

Day 3 & 4



# Summer School

# NEWSLETTER

## Back To Brownhills: Summer School Begins

Dear families, friends and our wider community,

Another fantastic couple of days at Brownhills. After the midweek celebration of community that we shared with our families on Wednesday, the students jumped right back into excelling in their writing and Maths work yesterday. We continue to be blown away by the energy and enthusiasm with which the students approach every challenge we set them.

We are seeing more and more of the students' uniqueness and personality in everything we do. The students have all shown us what makes them fantastic individuals, but they have also been able to excel in teams, groups and as a single cohort. We are so proud of everything they have done so far this week and look forward to the final day of our Summer School today.



## Wednesday - A Fantastic Community Day

Wednesday was a wonderful celebration of everything that makes the Brownhills community so special. From the moment the day began, students demonstrated incredible teamwork, determination and responsibility as they worked together to prepare a Mediterranean-inspired feast for their families.

Working in teams, the students faced the considerable challenge of producing food on a completely different scale to anything many of them had attempted before. The menu included homemade pizzas, chickpea and vegetable tagine, lemon and herb couscous, cumin-roasted vegetables, hummus, cucumber and mint yoghurt dip and a colourful red cabbage, carrot and apple slaw. There was even apple and oat crumble with custard to finish!

The students developed an impressive range of skills throughout the morning. They weighed ingredients accurately, peeled, chopped and grated vegetables, kneaded and shaped pizza dough, prepared sauces, measured seasonings and carefully followed recipes. With large quantities to prepare, success relied on organisation, communication and everyone completing their role. The healthy and varied menu also encouraged students to explore different flavours and ingredients, with many showing real confidence in trying foods that were new to them.

What impressed us most, however, was the extraordinary sense of collective responsibility. Students worked exceptionally hard for their own teams, but once their jobs were complete, many immediately looked for ways to help others. Workstations were cleared, equipment was tidied and groups supported one another to make sure everything was ready on time. The atmosphere was simply fantastic.



In the afternoon, attention turned to welcoming our families. Students helped transform the school field by setting out chairs and tables, organising plates, cutlery and drinks, preparing music and getting everything ready to serve. Parents, carers, siblings, students and staff then sat together to enjoy the food that had been prepared throughout the morning, and it was absolutely delicious!

The celebrations continued with an afternoon of lawn games, including tennis, rounders, giant Jenga, football and boules. With more than 100 people gathered on the field, there was a tremendous atmosphere as our community came together to celebrate these wonderful young people.

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us. It was a superb day and a perfect demonstration of the teamwork, kindness and sense of community that sit at the heart of Brownhills.



## Thursday - Creativity, Challenge and Confidence

The students enjoyed another varied and challenging day, developing their skills across English, Maths, Drama and PE while continuing to demonstrate the enthusiasm, resilience and positive attitudes that have characterised Summer School.

The morning began with an opportunity to return to the extended writing produced on Tuesday. The students adapted, edited and improved their suspenseful pieces, using their own judgement to make thoughtful changes and additions designed to enthrall the reader and create a strong sense of atmospheric tension. They then made use of our fantastic school library, enjoying some quiet time reading for pleasure and exploring the different types of texts available, including novels, information books, atlases, travel guides, game books and newspapers. As reading is such a fundamental part of a child's education, every student has also been given the opportunity to borrow a book for the summer, which they will return in September. We hope this will encourage them to continue reading for pleasure, broaden their knowledge and develop a lifelong love of reading.

Once again, the students excelled in Maths, demonstrating phenomenal reasoning and problem-solving skills under the watchful eye of Mr Windsor and Mr McAleenan-Marks. Through discussion, investigation and carefully structured questioning, they tackled a range of challenging problems, using mathematical vocabulary accurately and confidently to explain their thinking. They worked collaboratively, shared strategies, justified their answers and recognised that making mistakes is an important part of learning. Importantly, students also considered how Maths is used beyond the classroom, from managing money and budgeting to measuring, planning journeys and making informed decisions. Their determination and curiosity showed that they are developing the skills needed to become confident, independent learners.

As a performing school, our students will regularly take part in singing, public speaking and performance, and Thursday provided their first opportunity to express themselves through Drama. Led by Mr Windsor and Mr Cox, the students explored how performance can entertain, inspire and challenge the ideas of others. Using an extract from Fairy Tale Courtroom, they stepped into the roles of familiar characters as villains from popular stories were brought before the court. We enjoyed a range of performances, including the Scarecrow from The Wizard of Oz condemning the Wicked Witch and presenting the case before the judge. The students embraced the challenge with creativity and enthusiasm, listening carefully to one another and demonstrating growing confidence when performing in front of their peers.

The day concluded with an energetic afternoon of PE. Students worked alongside our fantastic PE team to develop their catching, throwing and batting skills through a series of drills focusing on accuracy, control and confidence. They then put these skills into practice during an exciting game of rounders, working together, communicating effectively and thinking strategically. It was particularly pleasing to see the encouragement they gave one another and the excellent sportsmanship shown throughout.

Across every activity, the students worked exceptionally hard, approached challenges with confidence and supported those around them. Their creativity, determination and willingness to learn provided a fantastic end to another hugely successful day at Summer School.



## A Word From Our Staff



“ It has been another brilliant day and I have enjoyed seeing the students grow in confidence not only with staff but also with one another. Seeing the friendships form over this week has been fantastic - Mr K Watson ”

## Looking Ahead

Looking towards our final day, we are so excited to celebrate the achievements of the students with you all and round off a fantastic week with a showcase of the very best that Brownhills has to offer. We cannot believe how much the students have achieved this week and are looking forward to showcasing the talents of these incredible young people.

We are immensely proud of each and every child and the hard work, dedication and effort they have demonstrated throughout the week. Their enthusiasm, resilience and willingness to embrace every opportunity have been exceptional, and they should all be incredibly proud of what they have accomplished. We look forward to celebrating their successes together and bringing another memorable Summer School to a close.

With very best wishes,  
**Mr A Cox**  
 Head of Year 7