to supply your own bike lock.

There are local bus services which you can use to get to school which drop off at the bus stops on the A5 close to Deakin Avenue.

We advise travelling to the academy using your chosen transport method during the summer holidays to gauge timings and to feel more comfortable ready for the journey in September.

10	8
Walsall Rushall Sheffield Walsall Wood Brownhills	Walsall Rushall Sheffield Brownhills

There will be a slightly subsidised coach service with limited places that will run from some locations until the end of July 2027. After this date, we are unable to continue subsidising a coach service, so we strongly recommend choosing to use public transport from the beginning of Year 7 to avoid a change in routine after one year. If you have requested a place on the coaches for the next academic year, you will be given a coach pass which you will need to show the driver each day to be able to board. This is for the safety of all students. You will be given a time to be at your coach stop, which you must be at five minutes before your pick-up time. Coach routes, pick-up times and essential information will be sent to you via letter before September. A coach contract must be signed that has strict behaviour expectations. Students that do not meet these expectations will lose their place on the coach.

OUR CURRICULUM

At Brownhills, Key Stage 3 is vitally important. This is the intellectual powerhouse of the school, where you learn a broad range of subjects in depth. This is where you learn to be inquisitive, to think deeply and to become excited by a rich and challenging curriculum. Throughout Years 7, 8 and 9, you will study:

English	Maths
Science	French
History	Geography
Music	Drama
Art	Physical Education
Religious Education	Computing
Design Technology	PSHE

The academy operates a two-week timetable. This means that your lessons will differ from Week 1 to Week 2. You will be in different classes for different lessons. These classes will not be the same as your Personal Tutor groups.

We regularly assess students to ensure that they are making academic progress. The results from these assessments are used to place students into sets based on their academic performance.



OUR HOUSES

When you begin your journey at Brownhills, you will be placed in a house. You will remain in this house throughout your five years here and it will be a significant part of your Brownhills experience.

Our houses will give you opportunities to be part of a smaller community within our wider academy community. You will regularly compete in house events throughout the academic year. Our houses are called Coppice, Holland, Knaves and Phineas, which represent places and people of significance to the Brownhills community and Brownhills history.



Head of House: **Miss J Greenhough**



Head of House: **Mrs J Mitchell**



Head of House: **Mr J Pierce**



Head of House: **Mrs J Huskisson**



PERSONAL TUTORS

Every morning, you will meet with your Personal Tutors (PTs) for registration and to begin your learning for the day. In some ways, those first 30 minutes with your PT are the most important minutes of your day. The learning that takes place in these sessions is incredibly varied, develops your literacy skills, and is all about culture and attitudes. This work will help set you up for success at Brownhills.

Your PT will be your first point of contact. They will be the person you and your families go to first with questions, as this will be the member of staff that knows you the best. They will want to get to know you, and it's important that you also get to know them. Your PTs will support you every morning by ensuring you understand and follow the expectations of our academy.

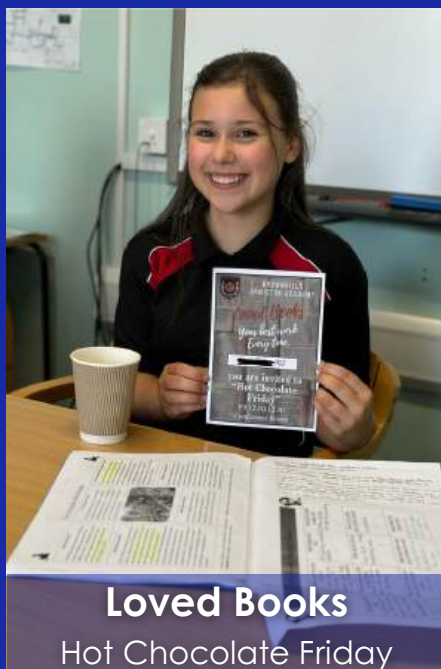
This year, our brilliant team of Year 7 PTs are:





BOA REWARDS

Students at Brownhills are rewarded for their successes. Rewards come in many forms at our academy because they are given for different things. You might be rewarded for achieving 100% attendance, performing in an academy show or even something as simple as being the student looking the most ready to learn in your lesson. At Brownhills we believe in rewarding the little things because we know how important they are to your success. Rewards events, prizes and trips are all part of our system.



Loved Books

Hot Chocolate Friday



Proud Table

iPad Prize Draw



Golden Tickets

Pizza In The Foyer



In lessons, you will be given house points for your hard work. House points are a symbol that we really value your effort and it's our way of recognising that. The more house points you get, the harder you are working which always leads to progress. **The best reward you will receive from our academy is a fantastic set of results in Year 11.** House points are a good sign that you're heading in the right direction.



Attendance Trips

Drayton Manor



Attendance Prizes

Termly Prize Winners



Headteacher's Brunch

Brunch In The Lounge

There are lots of other forms of rewards at Brownhills. Our anonymous ranking system that is published regularly in school is a competition between students in each year group. This is not based on your grades, but purely on your effort. So, your attendance, house points, Sparx completion and the amount of clubs and interventions you are attending are calculated to give you a rank in your year group. Achieving a high ranking enables you to access our rewards visits and extra opportunities in school as a thank you for your hard work.



USING ARBOR

Arbor is a platform that allows parents and carers to track their child's successes, home learning, attendance, timetables and behaviour. This is a smart phone app that parents and carers **must** download. If your child also has access to a device, we recommend that they download the app as well.

Each child has a unique code on Arbor which you will be given and allows you to log in as either a parent/carer or a student. When you get this code, it is vital that you log in straightaway, so you can see the important information we will be sending you, daily.

Students and their families must check Arbor daily.

We recommend that every evening after school, students and a member of their family sit down with the Arbor app and do the following:

1. Check for any home learning they need to complete.
2. Check announcements that have come through that day.
3. Discuss any house points or behaviour points that they have earned.
4. Check their timetable for the following day.
5. Check for any detentions that must be attended.



HOME LEARNING

Home learning is something you will be expected to do throughout your time at Brownhills. You get one chance at your education and it is our moral duty to give you the best chance of success in life. Learning how to work at home is a crucial part of this.

Our policy on home learning is very simple. In year 7 - 9 you will receive the following home learning each week.

- 60 minutes of Sparx maths
- 20 minutes of reading every night: Please see page 16 for more information.

Home learning from other subjects is set regularly throughout the half term.

All maths home learning is set on Sparx Maths, our online platform. Sparx Maths can be accessed from any device you have at home. In September your maths teacher will set you up an account which you access with your school login details. Sparx will email parents and carers to make sure you are on track to meet your 100% target every week.

In all subjects alongside regular home learning tasks you will be expected to revise at home for upcoming assessments. Revision should form part of your weekly routine, even if you don't have an assessment on the horizon. Getting into the habit of revising what you have learned that day or revisiting key knowledge for a lesson coming up the next day will set you up for success when it comes to your GCSEs.

You will receive support on how to revise using strategies such as **Cornell Note Taking, Flash Cards, The Leitner Method** and many more approaches.



BEING A READER

Brownhills students are readers. As part of wanting our students to have a life of choice and opportunity, we believe that reading is crucial to your child's success and aspirations. We do everything we can to teach our students the importance of:

- **Reading For Pleasure:** Reading books for the enjoyment of it.
- **Reading For Purpose:** Reading books to learn more about the world.
- **Reading For Performance:** Reading to improve your academic results.

Students in Year 7-9 must read for **20 minutes every night**. In total, that is **1 hour 40 minutes** per week. You will need to sign a Home-School Reading Diary every week. This allows us to monitor your child's progress, but also provides students with a range of books that tests their comprehension skills, broadens what they are reading and ensures that what they are reading is appropriate for their ability level and age.

Students must have a reading book with them as part of their equipment, every day. They will be asked to place this on their desk at the start of every lesson and multiple times during the week, students will be asked to read their own book.

Parents and carers can support us by **hearing your child read once per week, encouraging them to visit the Library regularly** and **asking them about their Read Aloud book** they will be studying in PT sessions, which for Year 7 will begin with Percy Jackson & The Lightning Thief.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Student leaders play a vital role in running the academy. They help us to set the vision for the academy and implement that vision to make sure our academy is a safe, exciting and purposeful place to be for everyone.

Our Senior Year (Year 11) student leadership structure is detailed below. New Year 7 students should be aspiring to be one of these student leaders one day. Make sure you learn who these students are quickly and follow their lead in everything they do. They are also there to support you if there is anything you need.

Head Students			
Deputy Head Students		School Sports Captains	
School Arts Captains			
Coppice House Captain	Holland House Captain	Knaves House Captain	Phineas House Captain
School Inclusion Captains			
Headteacher's Council			
Council of Representatives			
Social Action Committee			
Year 7 Advisory Council			

Your first step to student leadership will be to apply for a position on the **Year 7 Advisory Council**. There are four spaces available in each house. This is a prestigious position that will allow you to start your journey to being a student leader in the academy in Year 11.



OUR ENRICHMENT

Enrichment is our word for the clubs you can attend at Brownhills. We believe that learning inside and outside the classroom is crucial to a young person's development. Through our enrichment programme, you will learn the importance of resilience, commitment and competition; things we believe are incredibly important to being a successful young person.

In the PE department, clubs will change regularly. For example, in the autumn term you will have chance to be part of **netball**, **rugby** and **football** teams, whereas in the summer term our clubs will be **rounders** and **athletics**. Throughout the year in PE, there will be lots of other clubs you can join.

In Music and Performing Arts there will be the opportunity to join clubs at lunch, before school and after school. The music department currently offer **choirs**, **bands** and **our academy show** rehearsals which can be attended by anyone.

It is not just these departments that offer clubs. We have a huge range of different enrichment opportunities including **chess club**, **eco club**, **debating society**, **Dungeons & Dragons club** and much more.

Students should attend at least one enrichment activity per week, but we recommend you attend as many as you possibly can!

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

Brownhills Ormiston Academy is one of very few schools in the country that offer fully-funded music scholarships. The quality of Music and Performing Arts at Brownhills is something we are incredibly proud of. We consistently have the largest choir in Walsall and we have an enrichment programme that runs from aged 9-18, providing a truly unique offer.

As part of this, students have the opportunity to apply for a music scholarship. This is the opportunity to receive these fully-funded music lessons. As you can imagine, this is something that is very popular, but we only have a limited number of spaces. Students can audition for a music scholarship with us when they start in September. We are looking for musical potential in these auditions and to see that students have the right attitude to learning.

If you are successful in these auditions, we will offer you a free weekly lesson with one of our peripatetic teachers from Walsall Music Education Hub and provide you with an instrument to take home to practice with. All we ask is that in return, you rehearse multiple times each week and attend all choir and band rehearsals.

Our specialist instrumental teachers offer the following instruments:

- **Trumpet**
- **Trombone**
- **Flute**
- **Clarinet**
- **Saxophone**
- **Voice**
- **Guitar:** *limited space*
- **Drum Kit:** *limited space*





PE KIT

Your PE kit and trainers form part of your uniform and are essential items that you will need in September. Once you purchase your PE kit, please label it with your name and PT group.

Please see below the images of what your Brownhills PE kit should look like:



Our PE Kit

- Unisex polo shirt with academy badge
- Shorts or skirt to match your polo shirt
- Black socks with solid red top
- Appropriate trainers
- One-piece swimsuit

Our expectations around PE kit are the same as with our academy uniform and other equipment. We expect you to wear your PE kit with pride. If you do not have your PE kit, there will be a sanction.

STANDON BOWERS

We are delighted to be able to offer you the opportunity to be part of a residential visit exclusively for Year 7 students. The aim is to give your child the chance to undertake new activities in a challenging environment where they can discover their own and others' strengths. Through the activities during the residential, students will be able to develop their communication skills, increase their self-confidence as well as getting to work with their peers in a new and exciting way.

The trip will take place at Standon Bowers Activity Centre in January 2027. This is a two-night residential stay in a purpose-built centre that we have now run for the last three years.

Students will have the opportunity to take part in an action-packed itinerary of activities coordinated by the staff at the activity centre. Some of these activities will involve team building challenges, whilst others encourage students to try something new. The evening will include social activities such as roasting marshmallows around a campfire, games and team challenges.

We would like to see as many students as possible participate in this trip. The cost of this trip is £130. You will be able to pay this balance in instalments on ParentPay. You will receive a letter with details.



BOA

DETENTIONS

It is our **moral duty** to teach our students about self-discipline and kindness. Sanctions for failure to meet those standards is an important part of how we give our students the **skills and attributes** they need for a **life of choice and opportunity**.

Your child will be explicitly taught our behaviour expectations and deliberately practise these in our academy. This is to ensure they have complete clarity about our expectations. We hold regular student inductions to remind them of these expectations.

One of the things we always tell our students is **first time, every time**. In other words, if they are given an instruction, they follow it. There are a number of reasons why students may receive a sanction but if students remember this, they stand the best chance of avoiding those sanctions.

To avoid sanctions in lessons, students should remember that teachers will insist on one voice in the classroom for instructions, explanations and discussions, and silence for reading, writing and any independent practice.

If a student does not follow our expectations they will be given a detention. In the first instance, detentions happen during the academy day. If students fail to attend these detentions they are escalated to a Head of Year detention after school on Thursday. Failure to attend this will result in an SLT after school detention on Friday.

Detentions are non-negotiable and cannot be rearranged. You have chosen our academy because of our values and sense of moral purpose. Part of our strategy for achieving this is after school detentions. These will last until 4:10pm and the coach is not available.

PARENT/CARER EXPECTATIONS

Brownhills Ormiston Academy is a community that you, as parents and carers, are as much a part of as the young people that we work with. We aim to give you complete clarity about what we expect so that you can support us in meeting our vision for these young people to live exciting and successful lives, full of choice and opportunity. You have chosen our academy because of our vision and values, so we want to provide you with all of the information you need so we are completely aligned. You can support us and your child by:

- Praising your child's successes at the academy and beyond.
- Supporting your child to achieve 100% attendance.
- Making sure your child is on site by 8:30am every day.
- Checking Arbor with your child every evening.
- Making sure your child is completing their home learning to the best of their ability.
- Ensuring they are reading for 20-minutes every evening and listening to them read regularly.
- Encouraging your child to be academic, studious and hard working in everything they do.
- Reading communications from the academy.
- Encouraging your child to attend enrichment activities at lunch and after school.
- Supporting your child to have the right uniform for school every day.
- Ensuring your child has the right equipment for school every day.
- Modelling the levels of respect we expect from all our young people towards all members of our community.
- Following the Parent & Visitor Conduct policy at all times.
- Communicating respectfully with the academy by email and booking meetings by appointment only.

STUDENT QUESTIONS

Q: How will I know which extra-curricular clubs are on and where I am supposed to go for them?

A: All clubs are advertised through posters around school, adverts on the television screens in the dining rooms, on Arbor, social media and in assembly. The timetables for each half term will be shown in your PT room on the noticeboard. Your PT will make sure you know where you need to go to attend.

Q: What is the process of getting a locker?

A: You will have expressed an interest through your admissions pack that you would like a locker. In September you will need to pay £5 via ParentPay and then a locker will be allocated to you.

Q: What do I do if I get lost?

A: Staff will be there to help with the transition of students to lessons. It is highly likely that there will be an adult you could ask. Alternatively, the older students will be around to point you in the right direction or, go to the Operations Hub. Don't be too scared to ask for help!

Q: How do I become a student leader?

A: Student leaders are selected for their attitudes and approach to everything they do at the academy. We are looking for students with a perfect behaviour record, good people skills and those who are fully committed to academy life. You give yourself the best chance by achieving excellent results, attending lots of clubs, completing all home learning and working incredibly hard in lessons.

Q: How do I earn house points?

A: There are many reasons why you may be given a house point. Be kind, be brave and work hard and you will earn lots of house points!



PARENT/CARER QUESTIONS

Q: My child will buy their lunch each day. Approximately how much money will they need?

A: Prices vary depending on the item but £2.50-£3 should be enough for the meal deal at lunch time. Money will need to be loaded onto ParentPay as we are a cashless school.

Q: What time do extra-curricular clubs run until?

A: The majority of clubs last for an hour after school but some music clubs run until 5pm.

Q: What time can my child access the academy in the morning and what can they do?

A: The school site opens at 8.25am. We host a Breakfast Club in the dining room which any student can attend.

Q: What do I do if my child cannot attend the academy?

A: All student absences need to be reported to Student Services via our school number 01543 452886 - Option 1 which is the student absence line.

Q: Where can I purchase the uniform/PE kit?

A: The following shops stock our uniform:

- Crested School Wear - Walsall & Cannock
- Uniforms Plus - Burntwood



STARTING YOUR BROWNHILLS JOURNEY

*Congratulations on getting
a place in our community
and we can't wait to
welcome you in September!*