



Shining Lights Newsletter



Easter 2024

Celebrating success

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Let your light shine

I hope you find this Easter edition of Shining Lights enjoyable. It's packed full of all the amazing events, activities and opportunities available for our school community to "Let Their Light Shine". What a fabulous group of people, together making up the tremendous family of Brownedge St Mary's. A huge thank you to all our working and dedicated staff who make these opportunities available for pupils. We are very blessed and thankful for their commitment. Wishing you a peaceful and joyful Easter. **Mrs Oddie**



Headteacher's Award 2023

A huge congratulations to Jasmine, Breaghan, Iris, Maisie, Michael, Alice and Harrison, who received the Headteacher's Award from Mrs Oddie on the last day on winter term in recognition of their outstanding contributions to school life during 2023. They have well and truly let their light shine, and are a fine example to their peers.

Staff Karaoke

There was a buoyant atmosphere in the assembly hall before Christmas for staff karaoke! Mr Wilson and Mr Hunt's duet in particular was a big hit, while we also saw brilliant performances from the catering team, Mr Hill, the RE faculty, Mr Banks and Mrs Hewitt. Thank you to all the pupils who donated to charity in order to be able to watch - what a fun way to end the year.



Drexel House Collection

Drexel house have been collecting food items for the St Aidan's Community Food Larder, which provides much needed food for over 60 families in the Bamber Bridge area. Great work, everyone - thank you for your generosity.

Drain Alert

Thank you to local company Drain Alert, who came to Brownedge to host a workshop for Year 10. Our pupils got to learn about apprenticeships and careers available to them in the future, while they also got to try out some equipment, including a robotic camera used for surveys!



In Memory of Fr Johnathon Cotton OSB

We remember in our prayers Fr Jonathan Cotton OSB, who passed away earlier this year. Fr Jonathan was well known and admired within our community, particularly during his time as our Priest Chaplain here in school. After his time as Parish Priest of St Mary's Brownedge from 1989 until 1992, he moved the short distance to St Mary's Leyland, where he served as Parish Priest for 30 years. We will remember him for his kindness, gentleness, and the great impact he had on so many of our staff and former pupils.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

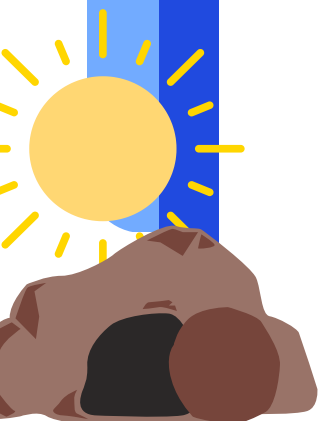
Ashbridge Nursery

Thank you to Ashbridge Nursery for coming to talk to our Year 11 Health & Social Care pupils about careers in childcare and the apprenticeships they offer. Several pupils have since applied to join Ashbridge after they leave school, with some already receiving offers of a place!



Weekly Wonders

This term, we launched 'Weekly Wonders', a new initiative celebrating outstanding achievements every week. Our Weekly Wonders and the reasons for them are inspiring; fantastic performances in the Lancashire swimming competitions, an unwavering commitment to inter house competitions, resilience and determination during assessment week, contributions to form assemblies, supporting friends with revision and so much more. You represent the best of Brownedge, well done!



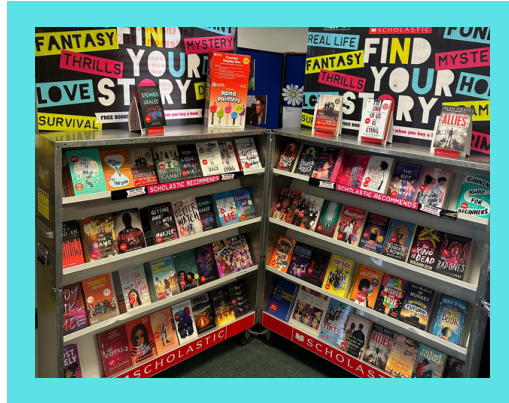
Leyland Trucks

Thank you to our friends at Leyland Trucks, who invited some of our Year 10s to visit their factory. Pupils watched a presentation, toured the factory and production line, and even got to climb aboard some trucks! What a valuable opportunity to learn about exciting local career pathways and apprenticeship opportunities.



Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair came to Brownedge, and lots of great books were available to purchase for pupils of all ages. Held in the library, pupils were able to choose from an array of famous titles, including *The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes*, and the latest book from Marcus Rashford! Plenty of pupils picked something up to celebrate their love of reading.



Ruth Eastham Author Visit

A huge thank you to celebrated author Ruth Eastham for visiting Brownedge! Ruth held a number of workshops with pupils on reading and writing, as well as answering questions and signing copies of her books for our pupils. A brilliant celebration of the power of reading!

Catering Masterclass

Well done to Scarlett and Abbie in Year 9, who recently headed to Blackburn College for a catering masterclass.

Both pupils have entered the 'Young Chef' competition - judged by celebrity chef Nigel Haworth - and have been shortlisted for the regional heats in April! Ahead of this, they were invited to Blackburn for a class where they learned how to make a number of tasty dishes, including a stir fry, chicken chasseur and chicken cacciatore



DT Challenge Project

The Challenge Project is an essential element of the BAE-funded Inspiring Lancashire Program, which provides Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School with a 3D printer and 3D scanner.

60 Year 9 students participated in the workshop day, and they were all given the opportunity to take part in the competition and submit their projects.

The competition consisted of a fully-resourced project where Year 9 students were expected to design and make a 3D-printed prototype model to solve a brief.

The design brief was to design a prototype product (or a part for a product) that will help in one small way to improve the environment in or around a local waterway.

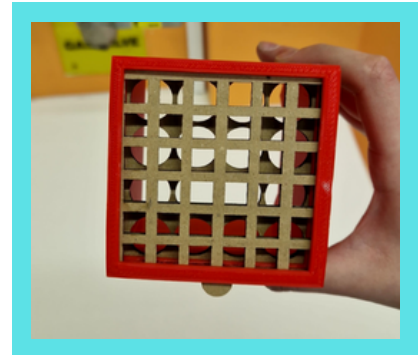
Two teams that were entered have been commended by Create Education and awarded certificates for their entries. Miss Smith is particularly proud of them as this was all done in STEM club, after school.

The 'Plinko Bin' Project was developed and entered by Ace, Aaron, Logan and Brad.

Charlotte and Aiden, meanwhile, entered their scale model of a 'Rubbish Sieve'. Well done to both teams.



BAE SYSTEMS



Go Karting Champion



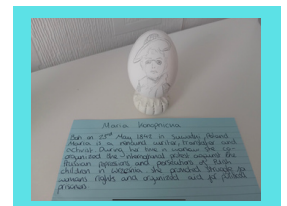
NATSKA
NATIONAL SCHOOLS KARTING ASSOCIATION



A huge well done to Hannah in Year 10, who continues to excel as a driver! Hannah races for NATSKA (The Official National Schools Karting Association), and she recently competed at an event down in Surrey; she took part in four races, coming 1st place in all of them, giving her 100 points for the day! The points accumulated over the season's race events go towards the championship in July, where we all have high hopes of Hannah achieving a podium finish!

History Eggstravaganza

Look at these incredible entries Mrs Kellett received for the History interhouse competition! Pupils were tasked with using an egg to showcase some incredible women from throughout history for Women's History Month, and they really came through with some great efforts. Eggcellent!



Year 7 Crusaders

Look at these awesome swords and shields Year 7 made in honour of their work on the Crusades! There were lots of great efforts, and even more excited faces when they got to head out onto the playground to test them out (safely, of course!).



South Ribble Schools Netball

In March, the Year 7 netball team participated in the South Ribble Schools Netball Tournament. There were 10 schools in total who all played each other in a round-robin-style competition. Our girls picked up a respectable four wins from their nine fixtures, ending the day in fifth place. Well done, everyone!

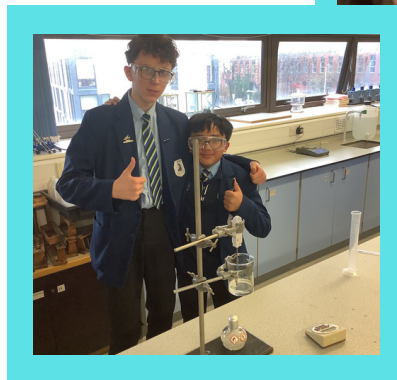
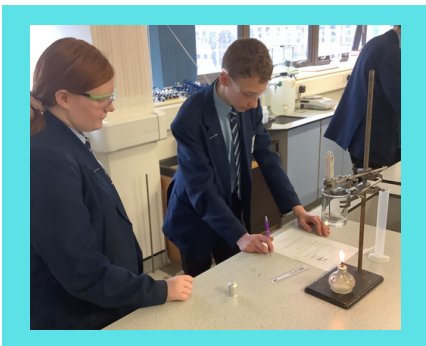
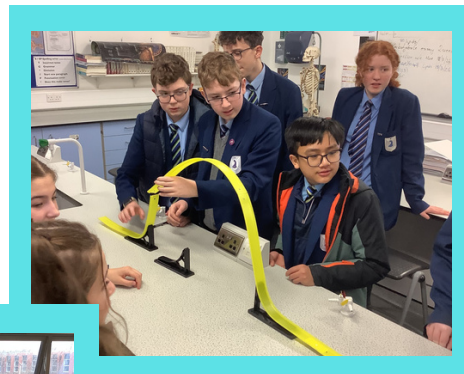


Preston Pirates BMX

Well done to Arthur in Year 7, who won silver at the recent Preston Pirates BMX competition! A keen rider, Arthur has had a very busy few months, as he also recently qualified as a Stage 1 accredited judge for Crufts! A great example of showcasing your many talents.

British Science Week at Blackburn College

Thank you to Blackburn College for welcoming 16 of our keenest scientists in Year 9 to spend a morning in their labs for British Science Week! Our pupils took part in a session each in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, all themed around the subject of designing roller coasters.



Faith in Action

This term, the RE departments were joined by Paul, a seminarian from the Diocese of Salford, who is training to become a priest. Paul shared with us his testimony of how Jesus has called him to the priesthood and answered our questions on what it is like to be a seminarian. A huge thank you to Paul for coming into school and sharing your story with us!



Lent Mass

This term marked the beginning of season of Lent, which starts on Ash Wednesday and lasts for 40 Days. During this time, we are encouraged to live simply, preparing our hearts for the joy of Easter through prayer, fasting and giving. We marked the beginning of our Lenten journey in school through the celebration of Holy Mass. This will continue to take place every Tuesday after school during Lent – all staff and pupils are very welcome to attend!



GIFT Team Videos

To help our school community pray during the season of Lent, our Chaplaincy GIFT Team put together weekly reflection videos. Each week they guided us through a different theme and scripture passage, helping to reflect as we journey through Lent.



Big Lent Walk

During the last week in school, our pupils took part in a sponsored walk, supporting the charity CAFOD, who work to bring hope and compassion to poor communities, standing side by side with them to end poverty and injustice.

This year, CAFOD's Lent Appeal is helping fishing communities feed their families in Liberia.

Thank you all for your generosity!



Saint Feast Days

This term we celebrated the feast day of three of our incredible House Saints: St. John Bosco, St Oscar Romero and St Katharine Drexel. The pupils and staff of each House followed in their Saints' footsteps, having a day of games, cake, prayer, reflection and laughter.



Easter Liturgy

We look forward to attending our parish church on the final day of this term for our annual Easter Liturgy. 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.



Year 7 Retreat Days

Year 7s visited St Mary's Church for their day of retreat, reflecting on our relationships with others, ourselves, and God. Our day together was filled with a prayer, team-building, creativity, and fun! Thank you to all the staff who helped lead our retreat, to Fr Mark and Fr Colin for their time during our reconciliation service and to the parish of St Mary's for allowing us to use their beautiful church.



CAFOD

Some of our Faith in Action Group pupils recently attended a CAFOD Coffee Morning, hosted by St Mary's Brownedge parish, where they heard an inspiring talk from Clare Dixon, Head of the Latin America team at CAFOD. Thank you to St Mary's Church CAFOD Group for allowing us to hear Clare's inspiring words!



Chaplaincy GIFT Team Retreat

This term we welcomed lots of new members to our Chaplaincy GIFT (growing in faith together) Team. This team meet together regularly to explore their faith and help our community to do the same.

During March our whole GIFT Team visited St Mary's Brownedge Church for a day of retreat. We took time out of our normal routine to grow together in our relationship with God and as a community.

Thank you to all those who made this day possible and to the GIFT Team pupils for their generosity in helping our school.



USA Ski Trip

Eight 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 2024.

34 pupils and four staff met at 8am on Thursday 8th February. Coaches were packed (eventually) and pupils safely loaded. We said goodbye to Bamber Bridge and Brownedge for eight days and began our journey down to Heathrow.

Virgin Airlines really did look after the whole party, and it can easily be said that memories were already starting to be made on the plane. Six-and-a-half hours later, we landed in Boston with the pupils taking in the magnificent landing experience that is Boston Logan. You think you're landing on water until, suddenly, the runway appears!

Another coach was packed, with a little more ease this time. The staff were well-and-truly experts at playing Tetris with suitcases now. As we left the highway and turned into Lincoln, it soon became clear that all the pupils knew exactly where we were, and the volume increased significantly on the coach.



Check-in went smoothly, and we all had the correct boots, skis, poles, and helmets. Nothing else could go wrong... that is, until our pupils were introduced to a ski lift and the skill they needed to ensure they got off safely! Needless to say, a testing first morning for the lift operators followed with falls, bumps and stalling lifts, until all finally mastered it!

The first day quickly came and went, but a further treat was to come for the pupils: we walked to the local high school to watch a basketball game, loving every minute of the intense American competition and rivalry. Day two soon came around and we had a light dusting of snow - perfect skiing conditions, and the pupils thrived. That said, Erin and Kacey proved that humans really do bounce, taking the falls of the day! The evening of day two saw our pupils take on the challenge of snow tubing and what an experience it was. So much laughter and racing down a ski slope on a rubber ring you can steer.

Day three started and it was now clear to see that our pupils had some real skiing ability, and this continued to develop across the next three days. Ice skating was an evening treat for our pupils, and what we witnessed can only be described as 'Bambi on Ice.' Lots of falls and bumps, however, all had a blast.





Day four allowed us to take in the breath-taking views across the White Mountains of New Hampshire. With pupils now becoming more confident on the snow, they started to ask to do jumps and go on snow parks. As you can imagine, this led to some spectacular falls, with Leighton and Noel taking the award for best wipe!



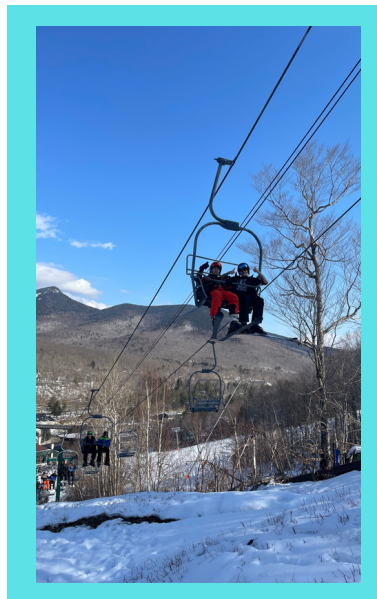
By day five, pupils were venturing to the top of the mountain, and enjoying the packed powder that the overnight snow had left us. A truly memorable and magical last day of skiing, before packing up in preparation for the journey to Danbury Fair Mall and New York City. Arriving at the mall the next day, retail therapy from some tiring days 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 to enable them to come on the trip, with Pandora, perfume and aftershave being popular among the pupils as gifts to say thank you.

Three hours of shopping later, and 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. The pupils did not know where to look. But before we could let them loose, we had a reservation to keep at the Hard Rock Café! Bellies full and energy levels topped up, Brownedge pupils hit Times Square for an hour of shopping before making the short walk through the city to the Empire State Building. Up to the top we went to witness the magnificent views on a spectacularly clear night - it was a joy to see the amazement in our pupils' faces.



An early start on the final day 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, taking in the exceptional skyscraper that was built in memory of those that lost their lives on that tragic day. With one final surprise left, the pupils were treated to a journey to the 'Top of the Rock', allowing them to see the city during the day with unrivaled views of the Empire State Building seen by all.

All the pupils were a credit to their families and the school. The social media updates had one common theme: #makingmemories. We can now change this to #memoriesmade. 2026, anyone?!



Careers Fair

Our annual Careers Fair was attended by over 30 providers and countless pupils and parents. With representatives from local colleges, universities and employers - including the NHS, Army and Lancashire Police - there was so much information on offer to those who came. Thank you to all who made it a really successful event.



College Interviews

Thank you to our friends at Runshaw and Preston Colleges, who recently came to Brownedge to interview Year 11s for their chosen college courses. Both providers commented on how well our pupils represented themselves, and all pupils were delighted to leave their appointments with offers of a place at college after school.

Steven Gerrard Academy

A big thank you to ex-pro footballer Christian Clarkson for coming to Brownedge to talk to Year 10 and 11 pupils about the Steven Gerrard Academy. With a base at Bamber Bridge, the academy offer football-based courses to school leavers, and a number of Year 11s have applied to study there next year. Perhaps Brownedge will gift England the next Stevie G!?



Reading Leaders

Well done to all our Reading Leaders for championing reading in all aspects of school life this term. These pupils work with their peers and those in younger year groups to support their reading, and are a great example of our pupils' dedication to our school community.

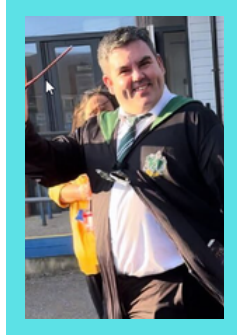
Michael the Umpire

Great work from Michael in Year 7, who continues to excel as a cricket umpire in the making! He took some time out of school recently to do some work with the Lancashire Cricket Foundation and had a blast. Good job!



World Book Day

At Brownedge, we really are all teachers of reading, with every subject taking part in a variety of activities to successfully raise the profile of reading even further across school on World Book Day! It was a great day enjoyed by pupils and staff, with some amazing costumes on show from teachers.



Year 5 Taster Days

It was a pleasure to welcome the Year 5s from all our local primary schools, as they spent the morning at Brownedge to get a taste of what life will be like when they join our family. From trampolining to robotics, they got a true flavour for the special place that is Brownedge St Mary's.



Charity Afternoon

Our annual charity afternoon was once more a great success! Pupils all donated to charity in order to wear their own clothes, with forms then putting on stalls in the afternoon where their peers could buy sweet treats, play games and take part in sports. Stay tuned to our social media to find out the grand total raised!



Cheerleading

Well done to Emelia in Year 10, who continues to excel as a cheerleader! Emelia cheers with Infinity Cheer and Dance, and competes several times a year around the country. Recently, she competed for two teams at a competition in Sheffield, placing first both times. Emelia also coaches younger athletes with Infinity, and at present she does four nights a week and around 10 hours of training. Keep up the great work!



Lancashire Swimmer

Excellent work from Emilia in Year 7, who represents Lancashire as a swimmer! She is having continued success representing our county in her sport, and we are all very proud of her. Emilia is one of many pupils to be nominated for 'Weekly Wonder' this term - well done!





Freddy's Cross Country

Incredible work from Freddy in Year 7, who completed a monumental amount of running at Witton Park recently. He completed the 5K Park Run, and then immediately stepped in to fill a spot in the District School Run, placing 7th out of 70 and helping South Ribble into 2nd place. Well done!

Young Enterprise

Well done to our Young Enterprise group, who've been hard at work all term. In March, they headed to the Cumbria and Lancashire final, where they picked up the coveted Teamwork Award. What a fantastic display of entrepreneurial spirit, in true Brownedge style!



Headteacher's Award Easter 2024

Following on from our Winter 2023 awards, Mrs Oddie was delighted to round-out the term by awarding nine pupils with the Headteacher's Award for outstanding contributions to school life during the first part of this year. Well done to Ryan, Alice, Jiachen, Kamil, Jasmine, Harrison, Luca, Izzy and Amelia - you have all let your light shine bright!



Pleasure Beach Rewards Trip

As a reward for excellent attendance and behaviour this term, we were delighted to take several coaches full of Brownedge pupils across to Blackpool to spend the day at the Pleasure Beach! We wonder how many were brave enough to take on the 'Big One'?!



Reconciliation Services

A huge thank you to our priest from Salford Diocese, who very kindly visited our school to administer the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Holy Week. We were so blessed by your generosity!

SCHOOL REOPENS ON MONDAY 15TH APRIL 2024

-  Brownedge St Marys
-  @brownedgestmarys
-  @BrownedgeStMary

Have a lovely Easter!

