



Headteacher's Newsletter



Another Brilliant Few Weeks at Brownhills

Dear families, friends and our wider community,

As we said goodbye to our wonderful Year 11 students, the rest of the academy has continued at full speed, with so much happening inside and outside the classroom. Lessons have continued with real purpose, students have represented us brilliantly in sport, music and Duke of Edinburgh.

Our staff continue to work exceptionally hard to provide the very best opportunities for our students and I am extremely grateful for their dedication to the school and its pupils.

We know that pupils will make their chance at their education count when they consistently work hard in lessons, grasp opportunities, show pride in our school and community, and develop the skills, attributes and academic qualifications needed to enjoy lives of choice and opportunity.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter, which captures just a small part of what has been happening at Brownhills over the past few weeks.



The Armed Man at Lichfield Cathedral

I want to begin with an extremely special event which is a first for the school and will be one remembered for a very long time.

Our young musicians performed at Lichfield Cathedral as part of an outstanding concert alongside musicians from The Arts Centre Telford and Jackfield Band. Together, they formed a 117-piece ensemble, performing a range of challenging music, which included 'The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace' by Karl Jenkins.

It was an exceptional evening. Our students sang beautifully, performed with maturity and represented our school and town with real class. The music they performed was incredibly demanding. They sang in English, Latin and French. They sang in four parts, and at times split into six part harmony. This required months of hard work and commitment but our pupils rose to the challenge superbly.

The Armed Man is a powerful and moving piece of music. Written by Karl Jenkins and subtitled A Mass for Peace, it reflects on the horror of war and the hope for peace, written in response to the conflict in Kosovo. It is widely regarded as one of the greatest modern choral works and for our students to perform it, in such a stunning venue, alongside professional musicians, was something very special.

Lichfield Cathedral is an extraordinary setting. To stand in a venue of such beauty and historic importance, and to hear our students perform with such confidence, was genuinely moving. These are experiences that these brilliant young people remember for the rest of their lives.

I will highlight how unique performances like this are. Other schools are simply not doing things in this way. Opportunities of this scale, ambition and quality are rare. We are able to do them because we have the very best students, supportive families and a staff team determined to provide the very best for Brownhills. This is what makes Brownhills special and why we say that they are the *Best Of The Best!*

I also want to give a huge thank you to our fantastic brass teacher, Mr Stevens, who led Jackfield Band and conducted The Armed Man brilliantly. We are incredibly lucky to work with such talented peripatetic teachers from Walsall Music Education Service. They are excellent teachers and outstanding musicians. Thank you for everything you do for our students and our community.

Finally, thank you to everyone who came to support the evening. It was wonderful to see so many families, friends, members of staff, former staff, local teachers, governors, our local MP, The Rt Hon Wendy Morton, and members of the wider community there with us. Congratulations to all those involved.

Saying Goodbye to Year 11

Last week, we said goodbye to our Year 11 students after they completed their final exams. Year 11, you have been a wonderful Senior Year. You have led the school with maturity, kindness, humour and a true sense of what it means to be Team Brownhills. You have worked incredibly hard, supported each other and approached your exams with real determination and resilience.

We know that the exam season is demanding. It takes focus and stamina to keep going, especially when things feel difficult. Our Year 11 students have done exactly that, and we are immensely proud of them.

Their final day was one of emotion and celebration. There were shirt signings, cupcakes prepared by our lovely catering team, a leavers assembly, photos on the field and a guard of honour from students and staff.

One of the most powerful moments of the day was seeing students leave their ties on the gate. This is a symbol of something really important. They may be leaving Brownhills, but they will always have a place here at our great school. They are part of our history. They are part of our school. They are part of our community. They will always belong here. Year 11, we are so proud of the people you are and the example you have set. We are excited to see you again at Prom on Friday, where we will have the chance to celebrate this fantastic year group properly. We wish you every success as you begin the next stage of your journey towards lives of choice and opportunity.



Sporting Success

Our Year 8 Athletics team travelled to Walsall Academy for the Walsall Schools Track and Field Athletics Competition, competing in a wide range of events including long jump, high jump, shot put, javelin, 100m, 200m, 300m, 400m, 800m and the team relay.

As we have seen throughout this competition, our students represented the academy with pride. They showed brilliant sportsmanship and a real desire to do their best. A huge well done to all students involved, with special congratulations to:

Millie – 1st place in the shot put
Lauren – 2nd place in the 100m

Tommy – 2nd place in the 400m
Bobbi – 3rd place in the 100m

Bobby – 3rd place in the 300m
Amelia – 3rd place in the long jump

The outstanding performance of the evening came in the 4x100m team relay, where the girls' team achieved 1st place. Well done to Lauren, Bobbi, Amelia and Millie. What a fantastic achievement.

Our Year 7, 8 and 9 rounders players have also been in action, travelling to Barr Beacon for a friendly fixture. The weather has not been kind recently, with organised games and tournaments having to be cancelled, so it was great to see the girls finally get the chance to play. Despite not having played together as a team before, they worked together brilliantly, showing excellent knowledge of the game and applying tactics superbly.

At the end of two innings, the final score was 20.5-5. A special mention goes to Year 9 captain Faye, who was named Girl of the Game after showing fantastic leadership throughout. Well done to all of our fantastic sportspeople.



Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

Congratulations to our brilliant Duke of Edinburgh students, who have completed their Bronze Expedition. After a successful overnight stay at Beaudesert, the group made an early 8am departure, leaving the site spotless before setting off for a second day of challenging navigation and walking across Cannock Chase.

The expedition required determination, resilience, teamwork and independence, with even a little friendly competition along the way!

All staff involved were incredibly proud of every student who took part. Mrs Moore will soon be launching the Bronze Award to Year 8, and we cannot wait to see the next group of keen explorers take on the challenge. My thanks go to Mrs Moore and Mr James for accompanying the expedition.

Looking Ahead

The last few weeks have once again confirmed that Brownhills Ormiston Academy is a special place. We have performed in a cathedral, competed in athletics, played rounders, completed Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, finished GCSE exams, said goodbye to Year 11 and continued to work hard in lessons every day.

This is what school should be about. The very best opportunities to learn in the classroom and exciting opportunities for personal development beyond the classroom. Ultimately, it is about belonging and community. It is about making sure every student knows they are welcome here, they belong here and they have every chance to succeed.

Thank you to our students, families, staff and wider community for everything you continue to do for our academy. We must continue to aim high and support one another to be the best of the best. Well done, team!

With very best wishes,
Mr R T Doodson
Headteacher