



Shining Lights Newsletter

December 2023

Celebrating success



Happy Christmas! Welcome to our Autumn Edition of Shining Lights. In this edition, we celebrate the wonderful achievements of our young people who constantly take up the challenge to develop skills and talents, to contribute to wider school life or to lead. I am so pleased that so many are coming forward to do these things with true Growth Mindset determination. There are so many different events and activities for pupils to get involved in, including very special ones linked to charity and service. 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 putting their faith into action.

Mrs Oddie



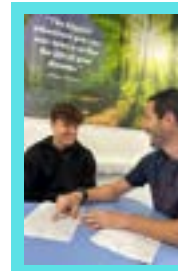
GCSE Results Day



A huge well done to all of our Year 11s who collected their GCSE results in August! There were so many happy faces in school as our pupils' hard work paid off.

Mrs Oddie commented: "On GCSE Results Day, the culmination of 5 years of hard work and resilience was celebrated, with our pupils receiving superb results. Not only have the pupils shown academic success, they have grown to represent our values. In a year when results were expected to return to 2019 standards, we couldn't be more delighted to see that our pupils have pushed the bar even higher. Our fantastic results stem from our school's culture of inclusivity and high expectations, and show how important it is to rise to any challenge with a positive mindset.

"However, we know our pupils are so much more than the GCSE results they achieve. They have inspired us all and truly have excelled in our school mission of 'letting their light shine'. From our most able pupils gaining an array of the very highest grades to the pupils who have made the most progress across all subject areas, they are now in a strong position to step out onto their next journey in learning, and able to make a difference to the world around them."



Premier League Kicks

Abi in Year 10 won the national football competition for Premier League Kicks U16s with her club, Preston North End, at the end of July this year! They won the national tournament against rivals Liverpool 1-0, and our competitive Abi was the one who scored the winning goal. She really has let her light shine and shown such dedication and passion for the sport she loves. Well done, Abi. We are proud of you.



Teresa Feast Day

At the start of term, we celebrated the life of one of our incredible House Saints: St. Teresa of Calcutta. Mother Teresa was the founder of the Order of the Missionaries of Charity, a congregation of women dedicated to helping the poor. Considered one of the 20th Century's greatest humanitarians, she was canonized as Saint Teresa of Calcutta in 2016.



St. Teresa reminds us that "every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing." The pupils and staff of Teresa House spent time together throughout the day witnessing to this quotation with their smiles, laughter and prayers. There was even a drone photo shoot!

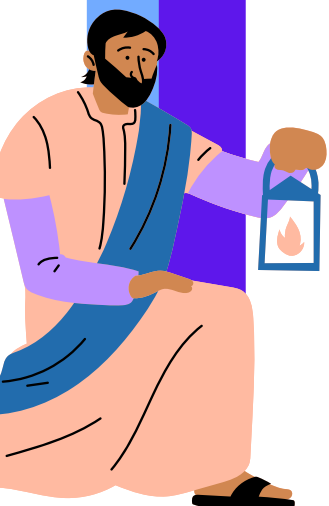
Mental Health Champions

Mrs Watson appointed a new cohort of Mental Health Champions this term. This admirable group of Year 11s have committed to promoting positive causes related to mental health throughout school, as well as undertaking a number of fundraising initiatives for our charity partners such as Papyrus. We have no doubt they will be great ambassadors for our school.



Head Prefects

Our Head Prefects began their new roles this term. An exemplary group of Year 11s, they are committed to representing the Brownedge community at its very best in all aspects of school life. They set an example and advocate for their peers, helping all to let their light shine. Well done James, Jasmine, Charlie, Iris, Ben and Zara - we know you will make our Brownedge family proud.



MacMillan Coffee Morning



Thank you to everyone who came to our MacMillan Cancer Support Cake and Coffee Morning! Thanks to your generosity and the hard work of all in the Brownedge family, we raised £512.00 for this incredible cause. It was lovely to see the ELC packed out with family members and pupils sharing cakes and cuppas, and of course, once break time started, the hall was even busier as pupils flocked to get a sweet treat and support MacMillan's vital work.



Fleetwood Footballer

Congratulations to Bobby in Year 9, who signed for Fleetwood Town FC! A talented footballer, Bobby achieved success for South Ribble in the District County Cup last year alongside some fellow Brownedge players, and now he makes the next step in his football journey by joining a professional team. Well done, Bobby - we're all behind you.



English Blackball Pool Federation

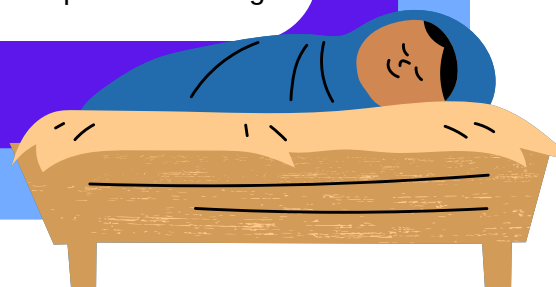
Well done to Head Boy Charlie in Year 11, who was selected to represent Lancashire in the English Blackball Pool Federation's National County Finals in October. A talented pool player, Charlie plays for Lancashire's under 18s and the men's C team. He recently won the Golden 8 Ball tournament in Blackpool, and is currently ranked in the top 8 under-18 players in the country. Incredible!



World Mental Health Day

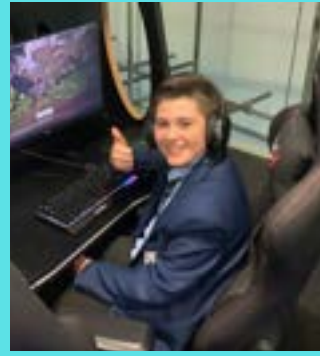
To recognise World Mental Health Day 2023, the Mental Health Champions put together an informative video addressing their chosen theme for this year: male mental health. Each of the champions spoke in the video, offering advice to those who may be struggling.

Sound-tracked by the REM classic 'Everybody Hurts', their video provided lots of information about youth mental health services and some statistics behind the male mental health epidemic. Well done everyone on delivering this important message.



CyberFirst HOST Trip

26 pupils in Year 8 took part in a Careers trip to the Home of Skills & Technology (HOST) in Media City. Pupils were able to tour HOST's state-of-the-art facilities in the fields of E-sports, vlogging and VR, while they also took part in tasks involving digital forensics and codebreaking. As a reward for their great work throughout the day, they finished the session with some time gaming on HOST's various cutting-edge consoles. Thank you to CyberFirst for having us, and showing our pupils how they can achieve in a cyber-first world.



M&G Maths Enterprise Challenge

Thank you to the Talent Foundry and M&G Investments, who came to Brownedge to deliver their Maths Enterprise Challenge to 30 pupils in Year 7. A workshop which showcased the real-world applications of the skills pupils have been learning in their Maths lessons in an exciting way, our pupils were tasked with planning a music festival for 10,000 people! They all rose to the challenge, with each team coming up with a budget, stage design, set-list and much more, all through the use of Maths. Well done, everyone!

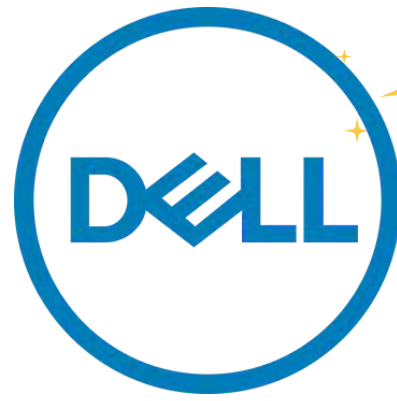
Step Up September

Throughout September, our Mental Health Champions completed the Step Up September challenge in aid of The Trussell Trust. Taking time after school to complete walks, the pupils raised £600 for the trust, with the money raised supporting the vital work they do to help those facing hardship. An amazing success!



Dell Workshop

Thank you to Dell computers for speaking to a group of Year 10s as part of a virtual Careers workshop this term. Pupils were joined by three Dell employees, who each delivered a talk on their careers, and then welcomed questions from the class. Pupils got to hear about the various career pathways available at Dell, as well as receive advice on an array of topics. A very interesting session.

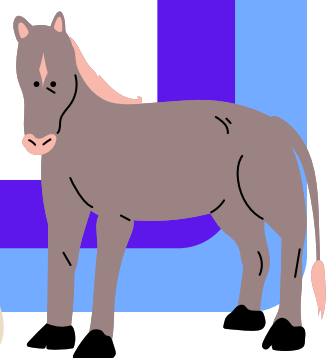
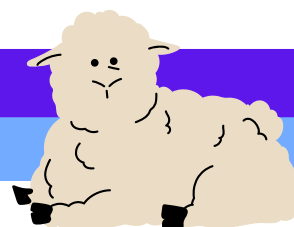


Blackburn College Public Services

Blackburn College's Public Services department welcomed ten Brownedge pupils for a workshop and Remembrance event. A mix of Year 10 and 11 pupils got to sample various activities run by the college, as well as the Police, RAF and British Legion. Our pupils were also invited to lay wreaths on behalf of the school as we held a two-minute-silence to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

GCSE Certificate Evening

Our 2023 GCSE Certificates Evening was a wonderful celebration of all our 2023 leavers achieved. Their results were excellent, and a true reward for all their hard work and dedication. Mrs Oddie gave an address before handing out the certificates, and we then ended with a closing prayer, refreshments and plenty of pictures! Thank you to all who joined us to celebrate.



Red Wednesday



To show solidarity with persecuted Christians around the world, on November 22nd we marked Red Wednesday by illuminating the school building with red light. We prayed for all who are persecuted for their beliefs. We stand with them.



PRESTON
COLLEGE

CARDINAL
NEWMAN
COLLEGE

RUNSHAW
COLLEGE



Blackburn
College

College Assemblies

This term we welcomed our partner colleges - Runshaw, Cardinal Newman, Preston, Myerscough and Blackburn - into Brownedge to present to our Year 11s. As part of our Careers provision, we ensure we provide our pupils with as much information as possible about their post-16 options, and we are very grateful to our friends at each of the local colleges for coming in to show our Year 11s what they have to offer.

School of Sanctuary



At the latest School of Sanctuary network meeting in October 2023, there was a celebration as Brownedge St Mary's became officially recognised as a School of Sanctuary, a special status awarded for developing a culture of inclusiveness and support.

We were presented with a certificate in recognition of our achievement by Jeff Morgan (The City of Sanctuary National Trustee) on behalf of the national City of Sanctuary movement. We joined the Lancashire cohort of Schools of Sanctuary as the twelfth school receiving this status.

Schools awarded this status help pupils, staff, parents and the wider community to understand what it means to be seeking sanctuary. They also extend a welcome to everyone as equal, valued members of the school community.

Welcoming displays around the school which help new arrivals to settle in are present in most of Schools of Sanctuary. All schools have induction programmes for newly arrived children and a buddy system that meets the needs of children seeking sanctuary is in place. Negative myths surrounding refugees and asylum seekers have also been dispelled in these schools. Each school engages in positive and enthusiastic activities involving their own pupils and parents, and others from all over the world. We are very proud to be recognised in this way.

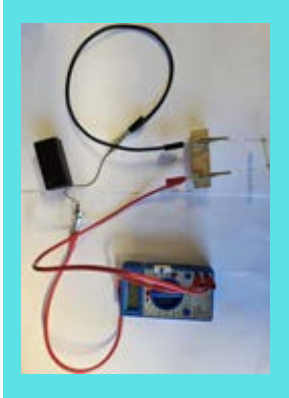


Schools of
Sanctuary





Science Club



Mr Brooks' Science Club have taken part in a number of exciting activities this term. A lot of their work has revolved around the science of sweets, where they've been doing things such as investigating crystalline structures of chocolate and how they affect the flavour and melting points of the chocolate, and investigating how changing the amount of cocoa products in chocolate affects the flavour and melting point. In addition, they've also worked on a project to build a launch device to accurately fire a ping pong ball into a target across the laboratory, while they've also investigated the electrolyte concentration of energy drinks using an electrical conductance probe they built. Other activities have included investigating the science of bubbles, which everyone really enjoyed!

MFL at Runshaw College

Thank you to Runshaw College for welcoming a group of our Year 11s to sample some Key Stage 5 French lessons. Our pupils worked in small groups with other schools from all over Lancashire, and they really enjoyed learning more about French language and culture.



SVP Christmas Party

Our Faith in Action Team volunteered to assist at the St Vincent de Paul Society's annual Christmas Party for the sick, housebound and older members of our parish.

Pupils prepared and served lunch, helped with bingo and met many friendly faces. We were also joined by our school choir, who led us in some Christmas carols. A huge thank you to the SVP group for letting us be a part of such a joyful afternoon!



Advent Charity Appeal



This Advent, we have been supporting the charity Caritas, who are appealing for donations to help people facing acute crisis this Christmas in our Diocese of Salford. Our whole school community have been incredibly generous in their donations to this cause, with our Cosy Room full of food, warm clothes and toiletries to be donated to those in need this Christmas. A huge thank you for all your support!



Saint Columba

During September, our Chaplaincy GIFT Team visited St Mary's Church for the tour of the relics of St Columba, St Andrew and St Mary. We learnt about the lives of these great saints before having some time in prayer. St Columba, St Andrew and St Mary, pray for us!



Football Stars

A huge well done to sisters Alex and Sammy, who continue to excel on the football pitch. Sammy was recently selected for the South Ribble under 13 squad, whilst Alex represents South Ribble's under 15s and has also been chosen to be part of Preston North End's Emerging Talent Hub. Great work, girls - well done on letting your light shine!

Year 7 Welcome Mass

To begin their High School journey, our new Year 7s celebrated their Welcome Mass at the start of the academic year. This was an evening of prayer, song, art and reflection, in which our pupils, families and staff came together to welcome Year 7 into our Brownedge family.

Our wonderful new pupils, alongside Fr. Mark, led us in prayer as we spent our time together reflecting on this new beginning. In the lead up to this Mass, pupils spent lots of time preparing to make this a beautiful celebration. A huge thank you to all who made this evening so special.



Year 9 Retreat



During November, many of our Year 9 pupils attended Castlerigg Manor for a faith retreat. Castlerigg Manor is a Youth Retreat centre situated in Keswick, in the heart of the Lake District.

During their visit, pupils took part in various activities, including many fun games, walks in the beautiful Lake District, time to explore their relationship with themselves, their families, their friends, and their faith, and even a night of Karaoke!

A huge thank you to everyone who made this retreat so special!



Year 7 Form Masses

At the beginning of their first year of High School, each of our Year 7 forms visited our school chapel for the celebration Mass. Alongside preparing for their Year 7 Welcome Mass, this was an opportunity for each form to unite themselves as a family in prayer.

We are reminded of the words of St Oscar Romero, who tells us: "When we leave Mass, we ought to go out the way Moses descended Mount Sinai: with his face shining, with his heart brave and strong to face the world's difficulties."



Young Enterprise



The Year 10 Young Enterprise team have been meeting every Monday with Mrs Pendreigh and our Team Leader Chris Watts to set up a company selling sustainable, upcycled handmade wooden crafts. The team made a good amount of profit from their stall at the Christmas Fayre, and they received really positive feedback as visitors to the stall were impressed at the variety of items on sale. The team are competing with others from the local area in various activities leading up to the final pitch at UCLAN in the New Year! We wish them all the best!



Year 10 Retreat

This term our Year 10 pupils took part in a retreat day, led by the wonderful youth team from NET Ministries. Our time on retreat included games, dramas, small group discussions, powerful testimonies, and times of prayer. The theme of the retreat was 'Free Indeed', in which we looked at our unique goodness and identity as sons and daughters of God.



Sacrament of Confirmation

Pupils have been meeting each week to prepare to receive the sacrament of confirmation, learning about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and coming to know Jesus in a new way.

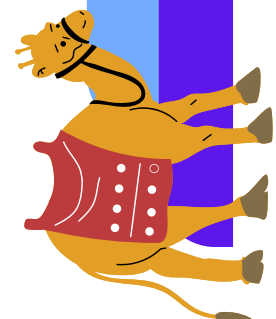
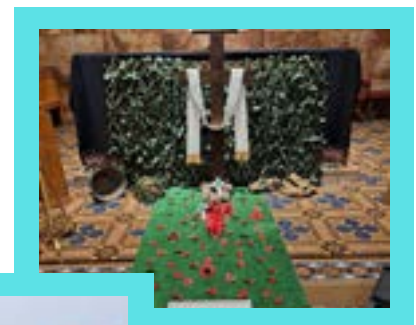
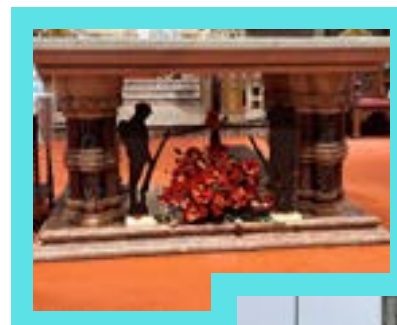
During Confirmation, candidates receive the power of the Holy Spirit. This happens through the anointing with chrism oil and the laying on of hands. With the Holy Spirit at their side, they are strengthened to be witnesses of Christ in the world. He gives comfort, hope, inspiration and peace.

Thank you to Fr Mark for celebrating Mass, and to the families, friends and teachers who joined us.



Remembrance

Thank you to both Jasmine in 11D and Alice in 10T, who represented school at St. Mary's, Brownedge Church on Remembrance Sunday. They laid a wreath on behalf of the school to remember all the soldiers from our Parish who have died and fought for their country in all wars since World War One.





Switzerland Hadron Collider Trip



The Science department organised a three-day visit to Geneva in November. We visited the Large Hadron Collider, where we were privileged to have access to the huge underground CMS experiment. We travelled across the 27km particle accelerator into France for over half an hour by coach, before descending 330 feet underground to the vast cavern which holds the particle detector. Three scientists working on the experiment full-time designing new instruments were our expert guides for the afternoon. They were able to introduce us to the amazing world of particle physics.

We made a separate visit to the CERN gateway visitor centre, a brand new £90 million interactive visitor experience which includes Tim Berners Lee's original computer, the first ever internet server, amongst other amazing exhibits.

We visited the historic heart of the Old Town and four other museums in Geneva to see some remarkable impressionist art, extraordinary wildlife exhibits and scientific experiments, including a battery made by Allessandro Volta as a gift to Napoleon.

We also shopped Swiss style for our food and chocolatey souvenirs, and we travelled by motor cruiser to an island on the lake to sample the ultimate Swiss treat, fondue. Very stylish!



Brownedge Word Whisperers

Mrs Duggleby's Creative Writing Magazine club produced some excellent work this term. A number of pupils entered the Young Writer's Competition, where they had to write a story in less than 100 words on the theme of 'The Glitch'. Here is a great example of some dystopian writing from Nathan in Year 10:

'Origin'

The wind pierced his spirit, akin to that of phantasmal daggers. Of course, that mattered little to Ray, as, being himself, what one would call a "hard" boy, he was unbothered by the cold.

Then, a different kind of cold crept over him. One that cut deeper than any wind that Ray had ever felt prior. The kind of cold that makes someone feel so very alone in the world. His eyes felt heavy. His fingertips dropped...

He blinks but fails to open his eyes.

Reduced to sound alone, with even that fleeing rapidly, Ray listens.

Nothing.

He feels himself being pulled on, but cannot see where from, and it is still so cold...



Create Education

Create Education work with BAE to deliver part of BAE's Education programme. BAE provide schools with training, a 3D printer and a 3D scanner so as to improve pupils' employability in the new sectors of this new technology. 60 of our Year 8's were trained two years ago and 60 of our Year 9's have completed the training day this year. These skills are developed in lessons and in CASEO clubs after school. Thank you to Create for your work with us.



STEM Club



The CASEO STEM club is run as part of the BAE Challenge. Teams have to design and prototype using the 3D printer. The brief is to design a prototype product (or a part for a product) that will either: help in one small way to improve the environment in or around a local waterway (river, canal, lake or sea) OR improve the habitat for one or more species of local wildlife. The teams will enter the competition in 2024 so it can be judged by BAE. Winners will be announced in 2024.

We wish our teams good luck!

Faraday Challenge

Six of our Year 8 pupils took part in the Faraday Challenge at Bishop Rawstorne, which included five other teams from local schools. Kornelia, Aydan, Phoebe, Connor, Macey and Oscar worked as a team to develop a solution to the road safety brief that was given to them. The pupils were selected to take part because of their strong achievements in D&T in Year 7, and we are very proud of their efforts.



Christmas Jumper and Dinner Day



The closing weeks of term saw us host our annual Christmas Jumper and Dinner Day. Staff and pupils alike donned their favourite festive sweaters, whilst Mrs Kenny and her amazing kitchen team served up some delicious turkey dinners! There were plenty of happy faces in the dining room, and it was a real display of the Brownedge family spirit.

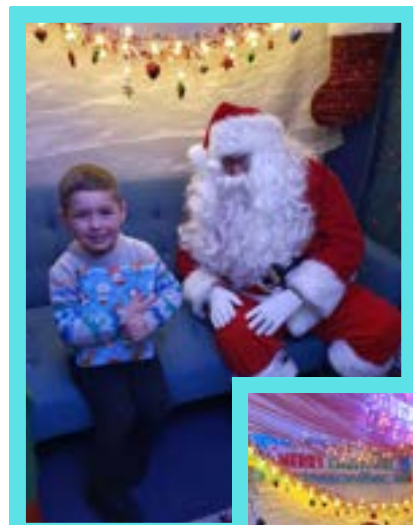


Reindeer Dash

Key Stage 3 pupils took part in the annual Inter-house competition during their PE lessons in the penultimate week of term. In true Browndedge style, the pupils performed exceptionally and gave generously, with all proceeds going to St Catherine's Hospice - a very worthwhile cause. Well done to all involved. It was a brilliant way to end a long and busy term.

Operation Christmas Child

Through the Samaritan's Purse organization, Operation Christmas Child continues to be an amazing cause that Browndedge St Mary's has been involved in for many years now. In keeping with tradition, we come together each year and pack shoe boxes for children in need, and they are shipped across the world to children who may have never received a gift before. Not only do they receive a very special present, but they also receive the gift of learning the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Samaritan's Purse discipleship program, The Greatest Journey. This year we did not disappoint, and as a school we packed 32 shoe boxes. Thank you to all for your generosity.

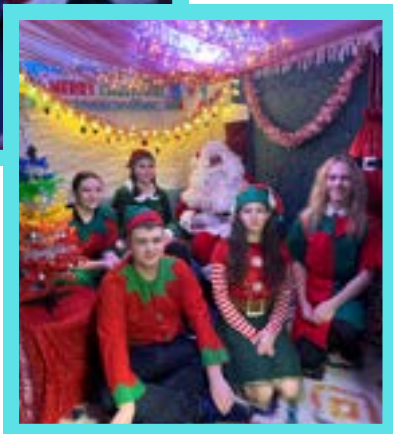


Christmas
Market



Christmas Market

On Friday 8th December, Browndedge St. Mary's held our annual Christmas Market event which was supported by over 37 individual vendors who all came into school to offer their products. Parents and pupils had a variety of choices from candy floss animals, fudge, brownies, cakes, sweets and crepes to name but a few of the food vendors, alongside a variety of Christmas gifts including flowers, decorations, personalised glassware and paintings. We also had our very own grotto where the big man himself, Santa, paid us and our children a visit. The evening was a great success and raised valuable funds for CAFOD and St Catherine's Hospice, two very worthy causes. In total, we raised close to £800, which is a fantastic amount and testament to our community's generosity. Thank you!



South Ribble Cross Country

On Saturday 18th November, the PE department took 40 pupils to compete in the annual South Ribble Schools Cross Country Championships at Hutton Grammar school. Our pupils competed in races against 11 other local schools. Not only did the pupils show great resilience as individuals, there were some outstanding performances by a number of our pupils listed below:

- Year 7 Boys - Freddie C 10th
- Year 7 Girls - Lucy S 9th
- Year 8 Girls - Sammy P 13th
- Year 9 Girls - Erin S 6th

Pupils also showed great team spirit with the following positions being awarded:

Overall Girls team 4th

Overall Boys team 6th

Overall School position 5th

Well done to all pupils involved in the competition!



Girls Football Tournaments

The girls football teams participated in their annual outdoor 7-a-side tournaments in November at Leyland St Mary's.

The U12 team placed 5th and the U14 team placed 4th. Both teams played really well and were unlucky in a couple of games to be beaten in the final seconds of the matches. The girls are looking forward to competing in their 5-a-side indoor tournaments, which will take place in the new year.

Netball

The Year 7 girls played their first matches this term against Penwortham Girls High School. They lost against Penwortham's A team, but beat their B team 8-0. Well done to all the girls in the team!

The Year 8 netball team travelled to Priory Academy to play matches against Priory and Walton Le Dale High School, with results as follows:

BSM 6-1 WLD

BSM 1-2 Priory

Well done, everyone!



Esports Tournament



Over the last half term, pupils have been showcasing their gaming talents by participating in the Esports inter-house competition, focused on exploring the world of professional gaming and testing their FC 24 skills. The competition has provided a platform for pupils to engage in healthy competition and showcase their abilities within the school community. With over 50 entrants, the tournament has been a real success, and lots of high-level, competitive fixtures have taken place. Congratulations to our finalists who will be competing for the trophy in the final days of term:



Year 7: Prince N & David M
Year 8: Elliot M, Joe C & Isaac C
Year 9 Champion: Harry A

Senior House Council

As a school, we value the feedback our pupils give us, and we actively encourage their voice in our half-termly House Council and Senior House Council meetings. In these meetings, pupils have the opportunity to have their say in relation to various issues that directly affect their life and learning within school. You ask, we deliver! Pupils were also rewarded for their participation in House Council with some Dominos in the final week of term!



Advent Worship

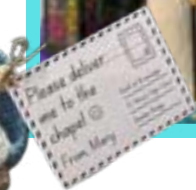
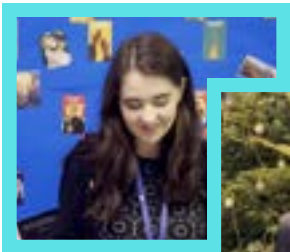
This term marked the beginning of the season of Advent, a time of hopeful waiting for the coming of Christ. There has been lots going on in school to help us enter into this season, including:

Advent Mass - Throughout Advent, Fr Mark will join us in our school chapel for the celebration of Mass, followed by some hot chocolate and mince pies in the cosy room. **Advent**

Challenges - Every day, our Advent calendars have given each form a daily act of kindness to complete. **Weekly Video** - Each week, our Year 11 Chaplaincy Captains created a video, reflecting on the weekly Gospel and the themes of each Advent candle. If you would like to watch these, you can find them on the Chaplaincy Instagram.

Travelling Nativity - Mary, Joseph and many others who visited the stable in Bethlehem have been making their way round Brownedge! Throughout Advent, every form has welcomed one of these figures into their classroom and shared a time of prayer together.

Mary - Alongside our travelling Nativity, Mary has been making another journey to our Brownedge staff, spending some time with them in the chapel and sharing in some Quality Streets!



Umpiring

On Sunday 10th December, Michael in Year 7 umpired his first senior cricket matches, Great Harwood v Penwortham and Penwortham v Leyland in a Women's Indoor 6-a-side league.

On Sunday 17th December, he then completed the Young Officials course. This is normally for people age 13-25, however, Michael was able to complete it because he already has his Level 1 Umpires qualification, and started umpiring junior games earlier in the year. We have heard how well he did answering questions and with his signals - well done, Michael!



Carol Service

In our final week of term, we celebrated our annual Carol Service at St Mary's Church. We celebrated through song, dance, art and prayer with our school community, families and parish. It was wonderful to join together and take some time to pause and reflect on the journey taken by Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.

A special thank you to St Mary's Browndedge Parish for welcoming us, to all pupils and staff involved in planning this service and to the Blackburn and Darwen Brass Band for their beautiful music.

All pupils and staff will be coming together on the final day of term, for us all to experience this celebration once more, as we joyfully prepare our hearts for Christmas!



A Night in at Browndedge

As a reward for their dedication to their duties, Year 11 prefects partook in a special night at school in the final week of term. Our prefects came together in the evening to share in fun, games and food in a relaxed atmosphere. Well done to each and every one of them for all they do to support the Browndedge community.



SCHOOL REOPENS ON MONDAY 8TH JANUARY 2024



Browndedge St Marys



@browndedgestmarys



@BrowndedgeStMary

**Have a
blessed
Christmas!**

