

Headteacher's Newsletter

A Community To Be Proud Of



Dear families, friends and our wider community,

There are moments in school life that remind us just how special it is to belong to Brownhills. Over the last two weeks, our community has shown just how united it is. The students, staff, families, governors and friends of the school have come together in remembrance, in lessons, in exams, in competition, in performance and to showcase Team Brownhills at its best.

This special edition celebrates that the achievement of our young people, the dedication of our staff, and the wonderful support of our families and friends. From hard work in lessons and fantastic early progress in the Year 11 mock examinations, to sporting success and an invitation for our choir to perform on a national stage, there is so much to celebrate at our great school.

Our ambition is clear. We want every pupil to achieve academic success, develop strong character and gain the skills and confidence to enjoy a life of choice and opportunity. Last week gave us so many examples of our young people doing exactly that.



Remembrance: Our Community At Its Best

Our Remembrance Service was an occasion of reflection and extraordinary collective respect. Bringing our school community together alongside governors, veterans, guests and friends of the school was a privilege. The conduct of our pupils showed that they understood both the significance of the occasion and their part in honouring it.

Thank you to those who attended in uniform and showed their respect so proudly, and to the pupils who read so beautifully. Your contributions helped to make the service incredibly moving. Thank you to every pupil and member of staff whose thoughtful participation made this such a special occasion.

Our visitors were extremely impressed. Two messages sent to me afterwards were particularly meaningful because they came from colleagues who have given so much to Brownhills over many years.

Mrs Tomlinson, who taught at our school for 37 years, served as Associate Headteacher and is now a Governor, wrote us the folloiwng message.

> *"Thank you for inviting me to the Service today. Once again the students conducted themselves superbly well and showed great respect and understanding. All of this is a testament to the staff, and the work you are doing to maintain and develop the wonderful community that is Brownhills."*
>
> ***Mrs P. Tomlinson***



Mrs Twist, who taught at our school for 42 years and served as Associate Deputy Headteacher, also had a message after visiting our school this week.

> *"Thank you so much for the invite today. It was a lovely occasion and the pupils do you proud. Hopefully see you all again soon".*
>
> **Mrs K. Twist**

I am grateful to the support we receive from governors and long standing friends of the school. We have always been proud to be a community school.

Our students did us proud. To our staff, families, governors and friends, we also want to thank you for helping to make Brownhills a place where respect, kindness and belonging are so clearly felt. Our Remembrance Service is a powerful reminder of how important these values are.

Hard Work Recognised: 19,841 House Points!

Last week, our pupils earned an outstanding 17,756 academic House Points and 2,085 character House Points. That is 19,841 points recognising achievement, effort, character and the values we want our young people to demonstrate every day.

Behind these totals are individual moments that really matter. A pupil persevering with a challenging task, producing excellent work, contributing thoughtfully or showing consideration for others. Together, they tell the story of the hard work taking place across our school.

Congratulations to the following pupils, who achieved the highest totals in their house and year group last week.



Academic House Points	Coppice	Holland	Knaves	Phineas
Year 7	Hope - 59	Harry - 57	Liam - 47	Oliver - 55
Year 8	Thomas - 44	Macey - 54	Harry - 67	Suzie - 57
Year 9	John - 55	Alexia - 57	Sarah - 59	Sophie - 63
Year 10	George - 43	Laila - 32	Sophie - 41	Jenson - 52
Year 11	Ashton - 13	Shiloh - 13	Kai - 14	Harry - 21

Character House Points	Coppice	Holland	Knaves	Phineas
Year 7	Noah - 10	Katie-Mae - 12	Isabella -12	Freddie - 15
Year 8	Laura - 8	Williams - 13	Wiktoria - 14	Niall - 9
Year 9	Daisy - 8	Bobby - 8	Owen - 22	Scarlett - 15
Year 10	Faye - 8	Maisie - 10	Alannah - 12	Sienna - 10
Year 11	Tariq - 3	Emily - 3	Jasmine - 2	Aniya - 3

Well done to every pupil recognised here, and to everyone who contributed to these brilliant totals. Academic ambition and strong character are both so important to us at Brownhills.

Our current House Point Leaderboard is as follows:

Holland 58,491 **Phineas** 55,711 **Coppice** 52,299 **Knaves** 51, 919



Year 11 - Excellent Effort In Mock Exams

Our Senior Year deserve particular recognition for their hard work during the mock examinations. Results are beginning to come in, and the early signs of progress are fantastic. Pupils are already seeing the difference that purposeful revision, sustained effort and determination can make.

There is still a long journey ahead, but what an encouraging start. These examinations will help pupils and teachers identify strengths, address gaps, plan the next steps towards success, and recognise hard work.

Year 11 - take confidence from what you have achieved and keep going. Listen carefully to feedback, make the most of the support available and continue building those revision habits. We are proud of your commitment and ambitious for what you can achieve.

Sport, Teamwork & Student Leadership

There has been plenty to celebrate in school sport. Two Year 9 netball teams represented Brownhills in the borough tournament. Both secured victories against Bluecoat before losing to Aldridge. Well done to everyone involved for representing our school and taking on the challenge of competitive fixtures.

Our Year 10 football team also enjoyed a thrilling cup encounter against Grace Academy. After a remarkable 5–5 draw, Brownhills won 5–4 on penalties. What a finish, and what a result!

Our house competitions brought further opportunities for pupils to contribute to their teams:

Results	Winner	Runner-Up
Year 7 Football	Coppice	Knaves
Year 7 Netball	Phineas	Knaves
Year 8 Football	Holland	Coppice
Year 8 Netball	Knaves	Phineas

Congratulations to our winning houses and to everyone who took part. These events help pupils build friendships, enjoy competition, gain house points and experience the pride of contributing to something bigger than themselves.

A special thank you goes to our Year 10 leaders for helping to coordinate the house events. Lilly-Mae, Year 10, deserves particular recognition for also staying to support the Year 9 netball tournament. This willingness to give time and help others is exactly the leadership we value at Brownhills.





Enrichment - Get Involved At Lunch & After School

We have had another week of pupils attending our clubs, developing their interests, learning new skills and spending time with others who share their enthusiasm. There have been students in rehearsals, training, reading, thinking and generally having a brilliant time at our clubs.

I continue to be impressed by our lunchtime basketballers. It is brilliant to see pupils enjoying the game and making such positive use of their lunchtime. If you would like to get involved, please do.

There is plenty to enjoy. Find a club, join in with basketball or choose a game from one of our activity boxes. We want every pupil to feel included and to find something they look forward to. Make the most of the opportunities around you.

Brownhills Choir Take To The National Stage



Some members of our school choir travelled to Loughborough to open the Ormiston National Leadership Conference. Brownhills choir were selected from academies across the country for this prestigious performance opportunity.

This is a wonderful recognition of the strength of music at our school and the commitment of our young performers. We are enormously proud that 30 of our pupils represented Brownhills in front of school leaders from across the country.

They were absolutely superb. We had fantastic feedback from audience members at the venue with CEO Tom Rees describing it as 'the perfect start' to the conference. A huge well done to our musicians!



Visiting Performances At Brownhills

This week, we have had two touring theatre companies perform for our students in our theatre. We are so fortunate to have a purpose-built 300-seater theatre at our school that allows for our students to witness these performances in such a brilliant space.

On Wednesday, our Year 8 students watched a performance of 'Hooked' as part of a project by Walsall Council to inform students about the dangers of smoking, vaping and peer pressure. The performance was exciting, informative, engaging and was followed by a brilliant workshop that allowed students to reflect on the key messages from the piece and ask questions to the performers.

Then, on Thursday, we were treated to a performance of 'A Christmas Carol'. Our Year 10 and 11 students, who are studying the novella for their GCSE English Literature course, watched the performance to support their understanding of the text. It was excellent to see this brilliant story brought to life by only three performers. It was so creatively put together, and featured lots of key quotes from the text to help our students as they prepare for their exams.

Thank you to the visiting companies, the staff who organised the performances and the students for being such brilliant audiences.

Golden Tickets - Rewards For Our Students



At Brownhills, we are committed to rewarding students for their hard work and commitment to their learning, their character development and enrichment. As you can see above, we award house points in lessons and around school all the time.

One of our other reward events is our 'Golden Ticket' celebrations. These happen throughout the year and are given to students by leaders who 'catch' students being brilliant in their lessons as they are walking round school. We are looking for students who are presenting their work beautifully, asking and answering questions, showing evidence of revision, showing STAR, working incredibly hard consistently to make their education count. As there are so many Brownhills students doing this, it really is becoming increasingly difficult to only select a few students for this reward!

This week, we held a 'Golden Ticket' celebration. Our winners were treated to 'Pizza In The Foyer'. They were able to come out of their lesson fifteen minutes before lunchtime to enjoy free pizza with the other winners as a reward for their exceptional work.

Well done to all of our Golden Ticket winners for showing our values every lesson, every day. Thank you to every student in the school that it also making it incredibly difficult to choose between so many exceptional students!

Looking Ahead

This week is another exciting week for the Brownhills students and staff. I have thoroughly enjoyed speaking to every single member of our academy this week in assemblies, and I have been reminded of what an exceptional group of young people we work with. Each year group community represent a brilliant team, working together to drive each other towards that life of choice and opportunity.

This week marks the beginning of 'December To Remember', the return of our attendance rewards for the end of term. Each week there will be a new prize for students to be in with a chance of winning. All you have to do, is be in school every day that week. It's that simple!

We have four weeks of prizes lined up for our students. Every day counts at school, which is why it is so important to attend every day, and why we want to reward our students with these brilliant prizes. The prizes are as follows:

- Week 1: **Bluetooth Speaker**
- Week 2: **Gaming Headset**
- Week 3: **Amazon Fire Tablet**
- Week 4: **Carrera Mountain Bike** (attendance must be 96%+ for this academic year)

If you attend school every day this week all you need to do is:

1. Collect a tickets from your Personal Tutor on Friday morning
2. Place it in the 'December To Remember' box at Break Time on Friday
3. Gather round on Friday lunchtime to witness the draw to see if you are chosen

Also, to get the Christmas preparations really going this week, we have our annual Christmas Fayre on Saturday 28th November. Mr McGlynn is working incredibly hard to bring our community together again for this fabulous event for students, families, friends, staff and local businesses to come together and get into the festive spirit. If you would like to get involed, please email Mr McGlynn for more information.

Please see some pictures below from last year's fayre as a reminder of what's to come. We would love to see you there!



Proud To Be Team Brownhills

The strength of our school is people. Pupils working hard and treating others with respect, staff giving their expertise and encouragement, and families supporting the ambition we share for our young people. Last week showed that strength so clearly. We remembered together, celebrated together and saw our pupils succeed in classrooms, examinations and competitions.

Thank you for everything you bring to our wonderful school. We will continue to expect the very best for our pupils and from our pupils, because their futures matter.

With very best wishes,
Mr R T Doodson
Headteacher