

Headteacher's Newsletter



A Fantastic Start To Life At Brownhills for Year 7

Dear families, friends and our wider community,

In this edition of the newsletter, it is a pleasure to share a celebration of the exceptional start that our new Year 7 students have made at Brownhills Ormiston Academy. Their reflections, alongside the thoughtful words of their families, capture the friendships, enthusiasm and sense of belonging that have marked their first weeks with us.

We are tremendously ambitious for every young person who joins our school. We want them to achieve academic success, discover their talents and develop the confidence to lead lives of choice and opportunity. We know that is possible if they work hard and join in at Brownhills.



Year 7 Head of Year - Mr A Cox

As we begin the second half term, I want to take a moment to recognise and celebrate the incredible achievements of our Year 7 students. Having watched their journey from the very beginning, I have been so impressed by the determination, resilience and maturity they have shown. From attending our transition days when they were still at primary school, to the excitement of their first week in Year 7 and the challenges of their first half term, they have made superb effort in every step of the move to secondary school.

Starting secondary school is a significant milestone, and I know it can feel both exciting and daunting. However, Year 7 have risen to the challenge fantastically. They have adapted to new routines, navigated a larger school, developed new friendships and demonstrated a real commitment to their learning. I am incredibly proud of the way they have conducted themselves and the progress they have already made. As we celebrate a fantastic start to the second half term, I would like to thank them for their hard work and excellent attitude. They should be proud of everything they have achieved so far, and I look forward to seeing them continue to grow and flourish throughout the rest of the year.



Year 7 Achievement Director - Mr A Reed

Working with this group of Year 7s is a real priviledge. As I reflect now on the first nine weeks of their time at Brownhills, I think back to my first assembly with them, telling them to make the most of every opportunity and that they belong here. They have proven already that they are firmly a part of Team Brownhills.

Seeing our Year 7s thrive in lessons, committing to school sport, enjoying singing assemblies with the whole year group and seeing them smile and laugh on The Courtyard, it is clear that they are making every moment of every day count. I am so proud to be their Achievement Director and I can't wait to see what the future holds for them.

A Word From Greg - Making The Most Of Life At BOA



I feel really lucky to have such a great school so close to home. I went to Watling Street Primary School, and moving from one great school to another has made me feel proud of my town. I have had such a positive start at Brownhills, and the whole induction process made me want to come here and do well.

One moment I particularly remember was Mr Reed speaking to our year group and telling us that we belonged here. That really stuck with me. Hearing those words made me feel part of the school and inspired me to make the most of the opportunities we have. I have tried to get involved in as much as I can since starting.

I love the lessons and clubs, but I also really enjoy the feeling of everyone being part of a team. I have made so many friends already, and that has been one of the best things about joining Brownhills.

The rugby programme has been a particular highlight, and I cannot wait for the fixtures coming up soon. I also really enjoyed the school show auditions this week and am excited about being involved. There is so much to look forward to, and I want to make the most of it!

A Word From Our Parents

We have been over the moon with how BOA have supported our child in their transition to secondary school. They have made it a fun and smooth experience. The staff have been fantastic, and I feel like they have really taken the time to get to know our child in order to support them well. We are so pleased we chose BOA.

Hayley, Year 7 Parent



A Word From Mia - Welcome From The Very Start

I chose Brownhills because I loved the feel of the school from the moment I first walked around. During our transition days in the summer, I felt as though I was already a student here. That made starting in September feel much easier because it already felt like my school.

I loved summer school, especially making apple crumble with my group for the community event. It was lovely to share the food we had made with the families who came along. It was something we could all feel proud of, and it is one of my favourite memories from before we officially started.

Since joining Brownhills, I have really enjoyed choir and drama. I love singing and performing, so I was very excited to be given a music scholarship. A big highlight so far has been the Up & Comers Concert. Performing with my friends was brilliant, and singing together in front of so many people was such a great experience.

I would really recommend Brownhills to anyone choosing their secondary school. There are so many things to get involved in, and you feel welcome straight away. That is exactly how it has been for me!

A Word From Our Parents

We would like to thank all the staff for the fantastic start our child has had in the first term of Year 7. The induction days helped make the transition feel positive, and they have thoroughly enjoyed lessons. They have made new friends and are taking part in new activities. The positive messages from teachers have been greatly appreciated, and it has been lovely to see them settle in so quickly and enjoy coming to school each day. We couldn't be happier with their start at Brownhills.

Charlotte, Year 7 Parent

A Word From Our Parents

Brownhills' transition plan really helped us feel prepared for the move to secondary school. The meetings before September were extremely informative, and all of our questions (and believe me, I had a lot!) were answered thoroughly.

The summer school was particularly helpful. The activities and enthusiasm of the staff went a long way in building our child's confidence. Having parents and carers able to attend was also invaluable, as it gave me the opportunity to see our child interacting with other students and staff. It was lovely to see how well they engaged and settled in.

Since starting at Brownhills, our child has gone from strength to strength and has adapted really well to school life. Whenever I have had a question, a simple email has resulted in a prompt, informative response from both teaching and administrative staff.

One aspect that has particularly helped is the school's rewards and recognition system. Being acknowledged not only for academic achievement, but also for effort, resilience, teamwork and positive attitudes has been incredibly encouraging. Our child has been proud to receive recognition for their achievements.

The wide range of clubs and activities on offer has also had a positive impact. Our child has really enjoyed getting involved in opportunities beyond lessons.

Most recently, we attended the settling-in meeting, which gave us the opportunity to discuss our child's progress and ask those smaller questions that may not warrant an email. Meeting one-to-one with their form tutor also provided valuable insight into not only attendance and academic progress, but also friendships and involvement in school life.

Overall, I am extremely pleased with our child's first few weeks at Brownhills Ormiston Academy, and most importantly, so are they. Thank you to all the staff for their support, encouragement and commitment in helping our child settle so well into secondary school life.

Louise, Year 7 Parent



A Word From Oliver - Proud To Be Team Brownhills

Before I started at Brownhills, I felt nervous but excited at the same time. Moving to secondary school is a big step, but I already love my new school. My family and I were so pleased when I got a place here, and I feel incredibly lucky to be part of Brownhills.

One of the best things for me has been the music programme. I was delighted to be awarded a music scholarship, and I am learning the saxophone. I now have my very own soprano saxophone, which I am really proud of! Music has already helped me make a great friend, and I am looking forward to starting band soon and getting to know even more people who enjoy playing music.

My favourite lessons so far have been Music, PE and Science, but I feel like I am doing well across all my subjects. Another highlight was House Cross Country. It was a brilliant first event to take part in and made me feel really proud to be in Team Phineas. There is already so much I have enjoyed about Brownhills, and I am excited about everything still to come.

A Word From Our Parents

I was so pleased to receive a phone call in the first week from my child's English teacher, telling me how well they were doing in the subject. It was really great to have that positive feedback.

My child is also loving being involved in school sport, and we are amazed that they have also found a real love for singing since starting BOA.

Helen, Year 7 Parent

A Word From Our Parents

I am going to struggle to pick just one experience, as there have been so many positive moments: from the Year 6 induction days, when my child felt like they belonged and had always been at BOA, to every school day since. They go to school and come home very happy, with so much pride in their day.

If I had to pick one experience of my child settling into Year 7, I would say it was seeing them stand on stage at the Up & Comers Concert, singing with passion and standing proud to be a student and part of the Brownhills Ormiston Academy community.

Tracy, Year 7 Parent

A Word From Toviah - I've Found My Place Here



I still remember visiting Brownhills for the Open Day last autumn. Everyone was so kind, and that was one of the main reasons I wanted to come here. I was the only person joining from my primary school, so making new friends was a big part of starting somewhere new. Luckily, I made friends straight away on the transition day. I remember playing rounders with everyone and already feeling at home.

Summer school was another brilliant part of getting to know Brownhills. I loved the cooking, and the final showcase was a real highlight. We got to share our writing, singing, drama and food with our families, as well as telling them about all our adventures during the week. It was lovely to show everyone how much we had done together.

Now that I am here, I am really enjoying Drama, Maths, Science and English. The lessons are so interesting, and the teachers are amazing at making learning fun. There is always something to get involved in.

Being at Brownhills has also helped me improve my fitness and sports skills. I now love running and netball, and I cannot wait to do more. From making friends on my very first transition day to discovering new things I enjoy, Brownhills has helped me feel that I belong here.

A Word From Our Parents

This school has changed so much for my child! The transition has been such a positive change. My content, happy child walks back through the door at the end of the day, and that means everything and more to me as their Mom. Thanks to your school, my child is thriving. Thank you!

Amy, Year 7 Parent

A Word From Our Parents

One of the highlights of my child's first term has been music lessons. They have absolutely loved them!

Hearing my child look forward to those lessons during their first term has been amazing, so thank you from me to you!

Lisa, Year 7 Parent

Looking Ahead For The Class of 2031

I am grateful to the Year 7 parents who have been in touch with us to share their child's experience of moving to secondary school. It is always a pleasure to receive an email of thanks from a parent. The accounts in this newsletter show that our Year 7 students have embraced life at Brownhills. They are taking pride in their learning, building friendships and shining in enrichment activities. I am proud of them and grateful to our families and primary school colleagues for helping make this transition so positive.

This excellent start provides a strong foundation for academic success. Through high-quality teaching and high expectations, we will help every student achieve their potential. Our commitment to sport and the arts also gives young people opportunities to develop discipline, creativity and teamwork, and to represent their school with pride.

Our ambition is for every child to leave Brownhills with the skills, attributes and qualifications they need to enjoy a life of choice and opportunity. Well done to Year 7 for their brilliant start at BOA.

With very best wishes,

Mr R T Doodson

Headteacher