



Shining Lights Newsletter



December 2021

Celebrating success

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Let your light shine

Following an extremely rewarding yet challenging first term, I am delighted to be celebrating with you the significant number of combined achievements of our school community. This term's edition of Shining Lights truly is a bumper Christmas edition and in it we hope we have captured some of the fantastic work our school community does; not all is often easily seen. Our activities linked to charity give me the most joy. In an often dark and damaged world, there is a light of hope in the way many of our young people jump to the challenge of doing "little things with great love". This is what Christmas is really about. When Christmas finally comes for you, I hope you have a happy and peaceful one.



The Mental Health Champions also arranged an interhouse penalty shootout for Year 7 and Year 8 with Mr Crusham and Mr Hayhurst being in goal. Kolbe won by scoring the most penalties. It was great fun and all participants were fantastic.

Mental Health Champions

Our Year 11 Mental Health Champions have been working hard to support students and promote positive well-being care in our school. Jack and Lillian attended our Year 7 Information Evening to highlight the mental health support available.



Santa Sports

'Santa Sports' took place this term at Browndge. For a £2 donation, our Key Stage 3 pupils could take part in Interhouse football and benchball competitions, and they also received a Santa hat. All proceeds went to the brilliant St Catherine's Hospice. In true Browndge style, the pupils performed exceptionally and gave generously, raising a total of £853.26!





MFL Interhouse Challenge

The European Day of Languages is on the 26th September every year. This year, because it fell on Sunday, we decided to combine the competition with the MacMillan Coffee Morning on Friday, 24th September.

The theme was the Great European Bake Off and pupils were invited to bake cakes which were either of European origin or which were decorated with the European theme. All the pupils were so generous and the response was overwhelming - see below for a small selection. Everyone donated their cakes to the MacMillan Coffee Morning at break time in the hall.

There were so many wonderful cakes in four different categories that it was so difficult to choose one winner. In the end, we had to award 3 joint house winners: Bosco/Drexel/Kolbe, followed by Romero and Teresa. Thank you to each one of you who took part. Follow MFL on Twitter @BSM_mfl



It was wonderful to be able to celebrate our new Year 7 joining our Brownedge family at their Welcome Mass! Pupils alongside Fr. Mark, led us in prayer as we spent our time together reflecting on the the call of Jesus to 'let your light shine.'

"A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."



Year 7 Welcome Mass



Cross Country

This is one of My Crusham's favourite weekends of the year - the annual South Ribble Schools Cross Country Championships. As always, as a school our pupils stepped up and represented us in great numbers. In fact, one comment that made me smile was made by Mrs Oddie, who said, "We are by far the most represented school that has attended". That credit must go to all pupils that took part on the day. Anyone that finishes in the top 10 in each race qualifies to represent the South Ribble and District team and I'm pleased to say we had several pupils selected to represent the district.

Y7- Seth Blackhurst and Alex Peacock

Y9- Charlie Brennan and Anna Scott

Y10- Phoebe Henderson



Overall Boys and Girls Result 2021
Everprest Shield

Position	School	Score
1st	All Hallows	54
2nd	Balshaws	39
3rd =	Leyland St Marys	33
3rd =	Brownedge	33
5th	Lostock Hall	32
6th	Hutton**	29
7th	Priory	22
8th	Worden	17
9th	Penwortham Girls**	11
10th	Walton-le-Dale	9
11th	Wellfield	DNQ

Overall Girls Result 2021

Position	School	Score
1st	All Hallows	27
2nd	Brownedge	22
3rd	Balshaws	19
4th	Lostock Hall	16
5th	Leyland St Marys	13
6th	Penwortham Girls	11
7th	Worden	10
8th	Priory	7
9th	Walton-le-Dale	4
DNQ	Wellfield	0

A special mention must go to the girls' overall team who finished second. The results are listed above. These fantastic performances and a brilliant team ethos meant that as a school we finished 3rd overall. A fantastic achievement considering the amount of time we have had not being able to competitively play sport. A solid platform to build on next year. The event will take place on Saturday 19th November. Put it in your diary!





MFL UCLAN liaison morning

On Friday, 24th September during period 2, Year 9 L Band were lucky to have two guest visitors from UCLAN in their lessons. One group had a Korean Taster session with Gigi Choi. The other group tried out the Rosetta Stone ICT software with James Gallagher, which enables pupils to learn any language from around the world. Pupils practised Spanish, Portuguese, German, Dutch and Swedish amongst other languages, and Katie Wynn in 9K won a UCLAN mug for completing the most games. Well done, Katie!

Thank you to James and Gigi at UCLAN for co-ordinating the event with us.



CEIAG, Gatsby Benchmarks and our Annual Careers Fair 2021

At Brownedge St Mary's we are DELIGHTED to announce we have achieved 100% in all of the Gatsby Benchmarks. These are the national principles which identify eight criteria at the heart of the National Careers Strategy for schools to follow to ensure an effective, independent and targeted careers programme. In November, we successfully fulfilled all of the criteria. This is an achievement we are very proud of.



As part of our ongoing commitment to provide up to date, accurate and impartial careers advice and guidance to our students, we held our annual Careers Fair on Wednesday, 10th November. This is something we are delighted about after the impact of COVID-19 and national lockdowns. It is an essential part of our careers guidance and a valuable opportunity for pupils to engage with employers and post-16 education providers. We welcomed a variety of post-16 education and training providers, colleges and employers such as STEMFirst (who represent BAE), Leyland Trucks and Eric Wright Construction. The key aim of this annual event is to make students aware of and support future decision-making processes by giving them the opportunity to find out early about career possibilities. Our students fully engaged with the opportunity to talk to the representatives and many commented on how impressed they were by the thoughtful and mature questions our students asked.



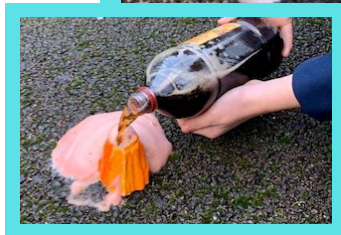
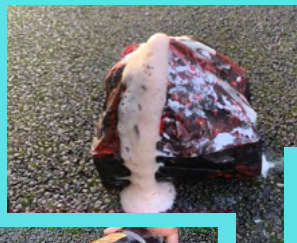
Golf

We have a young lady who will, we have no doubt, go onto great things in the golfing fraternity over the coming years. Emile May has enjoyed a successful season to date winning several club and regional competitions, before being selected to represent England through the English Schools Golf program. As a result of this, she has gained a scholarship at Rossall school and starts in February. From all of us here at Brownedge, we wish you the best of luck. Keep working hard and golf will give you so many things to celebrate in the future. We look forward to seeing you on the TV screen playing on the LPGA.



Form Mass

We were finally able to gather together again for Mass in our school chapel, for the first time since lockdown! Each Year 7 and 8 form has had their own Mass since the beginning of term, with students preparing readings and prayers, and starting their day with Jesus. A huge thank you to Fr. Mark for celebrating Mass for us, and to our readers for sharing the word with us so beautifully.



Volcanoes

The Year 8 geography students have enjoyed making and then exploding their active volcano models. This creative outdoor lesson helped them learn about the risky world that we live in.





Schools Football

What a great feeling it was to once again being able to compete against other schools and run our fantastic extra-curricular sport programme to the full for the first time in nearly two years. We have had lots going on in PE over the first term and here is a flavour of what we have been up to. First up was the English Schools Cup for all years. This provides an opportunity for our pupils to play schools outside the South Ribble area, a challenge they all traditionally rise to. This year was no different with the Year 11 Football squad leading by example, reaching the third round with victories over Rossendale and Westholme before being defeated in the third round by a strong Bowland High School team from Clitheroe. As always, Year 11 Football was a joy to watch. Well done!

Year 7, 8 and 9 were all dealt tough draws away to several private schools including Westholme and Crosby St. Mary's. Year 7 had a brilliant game against Crosby St. Mary's, twice taking the lead, before eventually being beaten 4-2. Considering this was their very first game they played as a team for school they did extremely well. Year 9 travelled to Westholme, again playing a strong team and despite again taking the lead twice they also eventually got beaten 4-2. Year 8 had a slightly tougher draw taking on previous national semi-finalists Bowland and they proved to be far too strong for our boys. Two Year 7 pupils, Peyton Breakell and Alex Peacock, attended the South Ribble Football trials in November and have succeed in gaining a place on the squad to represent South Ribble for the forthcoming season. A brilliant achievement and one which is thoroughly deserved. Well done girls and enjoy the season.

After the English Schools' games had been played, we got back to our bread and butter, taking part in the South Ribble Football League. Teams from all years have had a comprehensive fixture schedule which so far have included games against Walton-le-Dale, All Hallows, Lostock, Priory, Worden and Balshaw's with further games still to be played against Leyland St Mary's and Wellfield later in the year.



These fixtures have produced mixed results across the board. Year 10 and 11 beat Walton-Le-Dale before Year 11 narrowly lost out to Balshaws 3-2 in what was a fantastic game of Football. We were denied twice by the woodwork in the final 5 minutes. Year 7 have also endured a mixed bag of results, beating Walton-Le-Dale 1-0 in a closely fought contest before drawing 2-2 away at Lostock - however, we've no idea how we did not win that game! Year 8 have had a disappointing season to date with several heavy losses, however each one of you continue to train hard and with a few small tweaks and additions your results will turn around.



Schools Football (cont.)



Lastly, Year 7 reached the semi-final of a hard fought 5-aside competition involving all the schools from the South Ribble area. The boys that played included Lewis Walker, Owen Barrett, Kyle Dalglish, Bobby Dixon, Seth Blackhurst, Finlay Waterhouse, and Seb Stasiak. Well done boys, you were a credit to the school and next time the 1-0 semi-final loss could be different according to Mr Hayhurst, who said you were unlucky not to win through to the final.

Many of you will know, our Head Boy Reuben Woodward is a goalkeeper who has been scouted and continues to be scouted by over 20 clubs as far north as Fleetwood and as far south as Luton. We are pleased to say that once he has completed his studies here at Brownedge, he has a full-time contract offer from Fleetwood Town that he intends to sign. Well done, Reuben - a reward for all your hard work and commitment.

Drexel Dignity

During the Autumn term, Drexel house have been busy working on their Catholic Social Teaching principle of Dignity of Work and Participation. We have been taking time to consider those members of staff in school who are an essential part of our school community, often working in the background. In order to show our appreciation, we have been offering our time at break, lunch or after school to help with jobs. Each year group has a specific team of staff to offer their time to. This term, Year 7 have been working with the office staff and Year 11 have been helping site supervisors. All forms have also been litter picking at break and lunch. All help has been greatly received so far! Let's keep up the fantastic job!



Pupil SMT

This term we welcomed a new group of Senior House Councillors. These pupils led discussions with Senior Leaders in school, where the voice of the pupils was heard. They made brilliant contributions on behalf of the pupil body. We encourage pupils to listen out for their feedback, and remember to share your views with them. They are your voice!





Young Enterprise

Our Young Enterprise Group set up Wrap & Go; they planned to wrap presents with a luxury, smart presentation. They offered to deliver presents around the school, as well as offering a wide variety of add-ons to presents, including tags, bows and confetti. Their service had different prices for different sized gifts: small £1.00, medium £1.50 and large £2.00.

They believed this would be successful because:

- Wrapping presents can be a difficult and tedious thing to do
- They would give quality wrapping services with add-ons like bows or confetti
- They would deliver present in secret
- They would charge similar prices to gift bags but have better quality
- Customers could customise what they wanted their presents to look like with little addition to the price



Our Young Enterprise Group also put together a drinks stall as they raised funds to get their Wrap & Go present wrapping venture off the ground. A great example of entrepreneurial spirit!



Trampolining



Traditionally, we have always been strong when competing in the National Trampolining Competition and we think this year will be no different. During

December, a team of pupils from Browndge travelled to The Kings School Macclesfield to compete in the Regional Championships.



SEND and Intervention Team

This term we have welcomed a dog into school more frequently to see how it benefits the pupils. Some lunchtimes, in the ELC, pupils have been entertained with lots of cuddles, playing ball and trying to teach this old dog new tricks. The pupils have loved it every time Hugo visits and it has become a regular request to have Hugo in the ELC.



Shoebbox Appeal

We were delighted to have supported Operation Christmas Child again this year. This term saw our pupils compile over 50 shoebox gifts, each packed with love and fuelled by prayer to deliver great joy to children around the world.

Thank you to everyone who donated and well done everyone to the students and staff who made this happen!



Wrap Up Lancashire

Romero pupils have worked together to help others, and have donated their unwanted warm coats as part of the National 'Wrap Up' campaign.

Staff and students were asked to deliver any donations to specific collection boxes at Tesco Extra Leyland, Morrisons Leyland, Asda Clayton Brook or Leyland Trucks. 'Let's warm a heart and give a coat'.





History Castles

Year 7 have shown some amazing talent with the castle project in History! We have had some incredible and creative models, well done to all Year 7!



Christmas Cards

The Expressive Arts Faculty set pupils the challenge of designing a Browndedge Christmas Card. There were so many beautiful and creative designs, which made it very hard to choose just two winners from all the entries we received!

Well done to Holly in 8R and Kyra in 7R. Their wonderful designs have both been made into our official Browndedge 2021 card and has been sent out to spread the love and of Christmas.

Bosco Hampers

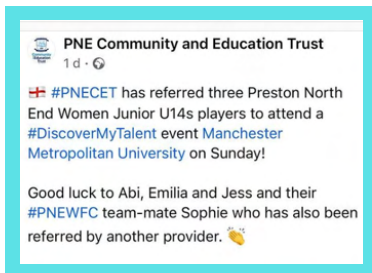
As part of their House work to promote the Catholic Social Teaching principle of Dignity, pupils and staff in Bosco House have been making hampers to give to a local women's refuge. Students put together hampers filled with both essentials and Christmas gifts.

Thank you to all those who donated and made this possible.



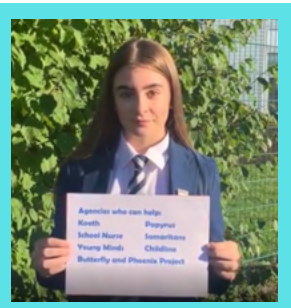
Preston North End

Good Luck Abbie; selected to represent Lancashire County last month, and your next pathway opening by being recommended to attend a North West talent hub. You are a rising star!



World Mental Health Day

On World Mental Health Day, Mrs Watson and the Mental Health Champions put together a video all about how you can take care of your mental health, and where you can find support in school. This video was shared with our school community to promote global mental health education, raise aware awareness of mental health struggles and advocate for taking care of our mental well being.



RE

We were fortunate to have Jeremy Michelson, an Orthodox Jew and a member of the Jewish Representative Council, hold a virtual visit with Year 10. Year 10 pupils have just completed the study of Judaism as a part of their GCSE curriculum. Pupils had the opportunity to interview Jeremy and ask questions about living as a Jew in UK. The session helped students to appreciate the joys and challenges that practicing the Jewish faith brings. Jeremy helped to bring the course to life and allowed pupils to consolidate their learning.



We also had a day of exploring Jewish festivals. We built a sukkah in Mrs Weights' room, Mrs McDonagh had a Seder meal set up for Pesach and in Mr Duffy's room we had honey and apples for Rosh Hashanah.





Form Reading

We've known for a long time that the best way to help our students succeed is to encourage them to read. To that end, we want our students to discover themselves as readers, to have a sense of their own unique, rich and wondrous reading lives. What books make their hearts race? What topics do they return to again and again? Over the past term, we have been continuing our work in strengthening pupils' literacy skills to improve all areas of their communication.

This has included the development of a whole school drive to utilise the power of reading, both for pleasure and for learning. Research suggests that we learn how to read by reading, but we learn how to read fluently by listening to fluent readers, and so we have been reading aloud in form time. Form tutors have been reading and discussing extracts with their forms to develop fluency and word power. Weekly extracts have been created, taken from all different genres and styles of writing to improve our reading and literacy skills. These have included a Remembrance poem, an article about climate change, a speech from Martin Luther King and an extract from Matilda to celebrate our forthcoming school production. Reading is an essential skill and a powerful tool for lifelong learning, widening horizons and making sense of the world.



[Here At Last](#)



The biggest UK boyband on TikTok with over 1 million followers performed live on our Browndedge Stage.

Having all had their own issues with cyber bullying and mental health, the boys were in the perfect position to deliver such a positive message to our pupils. An amazing event and thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Macmillan coffee morning

Our Macmillan coffee morning returned with gusto with our pupils raising £350 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Well done to everyone, great atmosphere and great spirit.



Interhouse Competitions

There have been many Interhouse competitions already this year – ranging from creating a window decoration to remember our fallen heroes for Remembrance Sunday, to examining the etymology of words in Geography, to creating a Christmas card to send to members of the wider community, and even to creating a form nativity!

The competition between Houses was fierce at times, greatly encouraged by the Heads of House and Form Tutors who were each keen to out-do each other. We also focused on two of our Gospel Values – Kindness and Hope – during each half-term, where pupils across the school tried to gain positive points for living these values in lessons and around school. The House Cup presentation at the end of term will, once again, be much anticipated!



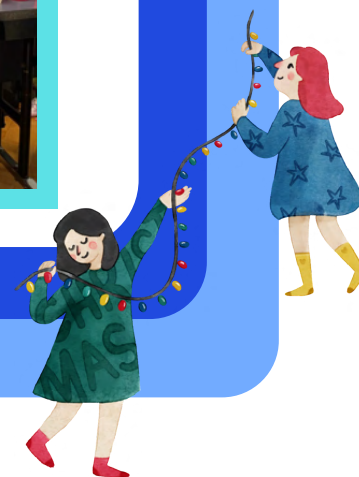
SVP Group

Our SVP group lead another successful Christmas appeal this year. Pupils asked our school community to donate items which could be given to the Salvation Army food bank.



Pupils also fundraised for the SVP Christmas Appeal by running a break time sale. Pupils and staff could take part in a tombola, as well as buy chocolate, juice and cakes.

Thank you all for your donations and generosity this Christmas!





Red Wednesday

Red Wednesday is a day organised by the charity Aid to the Church in Need. Right now, there are millions of Christians around the world being persecuted for their faith. We joined with millions of others to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters.



Remembrance Day

Leading up to Remembrance Day, the History Club researched many of the men from our Parish who paid the ultimate price in World War One, World War Two and The Falklands War. They looked at army records, medical records, maps and war memorials to create a profile of the men from our town.



On Remembrance Day, the whole school participated in a two minute silence, whilst the senior leaders and a representative from each House Form took part in a Remembrance Service at our memorial garden at school, joined by members of our community. All pupils were very respectful.

The History Leaders also did a fantastic job in leading assembly to all Houses over the week!



On Remembrance Sunday, a group of our pupils also joined the Parish at St. Mary's Browndedge for 11 o'clock Mass and represented our school at the memorial service outside church. Jasmine, on behalf of us all at Browndedge, laid the school wreath. Finally, a huge well done to all pupils at school, and to all Forms who created a Remembrance window. They looked absolutely fantastic and we had some amazing entries. There was a real community spirit at the time of Remembrance.



Matilda the Musical



We are delighted to announce our cast for Matilda which is coming to Browndedge in 2022. All pupils underwent a series of auditions and shone brightly to be selected as part of the cast. Well done to everyone who took part and we look forward to seeing you on stage.



A special well done to Alexandra, in Year 7, who has been cast as Matilda. What an impact she has already made in the few short months she has been at school. Well done Alexandra



Headteacher Awards

At the end of each term, Mrs Oddie recognises outstanding pupils by rewarding them with a £50. These pupils demonstrate outstanding attitude to learning across ALL their subjects, receive no negative points and have exemplary attendance. This term the Headteacher's Award went to Ben Rainford (9B), Ayriya Dadpour (10D) and Nadia Mura (10K); absolutely fantastic!

Every Day Counts!

We couldn't be prouder of our pupils. Each term we recognise our top attenders by awarding our 100 Club badges. 194 pupils achieved their bronze award this term which is outstanding, and next term they are aiming for their silver award. In addition, 432 pupil pupils achieved the target of 97%. Pupils were entered into prize draws for the chance to win £20 or £5 vouchers, totally a value of over £600!! Keep up the great work and remember, every day counts.



'Just Dance' For CAFOD!

Our CAFOD group pupils raised money for communities in the poorest parts of the world, who have been hit hardest by the climate crisis. The group decided to be creative with their ideas of how to raise money for this cause, and settled on a 'Just Dance' competition! Pupils and staff could pay to watch their teachers have a dance-off and sold sweets and popcorn to eat whilst we enjoyed the show. To help, the students arranged for no meat to be served in our school that day. Well done everyone who took part!



Visit from Safenet

As part of our Learning of Life lessons curriculum, we had a talk delivered from Safenet. Safenet is a domestic abuse service and refuge based in the north west. Two of Safenet support workers came into school to speak to Year 10 pupils. Safenet covered healthy relationships and the signs of an unhealthy relationship. The session helped students to see what help and support is on offer in Preston and it also helped to break down stereotypes surrounding domestic abuse and victims.



St. Catherine's Hospice

Through our Santa Sports and Christmas Jumper Day, we managed to raise an incredible £1,000 for St Catherine's Hospice, a charity which cares for patients and families across Chorley, Preston and South Ribble who are affected by life-shortening conditions like cancer. Thank you Brownedge for your generosity!



Advent Liturgy

On our final Day of term, students will be gathering at our parish church to celebrate this year's Advent Liturgy. The theme of this time of prayer is 'Emmanuel, God With Us', in which we will be reflecting the name Emmanuel and what it means: that God entered our humanity, and even now meets us in every moment. Pupils have been preparing dance, drama, song, artwork and prayer to help us celebrate!



SCHOOL REOPENS ON WEDNESDAY 5TH JANUARY 2022



Brownedge St Marys



@brownedgestmarys



@BrownedgeStMary

Have a merry Christmas!

