



Shining Lights Newsletter



Easter 2023

Celebrating success

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Let your light shine

Welcome to our Easter edition of Shining Lights. It has been a short but busy term. In this latest edition, it is amazing to see so many of our young people sharing their talents, working for justice, pushing out of their comfort zones with courage, or serving others with kindness – reflecting all our Gospel Values which lie at the heart of all we do at Brownedge. I'd like to thank again our generous staff who make all of these events outside the classroom possible. They acknowledge the importance of such activities and how they build self-confidence and build community. Wishing you a peace-filled Easter.
Mrs Oddie, Headteacher



Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day - an annual day of remembrance where we think of the millions of Jews and other minorities killed under Nazi persecution - was commemorated this term at Brownedge. Our History Leaders delivered assemblies to our pupils to raise awareness of this year's theme of 'ordinary people'. The Brownedge family joined thousands across the country in coming together to learn more about the past in order to create a safer future for all.

Two of our pupils also attended the South Ribble memorial service. Gracie and Becca led a reading of the poem 'We Will Remember Them', and were congratulated by the mayor on their participation.

'An Inspector Calls' Theatre Trip

As part of their preparations for their GCSE English Literature exam, our Year 10s recently visited the Lowry Theatre to see a production of set text 'An Inspector Calls'. Everyone seemed to enjoy the play, gaining a deeper understanding of the text's themes in the process.



THE LOWRY
ART & ENTERTAINMENT

USA Ski Trip

Well, years came and went. And then 8 days packed with snow, fun and laughter came and went - but what a truly memorable trip in every way, and an unbelievable way to start 2023. 37 pupils and 5 staff met at 8.30am on Thursday 9th February as we said goodbye to Brownedge for eight days and began our journey down to Heathrow. No time for shopping as getting a party of 43 through an airport is no mean feat, and by the time the last bag had been checked in, we were called for boarding!

Off we went up to snowy New Hampshire on the East Coast and Kancamagus Lodge. The first day quickly came and went, however a further treat was to come for the pupils... snow tubing! The evening of day one then allowed our pupils to test their skills at a different winter sport, Ice Skating. Helmets and gloves on, we let one hundred pupils and some staff loose onto a freshly polished ice rink. Needless to say, the scenes were more Bambi on Ice than Torvill and Dean! We had pupils skating on bums, hands and knees and bellies.



Day two had perfect skiing conditions, and the pupils thrived. Their skiing was definitely improving, as were their falls as a result of the increased speed, with Evie proving that humans really do bounce! Day Three started and it was now clear that our pupils had some real skiing ability, and this continued to develop across the next three days. Stories of blue and black diamond slopes being conquered were banded across the whole group and it was brilliant to see all enjoying their time on the mountain.

Day 4 provided a break from the snow, but allowed us to take in the breathtaking views across the White Mountains of New Hampshire. A truly spectacular sight, and one that will live in the memory for all pupils and staff. The evening brought a little extra treat for the pupils, as they walked to the local high school to watch a basketball play-off game.



Day 5 and a hearty breakfast of pancakes, bacon, eggs and not forgetting Mr Crusham's favourite - Lucky Charms - prepared all for the final day of skiing. Students were now regularly skiing black diamond runs, venturing to the top of the mountain and enjoying the packed powder that the overnight snow had left us. A truly memorable and magical last day.

5.30am was their wake up call on day 6 and the holiday was clearly catching up with the pupils as we had two very sleepy coaches on the journey to Danbury Fair Mall. Three hours later, retail therapy began, with the Apple store getting the brunt of it. However, it was lovely to see that the pupils had not forgotten the contribution the parents had made, with Pandora, perfume and aftershave being popular amongst the pupils as gifts to say thank you. Then, it was back on the bus for the final leg of our journey into New York City.

Bright lights and tall buildings left our pupils in awe of the magnitude of this wonderful and iconic city. Times Square was buzzing with life and street entertainers. After some food at the Hard Rock Cafe, pupils hit Times Square for an hour of shopping before making the short walk to the Empire State Building. Up to the top we went to witness the magnificent views on a spectacularly clear night. Memories well and truly made!

An early start again allowed us to catch the Staten Island Ferry and visit Lady Liberty on Liberty Island. Our students then paid their respects at the 9/11 memorial, before one final surprise as the pupils were treated to a journey to the One World Observatory, allowing them to see the city during the day with unrivalled views of Liberty Island and the Empire State Building.

Throughout, the pupils were a credit to their parents/guardians; hopefully, we created lasting memories for all. Mr Crusham would like to express his thanks to all staff that remained in school and provided cover, and the staff that attended the trip. This was a full Brownedge team effort and shows what an outstanding family we are. Our Twitter updates had one common theme - #makingmemories. We can now change this to #memoriesmade.

2024 anyone?!



World Book Day

Our English department celebrated World Book Day in style as they dressed up as characters from the infamous Addams Family! After the popularity of the recent Netflix series 'Wednesday', our pupils loved seeing the characters brought to life in school. There were many activities throughout the day, including a dedicated portion of each lesson where classes collectively read stories which they were then quizzed on during afternoon registration. It was a brilliant day and one that truly demonstrated the power and importance of reading.



5 Stars for Food Hygiene



Mrs Kenny and her catering team were delighted to once again achieve the maximum 5/5 rating for food hygiene during their recent inspection. This report indicates that the school's catering facilities are in full compliance with all food hygiene and safety procedures, structural requirements and control procedures associated with the government's Food Hygiene Regulations. The inspection comes at an exciting time as we expand our facilities with the new Brownedge Bites food truck and the recent opening of the new dining hall in the ELC.

Runshaw Geography Workshop

Five Year 10 pupils visited Runshaw College to take part in a Geography masterclass on volcanoes. The group got to grips with many interesting topics and developed a greater understanding of how experts track and plan for the eruption of volcanoes. Thank you to Runshaw for inviting us, and well done to James, Jake, Isaac, Kieran and Rennie on your participation.



Women's Super League

Families from our Brownedge community cheered on their teams in the (WSL) Womens Super League Derby game between Everton and Liverpool at Goodison Park. There were over 22,000 people at the game. The game was live on Sky Sports; it finished up as a 1-1 draw, with both teams also having a goal disallowed.

Drexel Feast Day

St Katharine Drexel's Feast Day is officially on the 3rd March. As a House, we gathered together the following Wednesday to celebrate the life and achievements of our incredible, modern-day Saint.

As is tradition, we started the day by sharing a breakfast of croissants, pains au chocolat and conversation in the assembly hall, followed by a reflection for the day.

Years 7-10 worked together in vertical groups, being led by some of our amazing year 9 and 10 pupils, doing a variety of tasks linked to the theme of Lent. Activities included making prayer bead bracelets in the chapel, votive candle prayers reflecting how we let our light shine, fortune tellers thinking about what we can do to help others during Lent as well as some mindful reflection.

Year 11 joined in the end of day celebrations, where we shared our infamous St Katharine Drexel cake, lit our votive candles and Rachael brought the afternoon to a close. A huge thankyou to everyone who helped with the supervision, leading and planning of the activities.



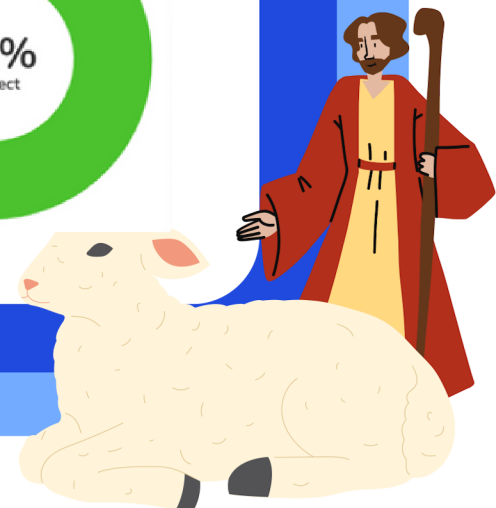
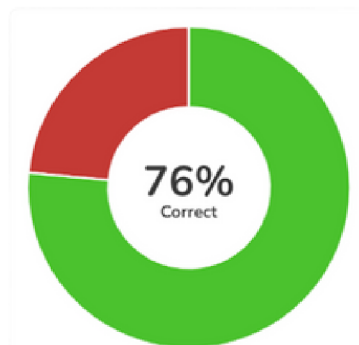
Runshaw Design Engineering Masterclass

Runshaw College kindly invited five of our Year 10 pupils to participate in a Design Engineering masterclass. Our students got to sample what life would be like studying engineering at college, and they also got to use Runshaw's state of the art computer set up. Thank you Runshaw for having us, and well done Anna, James, Charlie, Nathan and Ryan!



Geography Interhouse Competition

What a success this competition turned out to be! 22 of our forms competed and the overall tally was 76% correct answers from 357 questions. Romero won the competition with the most correct answers overall. A great win for the reds, and a fantastic effort from Bosco, Drexel, Teresa and Kolbe!



Faith in Action

This term we began a new pupil led 'Faith in Action' Group. This group aims to take their service into the wider community and accept greater responsibility for their faith in action, supporting local and international charities and raising awareness for important causes. We are excited to see how this group impacts our local community.



Our Chaplaincy GIFT Team Pupils attended the Family Service which took place on the Thursday evening. We began our time together with a Dominos pizza and social time in school before heading to church.

During the service, pupils led a drama, took part in reflections and prayed for our school community. We had much to contemplate as we reflected on how we are a part of our church family.

Easter Liturgy

We look forward to attending our parish church on the final day of this term for our annual Easter Liturgy. The theme of this year's liturgy is 'The Garden.' Throughout the Holy Week narratives, we meet Jesus within gardens. First in the suffering of Gethsemane, then on the hill of Golgotha and finally in the garden of the empty tomb - what was once a wasteland now blooms into something beautiful!

Pupils have been working hard to prepare dance, drama, prayer, art and readings of this service. We hope that spending time in this garden will prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter.



Parish Mission

We were delighted to be a part of St Mary's Brownedge Church for their Parish Mission Week. This week was led by Fr Kieran Brady and Fr Maurice O'Mahony from the Redemptorist Fathers. They have offered a wide variety of spiritual encouragements in an engaging and uplifting way and our whole parish was invited to be a part of this.



Our Garden of Revelation

This spring we have seen the installation of our new willow dome. As part of our wider project to be a Laudato Si hub for our local community through the Laudato Si centre at Warley Hall, the willow dome will be the centre piece of our Worship Zone, its purpose to provide a focal point for connecting spiritually with the wonder of our natural world. Young leaders from across school helped construct what is an architectural wonder. We can't wait for it to settle in and shine in all its glory.



Pi Day Competition

Forms took part in an inter-house competition to celebrate Pi Day, which is on the 14th March each year. As a form they had to guess what the "Dingbats" meant - and they were all associated with Pi! There were some great entries and seven forms correctly guessed all fifteen questions. Well done to Romero house, whose forms collectively scored the highest.



Mental Health Champions

Our Mental Health Champions have once again been creating a positive presence around school this term as they promote a range of good causes. The group will be heading to the Lake District over Easter where they'll be doing a 10-mile sponsored walk as they raise money for Papyrus. A great initiative from all involved.



Tensworth Hockey

Well done to Erin Scott who has just been selected for Tensworth Hockey. Tensworth is a high-performance hockey team, made up of players picked from clubs based in the Northwest of England. They compete in the UK Lions tournament held at the Nottingham Hockey Centre between regional teams from across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. We wish you the very best of luck Erin and congratulations again on your achievement.



Schools Football Cup

In keeping with our long-standing tradition of getting teams to the latter stages of the South Ribble schools cup, Year 11 and Year 8 have a semi final to look forward to against All Hallows and Priory respectively. As a school, we are looking to defend the Year 11 cup, and Year 8 are looking for their first taste of success since joining Brownedge two years ago. Good luck to both teams. Let's bring home some silverware.



FLAME

Some of our Chaplaincy GIFT Team members enjoyed a Saturday spent in London this March. Fr Mark, Mrs Weights and Rachael met with pupils for an early 5am drive to the Wembley Arena where they would be taking part in the Flame Congress.

We were joined by 8,000 other young people of the Catholic Church, where we took part in an inspiring day of music, reflection, and fun. It was an incredible day.



We danced for hours to Guvna B, Faith Child, Adeniké and One Hope Project, worshipped together and even got a selfie with a cardinal! After an incredible day we jumped back in the school mini bus and sang a lot of ABBA down the M6! Most importantly, we were filled with the Holy Spirit - Jesus can do a lot with 24 hours!

Ash Wednesday

This term marked the beginning of the season of Lent through Ash Wednesday.

Throughout Lent we take time to think about our lives and the ways we can grow closer to Jesus, as we journey with Him to the cross and to the certain joy of Easter. We prepare our hearts for this joy through praying, fasting and giving.



To begin Lent our pupils and staff spent the afternoon at Church for our Ash Wednesday service. A huge thank you to all the pupils who read and distributed ashes, and to Fr Mark for helping us enter into this beautiful season!

"We are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God."

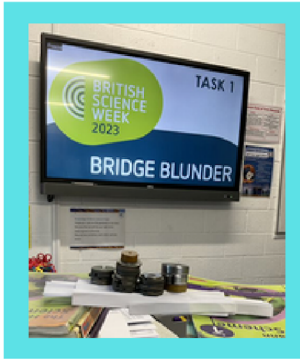
- 2 Corinthians 5:20



British Science Week

Running from 10-19th March, this ten-day celebration was a chance for everyone to explore and interact with science in all its wondrous forms. The theme this year was 'Connections', so there were loads of STEM topics that could be explored, but we focused on two key areas. Firstly, students were encouraged to show their passion for science producing a poster on any connection theme they would like. There were some exceptional entries however the overall winner was Holly in 9R, with her entry on 'Steminism'. In second place was Izzy in 7R, and in joint third place was Taida in 9B and Eve in 7R.

The second area we focused on was 'Bridge Blunders'. This activity was designed to get the students thinking about the connections between weights, forces and measures. They had to be creative, imaginative and logical. Our winners were Seth and William in Year 8 and in second place were Charlie and Taiya in Year 10. These students all showed creativity and problem-solving skills in their quest to develop their engineering skills.



Bosco Feast Day

On 31st January we celebrated the feast day of St. John Bosco. This amazing saint worked with young people for much of his life and was passionate about helping them to live out their faith with joy. One of the many ways he did this was through his love of games and circus tricks. St. John Bosco reminded the young people he saw every day that their faith is supposed to be fun and joyful. The pupils and staff of Bosco House followed in his footsteps, having a day of games, cake, prayer and fun!



Netball

Earlier this term the year 7 girls netball team played a friendly game against Walton – Le Dale high school. This was their first ever competitive match and all the girls played brilliantly, displaying not only great teamwork but impeccable sportsmanship. The girls won the fixture 3-1! A well deserved win! The girls are now looking forward to competing in the year 7 South Ribble Schools netball tournament held at All Hallows on Tuesday 25th April. Good luck girls!



Rounders Season

The annual rounders season kicks off in a few week's time starting with our Year 11 team. The year 11 tournament is to be played on Thursday 11th May at Priory Academy in Penwortham. Good luck to the girls who will be playing in their final ever rounders tournament for Brownedge St Mary's. We wish them well!

Rounders practices for years 7,8,9 & 10 will also begin after the Easter break. All years are welcome! Watch out for when these are taking place!



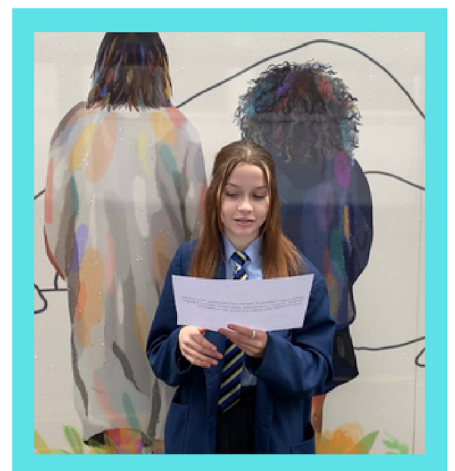
Lent 2023

Lent, which begins this week on Ash Wednesday, is one of the five seasons of the Catholic liturgical calendar, along with Advent, Christmas, Easter, and Ordinary Time. It precedes Easter and is a solemn period centred on prayer, fasting, and giving. There is no better time to reconnect with or deepen one's faith than Lent. During this time, we can draw closer to God as we prepare for the joyous celebration of Christ's resurrection at Easter. Pupils and staff have been entering into the season of Lent in lots of different way over the past weeks...



During Lent we are encouraged to give what we can to those who are most in need. Our new pupil-led Faith in Action group chose to fundraise for the charity Caritas this Lenten season, which supports those experiencing poverty, disadvantage, and discrimination throughout our Diocese. As part of this initiative, we took part in the 'St Joseph's Penny' appeal, where each form has been given a box in which they can collect spare change throughout Lent. Alongside Caritas, we will also be fundraising for the charities CAFOD and Papyrus for our annual charity day in the final week of term.

Each week of Lent our Chaplaincy GIFT Team pupils spent some time in prayer taking part in Lectio Divina, a way of praying with scriptures. In a weekly video they then shared how the Holy Spirit spoke to them through the reading. As part of these times of prayer in form, each member of our school community was given a weekly challenge of something they would like to fast from that week. To further help us in our prayer times this Lent we also had weekly Mass available for all pupils and staff in our school chapel. A huge thank you to Fr Mark for making this possible.



To prepare our hearts for Holy Week pupils were also invited to spend time in the chapel to take part in The Stations of The Cross. During this prayer time we reflected on the fourteen different moments on Jesus' journey to the cross, and reflection on what this can mean for us in our own lives.



Reconciliation Services

During Lent, pupils took part in a Reconciliation Day, where they spent time in prayer and were able to receive the sacrament of reconciliation. In this season of returning to the Lord with our whole hearts, it was beautiful to be able to offer this sacrament in school. A huge thank you to Fr Mark, Fr Raphael and Fr Collin for joining us for this special day in school and to our Chaplaincy GIFT Team pupils for their service during the day.



Romero Feast Day

Pupils from Romero House came together in a day of celebration of our house saint Oscar Romero. We began the day today and shared breakfast while reflecting on the lessons we can learn from St Oscar Romero and how by following his example we can become kinder more considerate people. Pupils from Years 7 to 10 then came together again during period 5 to work together creating bidding prayers, candles and reflections that we will be using as part of our collective worship in form over the coming months. Year 11 joined us at the end of the day in time for a final reflection and cake to end our celebration of St Oscar Romero.



UCLAN Exhibition

Congratulations to Holly in Year 9 who exhibited some of her beautiful work at the University of Central Lancashire. This was as part of their National Saturday Club exhibition. Holly has been studying Fashion and Business at the university each weekend and has produced some incredible work. Mrs Stockton and Rachael were delighted to visit the exhibition on its opening night to celebrate this exceptional achievement.



American Football Star

A huge congratulations to our American Football player Adam Ashur-Abugarad! Adam already represents Great Britain in American Football, and has now received a scholarship offer from St Anne's Belfield school in Virginia, USA for his American Football achievements, where he will continue his studies. He leaves for America in August 2023, and we wish him all the very best. Congratulations again on your achievement, Adam.





Charity Afternoon

Our annual Charity Afternoon took place as Spring term came to a close. Pupils had been hard at work planning a variety of stalls and activities, including penalty shoot outs, sponge the teacher, face painting and many more. Our students could also come in their own clothes in return for a £1 donation. It was set to be a brilliant day all in aid of two great causes - CAFOD and Papyrus - and you can read the next issue of Shining Lights to find out all about the day and how much money we raised.

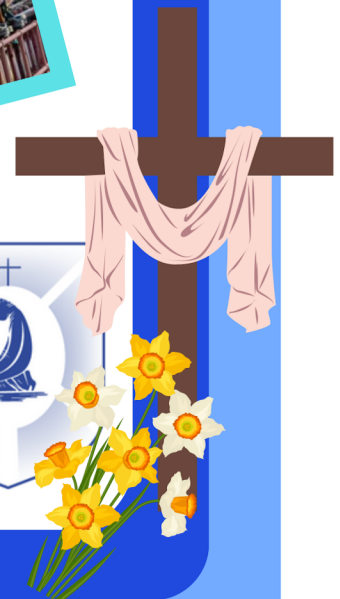
Headteacher's Award

Six pupils achieved the Headteacher's Award for the term, having received zero negatives, 100% attendance and all 2's on their reviews. This is a fantastic achievement that demonstrates the pupils' diligence in school and their commitment to achieving the highest possible standards here at Brownedge St Mary's. Congratulations to Amy in 11K, Iris in 10B, Angela in 11T, Jasmine in 10D, Kieran in 10K and Izzy in 7R. You have all well and truly let your light shine!



Around the World in Food

Mrs Hewitt's Around the World in Food club started this year. So far, we have visited Mexico, Greece and Japan, and we are soon to travel to and sample the culinary delights of the Alpine region of Europe and Vietnam. It looks like we may have some budding head chefs in our midst!



Alton Towers Rewards Trip

This term we had over 500 pupils qualify for the Spring rewards trip to Alton Towers, meeting the criteria for attendance, positives, negatives and general outstanding behaviour throughout the term. On Friday 31st March at 8:50am 18 members of staff were joined by 350 very excited looking pupils ready to set off on the long journey down the M6. We made good time on the journey down which gave pupils the chance to experience all the attractions on offer. As always, the pupils represented school with excellent behaviour, kindness and maturity ensuring everyone enjoyed their day.

SCHOOL REOPENS ON THURSDAY 20TH APRIL 2023



Brownedge St Marys



@brownedgestmarys



@BrownedgeStMary

Have a lovely Easter!

