



Headteacher's Newsletter



House Cross Country 2026

Dear families, friends and our wider community,

After another fantastic week in classrooms across the school, we finished the first week of October 2026 with our first house event of the year - House Cross Country.

House Cross Country is the perfect event to start the academic year, because every students' contribution counts. Every place is worth fighting for. As I have regularly reminded students this week, it is equally important to be in 102nd place, fighting for 101st place as it is to be in 2nd place, fighting for 1st place. It is an event champions the sense of community and competitive spirit that the house system is all about. Once again, it did not disappoint.



Year 7 - First Cross Country

Last year, House Cross Country was new for every student in the school. This year, it was just our most recent cohort, The Class of 2031, who experienced the event for the first time. They were tremendous.

The Year 7s looked smart in their Brownhills PE kit and many were wearing their house tops with pride. Their commitment to the race and to supporting the KS4 students as they ran their race was equally impressive.

I was delighted to see the students being so resilient. It is an event that takes a great deal of determination. It is tiring and there are many moments when the easy option would be to give up. However, that is exactly why I think this event, and sport in general, is so important for our young people.

Year 7 - well done for your first House Cross Country. I hope that enjoyed taking part and representing your house. I look forward to seeing you continuing to compete for your house throughout the rest of the academic year. A really good start!



The Four Brownhills Houses

In preparation for House Cross Country this week, we held our first House Assemblies of the year, which was another chance to strengthen the spirit of belonging and friendly competition across the academy. Students heard from their Heads of House and House Captains to prepare them for Friday's competition.

Last year, it was Coppice who won House Cross Country, but Holland who won the overall House Cup at the end of the year. Here's how the House Point leaderboard currently stands.

House Point Leaderboard

			
Miss J Greenhough - Holland: 26,967 (1st)		Mrs J Mitchell - Phineas: 26,393 (2nd)	
			
Mr J Pierce - Coppice: 25,486 (3rd)		Mrs J Huskisson - Knave's: 24,849 (4th)	

The Result...

We left the whole school on tenterhooks on Friday afternoon as we did not yet know the result of House Cross Country. ***I am now in a position to tell you.....***that we will be announcing it to the whole school very soon!

Thank you to all of the students who took part, the staff for their outstanding commitment to these events, parents and carers for ensuring our young people are prepared and ready for days like this, and the wider community that were also part of our big day.

We would like to say a special thank you to Mrs Norman and the Watling Street Year 4s who came to cheer on our KS3 students on the parade. Your encouragement was hugely appreciated! We would also like to thank our dedicated Chair Of Governors, Mrs L Yates, for coming and supporting with marshalling for the event. We were delighted you could be part of the day with us.

I would also like to give a mention to the students who ran with me. Max and Reece in Year 10 were by my side at various points during the event as I made my way round the course. They were not only exceptionally kind and supportive, but also wonderful conversationalists. I was so impressed and grateful for their support.

As we move into another week of opportunity to develop skills and attributes that lead to a life of choice and opportunity, I would like everybody to consider the importance of events like this for our school. Think about what you can take away from it and apply to your school lives and personal lives.

As I said last week, sport is incredibly important to us at Brownhills. It builds a powerful sense of team and community. Thank you all for all your hard work in school and I look forward to seeing you throughout the week, continuing to make every moment count.

With very best wishes,
Mr R T Doodson
 Headteacher

Year 8-11 - Leading The Way

One of the reasons that Year 7 were able to succeed in the way they did was due to the fantastic example that was set to them by hundreds of superb role models in Year 8-11.

Our house system promotes a culture of role models. We want our youngest students to see our senior students and aspire to work as hard as them, and display our Brownhills values as well as they do. House Cross Country is perfect for that. Our events is split into a KS3 race and a KS4 race, so students can then support other students in their house.

We enjoyed an afternoon of teamwork and camaraderie, with students of all ages cheering for their peers. It was genuinely heart-warming to see the level of commitment the students gave to the event and to supporting the other students in their house.

The students in Year 8 & 9 led the way in the KS3 race with some fantastic times recorded by Josh, Darina, Tommy and Millie. The finish line was directly in front of the supporters area and there were some exceptional sprint finishes on display as the students gave their all to get over the line.

Similarly, in the KS4 race, Charlie and Melvin battled it out to the very end, as did Ava and Maisie. What is particularly special about the event is the combination of competition and mutual respect as the students congratulated each other on their performance.



Celebrating Excellence - Top Performers

On behalf of the whole school community, I would like to congratulate the top performances in House Cross Country. We recorded the top three boys and girls from each year group. There were some exceptional performances this year and some very quick times!

Congratulations to the following students for their outstanding work.

Year 7 Boys

1st: Harry
2nd: Noah
3rd: Kian

Year 8 Boys

1st: Josh
2nd: Jamey
3rd: Mason

Year 9 Boys

1st: Tommy
2nd: Owen
3rd: Lucas

Year 10 Boys

1st: Melvin
2nd: Liam
3rd: Jamie

Year 11 Boys

1st: Charlie
2nd: Jamie
3rd: Shiloh

Year 7 Girls

1st: Savannah
2nd: Flora
3rd: Una

Year 8 Girls

1st: Darina
2nd: Sarae
3rd: Lily

Year 9 Girls

1st: Millie
2nd: Bella
3rd: Amelia

Year 10 Girls

1st: Ava
2nd: Maisie
3rd: Lacey

Year 11 Girls

1st: Ruby
2nd: Lily-Belle
3rd: Aniya

