



Headteacher's Newsletter



Full Timetables Resume

Dear families, friends and our wider community,

I must begin by thanking parents and carers for their support as we have started the new academic year. Brownhills pupils have been at school, on time, in perfect uniform and with all their equipment. Our staff team do not take this for granted and we are grateful to families for ensuring that their children are ready to learn.

The new timetable began this week so pupils have enjoyed twenty-five lessons where they have practice routines for learning, started new units of work, and formally begun GCSE courses.

For our Year 11, this has been business as usual as they continue their journey towards academic excellence and closing any gaps in knowledge and skills from their mock examinations last June.

I have been particularly pleased with how Year 7 have settled into lessons with their new teachers, showing how ready they are for secondary education and how well our partner primary schools have prepared them for Key Stage 3.

Well done to all our pupils for the excellent start to the academic year. I look forward to seeing your 'loved books' and talking to you about your learning as I visit lessons next week.



Brownhills - A Rugby School

Year 7 rugby began this week and our newest pupils made a brilliant start with Mr Reed and Mr Pierce. You will hear a lot about rugby at our school over the coming months.

We are prioritising sport as part of our development plan this year, and rugby will be one of our key sports. Rugby is fantastic for our pupils' fitness and builds their strength. It is a brilliant sport that promotes teamwork and friends made in rugby are often friends for life.

I am encouraging all of our students to consider getting involved with rugby this year. Whether you are looking to be involved in a team sport, or you want to develop your discipline and leadership skills, you may find that rugby is for you.

Choosing to be part of rugby activities at Brownhills will almost certainly contribute to your sense of belonging at our school. All of our pupils will have heard me say that they belong here and participation in teams is a really important way to experience this.

Rugby is an inclusive sport that offers opportunity for people of different skills and strengths to contribute. It is also a sport which teaches and demands respect.

Well done to those already involved in rugby at Brownhills and I look forward to seeing these groups grow as more pupils choose to participate over the coming weeks. Please speak to a member of our PE department if you would like to know more.



Back To Brilliant BOA Lessons

One regular feature of lessons at Brownhills is our 'turn and talk'. We encourage pupils to actively discuss their learning and to engage with the content and share their views. Our 'turn and talk' is often really quick and allows pupils to practise their answers with a partner before sharing their ideas with the class. It was great to see pupils in Religious Studies lessons justifying their points of view.

In Religious Studies this week, Year 9 students were discussing the topic of 'evil and suffering'. They started by looking at various different 'evils' from history and deciding whether they were 'Natural Evils' or 'Moral Evils'. Students had some very interesting insight into each example and we were incredibly impressed by some of the background knowledge students already had about a variety of different key historical issues and events.

They then discussed the idea of suffering and looked at examples of when people through history have tried to justify suffering for the 'greater good'. We spoke to a group of students who had formulated a very clever response about evil people using this to justify their own actions and beliefs to convince others to think in the same way as them.

Students do a lot of oracy-based activities in lessons. Brownhills students articulate their knowledge and debate brilliantly. I encourage families to build their children's confidence with discussing their learning by talking about different subjects at home each week.

Well done Year 9, and thank you Mr Morris for a brilliant lesson!



BOA Students Drop Everything And Read

Once-a-week at Brownhills, students in Key Stage 3 complete 'Drop Everything And Read', also known as 'DEAR'. All lessons stop for ten minutes and the students pick up their books and read.

Brownhills students are readers. We tell the students regularly that 'the more you read, the more you know'. We have a brilliant library and the staff at Brownhills are also very keen readers.

We had our first DEAR session of the academic year on Wednesday and it was brilliant to see hundreds of our pupils with interesting texts in their hand. They were engrossed and it was lovely to see so many staff enjoying their books as well.

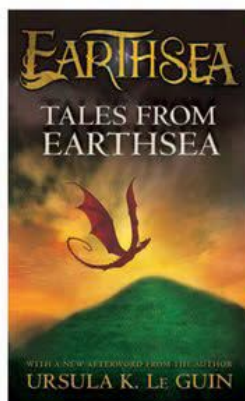
We have also released 'Home-School Reading Diaries' this week for KS3 to support with our weekly reading home learning. Students in Year 7 received theirs on Thursday and Year 8 and 9 will receive theirs early next week. This is a diary for parents and carers to sign to show that students have read five times during that week.

We are really looking forward to seeing what you have been reading this week. Thank you to all of the Brownhills students and families for showing such commitment to our culture of reading.



Mr Hadley Recommends...

For readers who enjoy rich fantasy, thoughtful storytelling, and unforgettable worlds, Tales from Earthsea is an excellent choice. This collection of interconnected stories expands the Earthsea universe, exploring themes of identity, courage, power, and belonging. Each tale offers fresh insight into the people and places of Earthsea, making it rewarding for long-time fans and accessible to new readers alike. A compelling and reflective read, it demonstrates why Ursula K. Le Guin remains one of the most respected voices in fantasy literature.



Partner Primary Alumni Stories

I have really enjoyed hearing from our Year 7s this week about their start to life at Brownhills. They have been very clear about how much they love their new school and being part of this great community.

As much as it is important to look forward to the exciting times ahead for them at Brownhills, I am also encouraging our students to remember the educational journey they have been on. We are so lucky to work with such a brilliant range of partner primary schools who do a phenomenal job of preparing these young people for their next step.

Please have a look on our social media pages at the alumni from Holy Trinity C of E Primary School and Leighswood School who have shared some beautiful messages about their start to life at Brownhills, and their gratitude for the teachers at their primary schools.



New Lunchtime Activities at Brownhills

This year, we have introduced a range of new activities that students can participate in at lunchtimes. Since its introduction of Monday, the atmosphere on the playground has been brilliant.

Students can play organised games of Basketball on the Central Court. We saw some very competitive matches being played, especially between our Year 10 students, who are clearly ready to carry on their success on the court last year into this year's fixtures.

There are also a huge range of board games available to play on our new benches around the site. I have seen students playing chess, Uno, Guess Who, Dobble and many more games during their lunch.

There has been a brilliant sense of community and sportsmanship on display at our great school. The students have smiled and laughed all week and it has been a genuine pleasure to see them enjoying themselves and using their free time so positively.

Looking Ahead

Please take the time to look at the enrichment opportunities available at Brownhills. Clubs, activities and groups will be running at lunchtime and after school from Monday. **I strongly recommend participation in as many activities as possible.** Being involved in enrichment will help pupils in all year groups to make friends, have positive connections with each other, and develop their wider interests.

At Brownhills, personal and character development is a vital part of gaining the skills and attributes to enjoy a life of choice and opportunity. Enrichment opens the door to this development. More importantly than anything else, being involved in teams and groups is great fun and will make school exciting and enjoyable.

It doesn't matter if you've never been involved before, now could be the time to discover something that you love to do and that might genuinely change your life, as Music did for me.

With very best wishes,
Mr R T Doodson
 Headteacher

