



# Shining Lights Newsletter

December 2025

*Celebrating success*



As we come to the end of this first term, I am filled with gratitude for the countless ways our pupils have continued to let their light shine, living out Christ's call to share the gifts God has placed within them and echoing the hope and joy of the Christmas season. From moments of quiet compassion to joyful perseverance in their learning, their light grows ever brighter because of the encouragement, guidance and dedication offered by our staff and the unwavering support of our families.

Thank you to all our pupils for the hope and inspiration they bring each day, and to our staff for the love and commitment with which they serve our community - together you help our school reflect God's light to the world. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, I send my Holy Christmas wishes to you all. May your homes be filled with peace, joy, and the warmth of Christ's love. *Mrs Oddie*

## GCSE Results Day

For the third consecutive year, Brownedge St Mary's pupils have achieved the best GCSE results on record. The school is again celebrating and exceptionally proud of the immense success their pupils have achieved this year and applauds the dedication, resilience and hard work of students, staff and the whole school community.

Mrs Oddie said: "Today is an example of what hard work and perseverance can achieve, with our pupils being rewarded with superb results. Their time at Brownedge has empowered them academically, as well as enabling them to grow and learn values that will last a lifetime. This year, our pupils have achieved outstanding grades, which are a result of our culture of inclusivity and high expectations identified by Ofsted in May 2025, and I could not be prouder of what our community has achieved. Thank you for all staff who work tirelessly to support our pupils each and every day".

Results have seen an increase in 9-7 grades in the vast majority of subjects offered by Brownedge. Successes are in many areas, but notably significant are our Sciences, Languages and History results; with a 10 to 25% increase in these subjects.

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 into their next journey in learning, and able to make a difference to the world around them."



## International Rugby Star

When we returned to school after summer, we celebrated the sporting achievements of Year 11 pupil Kyle, who made his Rugby League debut for Scotland's under 16s over the break. A keen and committed sportsman, Kyle's passion for rugby is infectious, and we are delighted to see him doing so well. Great work!



## CASEO Fair



The Sports Hall was a buzz of energy, as Year 7 and 8 pupils took part in our CASEO Fair! This was an opportunity for pupils to explore what is offer at school and sign up to get involved.

CASEO encompasses our huge range of extra-curricular clubs, and at the start of term, pupils were able to find out about and sign up for everything from Gardening and Video Game club to Dance & Cheer and the Chaplaincy GIFT Team. There really is something for everyone in CASEO at Brownedge.

## Head Prefects

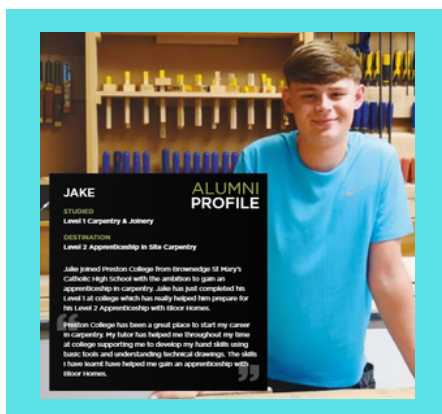
Our Head Prefects began their new roles this term. An exemplary group of Year 11s, they are committed to representing the Brownedge community at its very best in all aspects of school life. They set an example and are advocates for their peers, helping all to let their light shine. Well done Scarlett,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



## Alumni Success

Well done to our former pupil, Jake, who has been featured as a success story in the latest Preston College prospectus.

After leaving Brownedge, Jake enrolled on a carpentry course at Preston, and he has now secured a coveted apprenticeship with housebuilder Bloor Homes! A fine example of letting your light shine, and a wonderful representation of how we set our pupils up for success after they finish their time with us.



## Dance & Cheer Achievement

A huge well done to Melissa in Year 10, who recently picked up three trophies and a medal at the Cheerdance UK competition! Melissa achieved multiple podium finishes, including for a dance she choreographed herself. Congratulations!





## 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 £675 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.



## Blessed Sacrament



Pupils, staff and our wider family came together in prayer and reverence to celebrate Mass for the Reservation of the Blessed Sacrament. We paused to honour Christ's real presence among us — a reminder that Jesus remains with us always, guiding our hearts and our days. It was a sacred moment of faith, inspiring peace in our school, and helping us carry Christ's love into everything we do. Thank you to Fr Mark for celebrating this mass with us.



## Welcome Mass

Thank you to everyone who joined us in prayer and celebration as we welcomed our newest members into the Brownedge family during Welcome Mass.

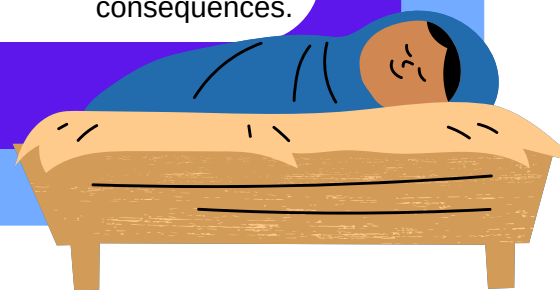
It was a joy to gather together, to reflect on the light within each of us – a light to be cared for, nurtured and shared for the good of others. We look forward to walking alongside our Year 7s and working in partnership with their families as they begin their Brownedge journey.

Welcome to the family, Year 7 – may your time here be filled with growth, friendship and love.



## Streetwise

Thank you to Lancashire County Council's Streetwise team for joining us for their interactive session on road safety. Pupils in Year 7 enjoyed a lively presentation which underscored key messages around staying safe when travelling to school, and emphasised the concepts of risk, responsibility and consequences.



## Parliament Trips

Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 pupils had an unforgettable day exploring the heart of British democracy at the Houses of Parliament! From learning about the rich history of Parliament to taking in the sights of London, it really was a day that brought classroom learning to life in an inspiring way.

The visit was a brilliant opportunity to reflect on key British values — democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect — and to see how these principles shape the world we live in.

A fantastic day all round — and seeing our students so engaged and thoughtful about the world around them was a real highlight.



## Natural High Presentation

Our Year 7s enjoyed a 'Natural High' presentation by David Graham. Complimenting our rich PSHE curriculum, his powerful message to our young people was to find what truly makes them feel happy and alive — their Natural High. Whether it's music, sport, creativity, learning, or just being with loved ones, we all have something that lifts us up, gives us fulfilment and brings us joy.

Through humour, energy, and heartfelt storytelling, David shared his message with students in a way that sticks — inspiring them to choose positive paths, build confidence, and discover their passion.

So we ask you:  
What brings you joy? What's your Natural High?



## BAE STEM Challenge

Thank you to BAE Systems for leading our Year 9 pupils in some training recently, ahead of their participation in the Lancashire STEM challenge! BAE joined us to train pupils on the Onshape 3D Printing software, and we are very grateful to BAE for their continued support to fund our use of a 3D printer and scanner in school.

It was a fantastic day that celebrated the fascinating learning opportunities in the world of STEM.





## World Mental Health Day

We were proud to host a fantastic event for World Mental Health Day, bringing our school community together to raise awareness and support positive mental health and wellbeing.

Thanks to the amazing generosity and support of our pupils and the efforts of our Mental Health Champions, we raised an incredible £726 for Lancashire Mind, who do amazing work helping children, young people and families affected by mental health challenges.

A huge thank you to everyone who took part, donated, or helped make the day such a success. Together, we are making a difference — one act of kindness at a time.

Mind Lancashire

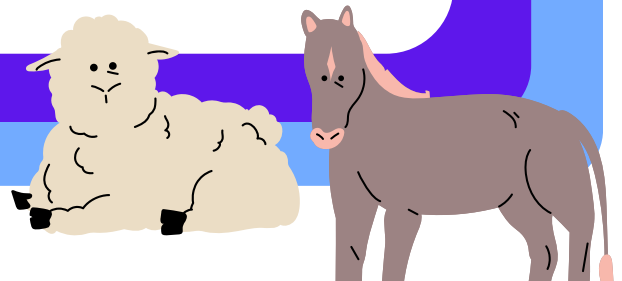
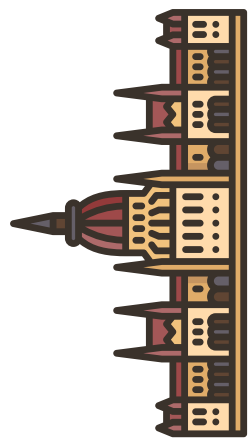


## Maya Ellis MP Visit

We were privileged to welcome our local MP, Maya Ellis, to Browndedge to meet some of our pupils. This followed our earlier visits to Parliament where pupils got to see democracy in action!

During her visit to school, Maya took time to answer questions from pupils about a variety of subjects, from the role of an MP to local concerns, while Maya also spoke about her work in the House of Commons and some of the local and national issues which are most important to her.

Thank you to Maya and her team for coming to meet our pupils and inspire the next generation of political minds!



## Red Wednesday

Red Wednesday was recently commemorated at Brownedge. Staff led pupils in assemblies and prayer, and our school building was lit with red light as we stood in solidarity with persecuted Christians around the world.



Thank you to BAE Systems for recently welcoming a group of our Year 11 pupils to their ASK facility in Samlesbury. Our pupils got to tour the building, take part in workshops and find out about BAE's coveted apprenticeship scheme.

A fantastic opportunity and a memorable experience for all.

## Under 14s Cross Country

The recent Cross Country event at Hutton saw the chance for our younger runners to demonstrate their abilities and they didn't disappoint us!

It was a hard race from the start and difficult to get in a good position, and despite the weather holding out, the course was wet and muddy in places which led to some interesting racing! There were some amazing individual and team performances from our pupils, with a number of impressive finishes.

A special mention to Freddy, who ended the day on the podium having placed 2nd. Great work, all!



## GCSE Certificate Evening

We were delighted to welcome back our amazing class of 2025 to be presented with their GCSE certificates. Our certificate evening marked a milestone in their journey and we continue to be proud of all they have and continue to achieve. You will forever be part of our family.



## Operation Christmas Child

Every year, Brownedge takes part in the Samaritan's Purse initiative Operation Christmas Child. Our forms generously fill shoeboxes with essentials to go to young people in need around the world. Thanks to the brilliant efforts of our community, we were able to fill 60 boxes to donate to this excellent cause.





## Buzzing With Wonder

Last June, we had two beehives safely installed in the school grounds in the wildlife area by 'Buzzing with Wonder', an organisation dedicated to inspiring students about the incredible world of honeybees and their essential role in our ecosystem.

When Idrees from Buzzing With Wonder saw the amazing hives designed by our pupils, he offered us the opportunity for ten pupils to have a free bee-keeping experience!

Under the guidance of Idrees, the expert beekeeper, pupils donned bee-keeping clothing that offered full protection. They safely explored one of our working honeybee colonies, learning about the intricate dynamics of bee life. It was an unforgettable experience that not only educated but also instilled an appreciation for nature and the importance of bees in the ecosystem.

Pupils got to hold the box that actual bees were working in the hive and got to take them out of the hive. They also looked for the Queen bee, but she was too well protected by the other working bees!

It was an amazing experience and everyone went home with smiles on their faces after this fantastic day.



## Year 9 Castlerigg Retreat



Our Year 9 pupils enjoyed a wonderful couple of days at Castlerigg, taking time to step back from the everyday and reconnect with themselves, each other, and God. Guided by The Wild Goose theme (Holy Spirit), pupils have explored what it means to be rooted in faith while growing in friendship, trust, and confidence.

We've been so proud to see them shine brightly—supporting one another, embracing new experiences, and reflecting deeply.

A huge thank you to the Castlerigg team for their warmth and welcome, and to our fantastic pupils for making the retreat so special.



## Formula 1 STEM Event



Four of our Year 11 students had the fantastic opportunity to attend the “F1: STEM, Sport or Business” lecture at Hutton Grammar delivered by James Allison, Technical Director of the Mercedes AMG PETRONAS Formula One Team.

James Allison is one of the most respected engineers in Formula 1, having played a key role in multiple World Championship-winning cars across his career. He has held senior technical leadership positions at teams including Ferrari, Renault and Mercedes, and is widely regarded as a leading figure in automotive engineering, innovation and high-performance design.

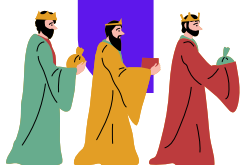
During the talk, James shared fascinating insights into his career in F1, how a race team operates at the highest level, and the diverse range of pathways into the sport — from engineering and aerodynamics to data analysis and business roles. The students were particularly inspired by the real-world examples of cutting-edge design and innovation within Formula One.

Following the lecture, our students were invited to an exclusive meet-and-greet in the Sixth Form Centre, where they had the chance to speak with James individually and ask their own questions — a truly memorable and motivating experience.



## South Ribble Tech Careers Workshop

We were delighted to welcome South Ribble Council to school this term to deliver a tech workshop to a group of Year 10 pupils. Those who took part got to develop a range of soft skills like teamwork and pitching, while they also took part in activities including video game character design! Our thanks to South Ribble Council for providing this opportunity.







## Under 16s Cross Country

Well done to our Year 10 and 11 Cross Country runners, who battled hard against both fellow schools and Storm Claudia at November's meet! Our pupils showed amazing resilience and we were really proud of their efforts in such challenging conditions.

There were some great performances, particularly from our Girls team, with Head Girl, Erin and Year 10 pupil Sammy both placing in the Top 10. Great work!



## Trampolining Star

Well done to Emily in Year 7, who continues to excel as a trampolinist! Competing against some much older and more experienced girls, Emily recently picked up a medal and trophy at her latest events. A great example of letting your light shine!



## South Ribble Dance & Cheer

The South Ribble Dance & Cheer competition was held at Brownedge for the first time recently! It was a fantastic event in an area of sport our school continues to make excellent strides in, and a number of our pupils picked up winners awards. Well done, all!



## Advent Food Bank Donations

As part of our Christmas celebrations at Brownedge, pupils were encouraged to bring in food to donate to those in need. Our Head Boy, Ace and Head Girl, Erin, were delighted to represent school and take our boxes of donations to the local food bank last week, where they got to see the vital work being undertaken by the amazing volunteers in our community. Thank you to all who donated.



## Go Karting Reward

As a reward for maintaining an exceptional attitude so far this year, a group of our Year 11 boys enjoyed a trip to Team Sport Karting in the penultimate week of term. Our pupils took on Mr Banks and Mr Hayhurst as they raced around the track in what was a fun and competitive outing. Keep up the great work, lads!





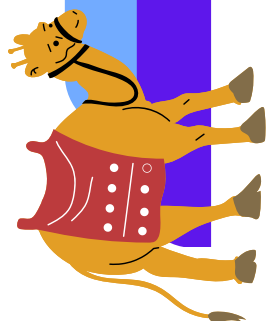
## Year 7 Cyber MEGA Day

Well done to our Year 7 pupils who represented Browndedge at the recent Lancashire Cyber MEGA Day at Runshaw College. Our pupils got to grips with coding robots, games design and a cyber-themed challenge against other local schools. A special mention for Elias, Joanna, Kezia and Rozalia, who's team placed third in the cyber challenge! Great job, everyone.



## Christmas Market

Thank you to everyone who came down to support our annual Christmas Market in aid of St Catherine's Hospice. From stalls helmed by some amazing local businesses to Santa's Grotto and Mrs Kenny's famous turkey butties, there was so much on offer and it was brilliant to see everyone getting into the festive spirit.







## Advent Reconciliation

Pupils from across school gathered in the hall for our Reconciliation service as term drew to a close. With opportunities available for pupils to take part in confession and to speak with a priest, it marked a peaceful and prayer-filled way to end the term.

## Netball Success

Well done to our Year 9 Netball team, who have had a brilliant term. Their most recent fixture saw them beat Leyland St Mary's 19-5, with Mrs Isherwood noting their amazing team spirit and commitment this year. Great job!



## PNE in the Community

In November, our Under 13 Girls football team represented Brownedge at an event hosted by 'PNE in the Community'. This day was held at the Bamber Bridge Sports Hub, and involved the girls participating in a football tournament followed by a leadership workshop. The girls all really enjoyed the experience and the chance to link up with our local Championship side.



## Girls Football

The U16 girls football team have been busy playing fixtures this term, with visits to Blackpool and Nelson, as well as our local schools. Most recent was a fixture against Leyland St Mary's, where the girls were held to a hard-fought 1-1 draw. Credit goes to all members of the team who always show great commitment towards representing our school!



## Boys Football

Our boys teams have also been hard at work representing Brownedge this term, with our squads representing us across South Ribble and the wider county. Our Under 15 boys, for example, put in a valiant effort against Carnforth High to narrowly lose out in the Lancashire Cup. Keep up the hard work, lads!





## European Day of Languages



To celebrate European Day of Languages, some Year 10 pupils went to St Mary's & St Benedict's Primary School in September to help lead some activities. Pupils were using their GCSE language skills and leadership skills to help the younger children celebrate their first European Day of Languages event. There were lotto games, direction activities, conversations, food tasting and Eiffel tower building! Our pupils were fabulous Brownedge ambassadors, engaged fully with the pupils and really enjoyed their time there.

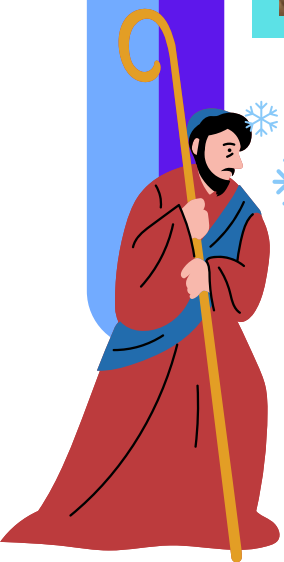
Later in the day, our MFL department hosted an Open Evening, with European food and much more on offer. It was a fabulous day which celebrated the power of learning about other languages and cultures.



## Christmas Karaoke

In the final days of term, the assembly hall came alive with one of Brownedge's most joyful traditions—Christmas karaoke. On the penultimate day of school, pupils gathered to watch their favourite teachers take to the stage and belt out classic festive hits, much to everyone's delight.

Laughter, singing, and dancing filled the hall, all in support of a good cause. Pupils donated generously to charity for the chance to enjoy the show, turning a fun celebration into an opportunity to give back. It was a heart-warming way to end the term—and a reminder of the brilliant spirit that makes our community shine at Christmas.







## A Night In @ Browndedge

As a reward for their hard work this year, pupils were treated to a 'Night In @ Browndedge', where they shared pizza, played games and took part in activities like karaoke one evening after school. An annual tradition at Browndedge, this was a very popular event that was thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance.

## Remembrance

Remembrance was, as always, commemorated at Browndedge this term. The Poppy Appeal was led by our History Leaders in school, with pupils and staff representing school at the church Remembrance service, while we also held a service in school at our Remembrance garden, where visitors from the community were invited alongside staff, pupils and governors to give thanks to those who made the ultimate sacrifice. We will remember them.



## Headteacher's Award

In recognition of outstanding attitude, attendance and behaviour, Mrs Oddie was delighted to end the term by recognising five pupils as deserving of the prestigious Headteacher's Award. Congratulations to Benjamin, Ace, Izzy, Prince and Ochelle - you have well and truly let your light shine.

## STEM Lecture

On Thursday 11 December, our Year 11 Triple Science pupils attended a Christmas STEM lecture at Hutton Grammar School titled "The Incredible Hulk: Going Green in the Modern World." This was delivered by Dr John McNally, CEO of INEOS Project One - the largest manufacturing project currently underway in Europe. The talk gave pupils an insight into how chemistry is applied in real-world industry. Pupils learned about the chemical processes involved in cracking ethane to produce ethene, a key raw material for many everyday plastics, as well as the wider challenges of managing a major international project, including logistics, sustainability and global geopolitics.

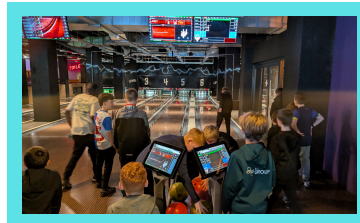




## End of Term Rewards

In the last week of term, hundreds of pupils from across the school enjoyed our rewards trip day—an event that served as a well-earned breath of fresh air after months of hard work. It was a chance for everyone to celebrate their effort and let their spirits stretch a little wider.

Our younger pupils headed to Level in Preston, where they threw themselves into laser quest, minigolf, and plenty of laughter. Meanwhile, our older year groups took on a different kind of adventure, shopping 'til they dropped at the Trafford Centre and exploring the festive sparkle of the Manchester Christmas Markets. It was a fantastic way to round off a strong term of learning. Well done to all our pupils for their commitment and enthusiasm!



## Santa Dash

Our annual, sponsored Santa Dash took place as part of our Advent programme. During their PE lessons in the penultimate week of term, in true Brownedge style, Pupils ran around the school grounds sporting Santa accessories in support of St Catherine's Hospice - a very worthwhile cause. Pupils's generosity and spirit raised £434. A special mention must go to Abby and Lilly in year 8 who raised £250 between them. Well done to all involved. It was a brilliant way to end a long and busy term, with hundreds of pounds raised for St Catherine's.

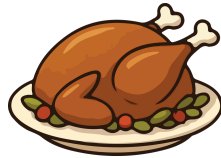






## Christmas Jumper and Dinner Day

It started with a splash of festive colour—Christmas Jumper Day filling the school with bright patterns and even brighter smiles. But the real warmth came from our community's generosity, as pupils and staff donated food items to support our local food bank. Later, we gathered as one school family to share Christmas dinner, filling the hall with chatter, laughter, and that unmistakable sense of togetherness. A heartfelt thank-you goes to our brilliant catering team, whose delicious meal helped make the celebration feel truly special.



## Technologies in the Classroom

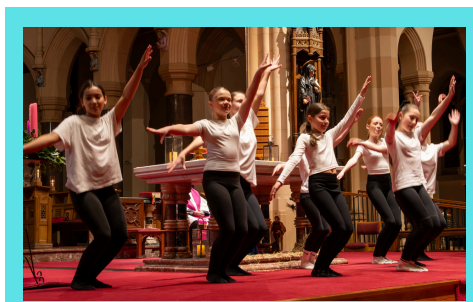
Earlier this term, our assembly hall was filled with excitement as Year 7 pupils received their new iPads. With the help of Mr Lloyd and our senior pupils, each student was given a device that will support their learning both in the classroom and at home. This is yet another phase of our digital strategy and it was wonderful to see our youngest learners so enthusiastic. These iPads will enhance lessons, encourage independent study, and help pupils develop the digital skills they'll need for the future.

We look forward to seeing the great work Year 7 will produce with these powerful learning tools.



## Carol Service

Our annual Carol Service in the beautiful surroundings of St Mary's church was a joyous evening of song and prayer in the final week of term. Pupils performed carols alongside families, members of the community and staff, with dance and readings also taking place as we celebrated the majesty of Christmas time. Thank you to everyone who came out to support the Carol Service, and to John our Chaplain, Mr Bridges and our pupils for their amazing efforts.



## Shining Lights Quiz!



1. How many pupils received the Headteacher's Award from Mrs Oddie?
2. Santa Dash raised money for which charity?
3. What was Mrs Kenny serving at the Christmas Market?
4. Which year group took part in the South Ribble Tech Careers workshop?
5. Our local MP visited Brownedge this term - what is her name?
6. What is the name of the 3D printing software that BAE trained our pupils on as part of the BAE STEM Challenge?
7. Our Year 9 Netball team beat Leyland St Mary's by what score this term?
8. Which two teachers took some Year 11s on a Go Karting rewards trip?
9. What was the name of the team from Lancashire County Council who delivered a presentation on road safety to Year 7?
10. What is the name of the pupil who recently made their Rugby debut for Scotland's Under 16s?



Answers: 1. 5 2. St Catherine's Hospice 3. Turkey Butties 4. Year 10 5. Maya Ellis 6. Onshape 7. 17-5 8. Mr Hayhurst and Mr Banks 9. Streetwise 10. Kyle

# Have a blessed Christmas!

SCHOOL REOPENS ON MONDAY 5TH JANUARY 2025

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