



# Headteacher's Newsletter



## Making This Final Half Term Count

Dear families, friends and our wider community,

As we reach the end of our first week back after half term, this newsletter is all about making this final part of the school year count.

The final half term of the academic year is always an important one. There is still so much to achieve, so much progress to be made, and so many opportunities for our students to show exactly what they are capable of. Whether in lessons, on the sports field, on the stage, in rehearsals, in competitions or through the everyday commitment of attending school and working hard, this is a vital final half term of the year.

At Brownhills, we know that every lesson matters and every day in school matters. Every opportunity to build skills, attributes and qualifications matters. This is why attendance to school is so important to ensure success for every young person.

It has been wonderful to welcome students back with pride and purpose. They have settled quickly into routines and shown our values of being ready, respectful and safe. They continue to demonstrate why we are so proud of our school community. This final half term is a chance to take further steps towards that life of choice and opportunity that we want for every single young person at Brownhills.



## A Fantastic End To Last Half Term

Before we look ahead, it is important to reflect on the fantastic end to the previous half term. The final day before half term captured so much of what makes Brownhills such a special place.

Mr McGlynn led the whole school in a brilliant celebration of attendance, recognising the superb commitment shown by so many students throughout Summer 1. The number of students achieving at least 96% attendance is impressive, and it was wonderful to celebrate those young people who are in school every day, making it count.

It was also a special moment for our whole school community. When almost 900 students and staff members come together to celebrate success, there is a real sense of pride in our collective achievements.

The celebrations continued at lunchtime, when students gathered in the sunshine on the field for Year 10 vs Year 11 football and rounders matches, with music and a brilliant atmosphere. It was great to see so much competition, underpinned by friendship and respect.

The day ended with Golden Time rewards on the fields, giving students the chance to enjoy time together and celebrate a brilliant six weeks of hard work.



## House Music: Creativity & Competition

Before half term, our students showcased some of the Brownhills musical talent through our House Music competition.

Musicians from Coppice, Holland, Knaves and Phineas competed for the House Music trophy in a brilliant afternoon of creativity and competition. Year 7 students joined us in the Lecture Theatre as an audience, supporting their peers through instrumental solos, vocal solos and a superb ensembles category.

We were delighted to welcome Mrs Hollie Whittles as our adjudicator. Mrs Whittles is an expert musician and woodwind specialist who plays with the Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra, and she brought a huge amount of experience and knowledge which she shared through her lovely feedback to the performers. Her insight and support were much appreciated, and we are very grateful that she gave her time to work with and inspire our young people.

A huge well done to every student who performed. Standing up in front of others and sharing your talent takes courage and resilience, and we were impressed by the quality of the performances. The standard of musicianship continues to improve, and we are proud of the hard work that sits behind every performance.

Thank you to the audience, who were exceptional throughout the afternoon. The results will be announced very soon, and we cannot wait to celebrate the winning House. Whatever the outcome, every student involved should feel very proud of what they achieved.



## Attendance Prizes: Making It Count

Congratulations to all of our students who received 100% attendance certificates for Summer 1. This is a clear sign of commitment, resilience and determination. It has been lovely to see students from across all year groups receiving recognition for being in school every day and making the most of every opportunity available to them.

Excellent attendance is one of the foundations of success. We know that students with strong attendance are better placed to build knowledge, develop confidence, form positive relationships and achieve the qualifications they need for the future. That is why 96%+ attendance remains such an important target for all of our young people.

To those students already achieving excellent attendance, very well done. To those who are not quite there yet, we know that many of you are working hard towards that goal, and we are here to support you. You are welcome here. You belong here. We want to see you in school every day, because every day gives you another opportunity to learn, grow and succeed.

Well done to everyone who received a certificate. It is fantastic to see so many students reaching this important milestone.



## A Fresh New Look For Our Theatre

It was wonderful to welcome students back after half term into assemblies in our newly refurbished Francis Hodgkinson Theatre. Over the half term break, the theatre underwent a fabulous refurbishment, and I am sure everyone who has seen it will agree that it looks incredible. The refreshed space gives a real sense of pride and excitement, and it is brilliant that our students will benefit from such a special environment for assemblies, performances, events and celebrations.

We are especially excited to bring our school show to life on the stage in just a few weeks' time. A school theatre is more than just a room; it is a place where students find confidence, share their talents, support each other and create memories that last a lifetime.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in the project over the half term, and in particular to Miss Knowles and Mr Murcott for their work in preparing the stage for its refurbishment.

Our theatre is named after Fran Hodgkinson, a governor of over 40 years at Brownhills and still a very close friend of the school. Fran has given so much to our community over many years, and it feels very special that the theatre bearing her name has been given such a fresh and exciting new look.

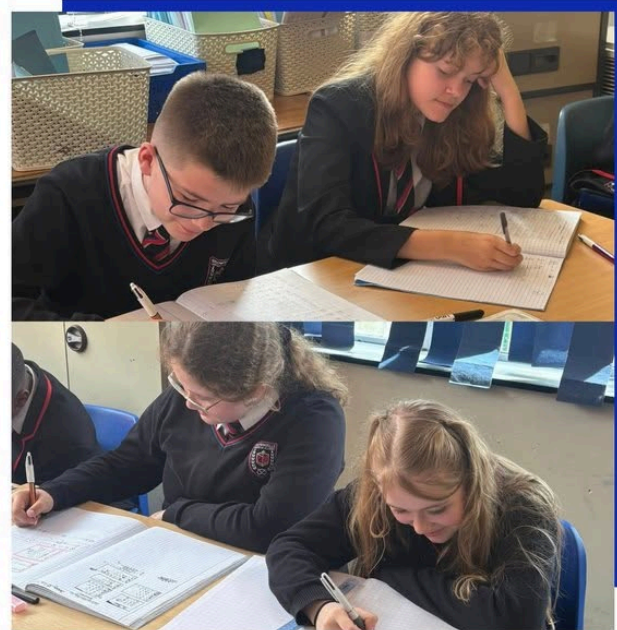
## Year 7 Maths: Great Start to Summer 2

This week, we dropped in on Year 7 students working incredibly hard in Maths, and we particularly noted their focus and determination.

Students were completing challenging questions involving converting fractions into decimals, including some fractions that required careful thought and accuracy. It was exactly the kind of work that helps students build confidence, develop problem-solving skills and strengthen the knowledge they will rely on throughout their time at school.

Maths is such an important subject. The skills students learn in Maths help them far beyond the classroom, and a strong GCSE grade in Maths can open so many doors in the future. It is part of building that life of choice and opportunity that we want for every young person at Brownhills.

Well done, Year 7. Keep working hard, keep asking questions, and keep making it count.



## Sporting Success: Athletics

It has been another brilliant week for sport at Brownhills, with our students representing the academy with determination and pride.

Before half term, the PE department took twelve athletes to Tipton for the Walsall Athletics Trials, with the aim of being selected to represent the Borough. Our students performed superbly, showing not only athletic ability but also maturity, commitment and a fantastic attitude.

There were some standout performances, including Jack winning both the discus and shot put events, and Liam winning the 300m on the track. We are delighted that seven of our students have been selected to represent Walsall in the West Midlands Athletics Championships on Saturday 13th June. Good luck to Rylee, Ava, Liam, Maisie, Thea, Luke and Jack. We are incredibly proud of you and know that you will represent both Brownhills and Walsall brilliantly.



## Sporting Success: Rounders

Our rounders teams have also been in action, with Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10 travelling to Walsall Academy for the first full round of fixtures in the Walsall Schools League. All three teams demonstrated the skills and knowledge they have developed through regular training, and showing real teamwork throughout.

The Year 8 team won 7.5-5.5, with Freya named girl of the game. The Year 9 team won 13.5-13, with Kimora named girl of the game. The Year 10 team won 13.5-11.5, with Summer named girl of the game. These were sensational performances from a very talented group of students.

Well done to all involved. We look forward to seeing even more Brownhills sporting success in the fixtures ahead.



## The Armed Man: Lichfield Cathedral

Next week, our students will be part of something truly special. On Friday 12th June at 7:30pm, Brownhills Ormiston Academy students will perform at Lichfield Cathedral in a concert of The Armed Man by Karl Jenkins. This is an incredibly powerful choral work and one that has recently claimed the top spot in the Classic FM Hall of Fame.

The scale of this event is hugely impressive. Twenty-five musicians from the award-winning Jackfield Band will join 100 voices performing in the only three-spired cathedral in the UK. This is an extraordinary experience for our pupils.

It is not every day that school pupils have the opportunity to perform alongside professional musicians in such a prestigious venue. This is the kind of opportunity pupils will remember forever!

We would love to see as many members of our school community there as possible to support our students and experience what promises to be a moving and memorable evening of music.

The concert takes place at 7:30pm on Friday 12th June. Tickets are available here: [www.ticketsource.com/brownhills-ormiston-academy](http://www.ticketsource.com/brownhills-ormiston-academy).



KARL JENKINS

## THE ARMED MAN

[WWW.TICKETSOURCE.COM/BROWNHILLS-ORMISTON-ACADEMY](http://WWW.TICKETSOURCE.COM/BROWNHILLS-ORMISTON-ACADEMY)

A MASS FOR PEACE

FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL



## Looking Ahead

As we move further into this final half term of the year, there is so much to look forward to. We have performances, fixtures, rewards, celebrations and many more opportunities for our students to shine.

Alongside all of this, our focus remains clear. Every lesson matters. Every day matters. This half term is an opportunity for every student to make progress, build confidence and finish the year well. Whether students are preparing for assessments, developing skills in lessons, representing the academy, performing on stage or simply showing kindness and respect in their everyday interactions, they are contributing to the success of our school community.

Thank you, as always, to our families for your continued support. Thank you to our staff for the care, energy and commitment you show every day. And thank you to our students for making Brownhills such a joyful, ambitious and welcoming place to be.

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

With very best wishes,  
**Mr R T Doodson**  
Headteacher