



Shining Lights Newsletter



July 2021

Celebrating success

As we end this extremely challenging year, I stand in awe at the outstanding group of people that make up our amazing Brownedge family! With Covid restrictions still very much in place, our superb community continues to work hard and be committed to developing their God-given talents and work for the benefit of others. They are true ambassadors of our school Mission "If we love others, we live in the light".



Year 11 Valedictory Dinner

On Wednesday 7th July, we held our annual Valedictory Dinner for the Year 11 Leavers, class of 2021. The evening was a great success and everyone looked amazing. The annual dinner is usually held at Shaw Hill Golf Club but due to current restrictions and Government guidance we were not able to hold the prom in the usual way. Instead we held the evening in a marquee in school and staff rose to the challenge of decorating it in a way that made the evening special.



We ate, chatted, listened to music and watched England win in the semi-final of Euro 2021. After a tough year, Year 11 deserved to celebrate and we are thrilled we were able to celebrate with them on such a special evening. The evening was superb and one we will remember for a long time. Our thanks go to the huge team effort: pupils taking two LFT prior to the event, parents supporting us and staff volunteering to serve the food and drinks.

With a dream and some determination, anything is possible.

Fin's Fell Run

At the end of May, Fin Anderson in 10D completed a 10km fell run in the Lakes. In very warm temperatures, Fin managed to complete the course in an amazing 1hr and 4mins! Fin has raised £255 for SSAFA, The Armed Forces Charity. Well done!



History Club

Year 8; Iris Singleton, Joe Walker and Jasmine Counsell-Thomas have done an amazing job, investigating the hidden secrets of the 'Princes in the Tower' with Miss Smith. They searched through evidence since the 1400s to make a decision as to what happened to the Plantagenet Princes in the Tower of London in the Summer of 1483. They put all their evidence and decisions together in a documentary!



The Year 7 History club, along with Mr Heraty investigated the real truths as to what happened on the fateful night in 1912, when the Titanic sank. Together, they analysed the evidence and the testimonies and deliberated in their very own court case!

Green Week

Students at Browndedge have been busy learning about the impacts we humans are having on our environment. We have looked at various key topics including

- Global warming
- Deforestation
- Pollution
- Decreasing biodiversity
- The importance of sustainable development



It has been a week of eye opening and shocking images and we now realise the importance of not sitting back and allowing these awful events to continue. We hope that everyone who has been involved in 'Green Week' is able to make a difference – ride a bike to school, use a reusable water bottle or recycle and reuse. If everyone makes one small change, we can all make a difference! Come and join us at Browndedge Eco Group to make an even bigger difference next year. We are all stewards of God's beautiful planet.

Hugo the Dog

Year 7 enjoyed a visit from a very special friend this term - Hugo the dog! Some special moments to end a very busy week. Thank you Mrs Boardman, he was lovely.



RE

It has been another busy term in Religious Education! We were sad to say goodbye to our wonderful year 11 who worked so hard under such trying circumstances; we are thrilled that quite a number have chosen to do Philosophy or Religious Studies at A Level, and we can't wait to see where that takes them! Many Congratulations to Niki Jones on winning the Year 11 RS Prize – very well deserved.

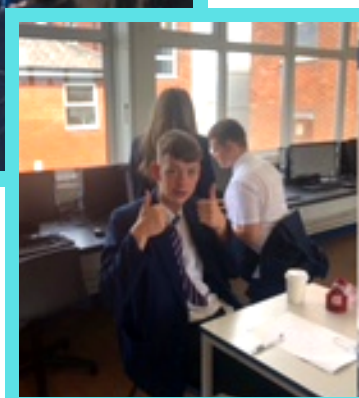
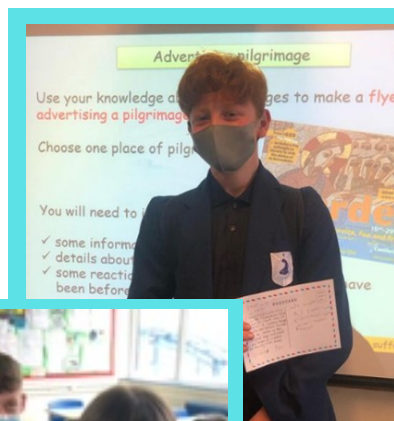


It has been an interesting term for year 10, as we have trialled an all boys class – this is something Mrs Weights wanted to do, much to the boys' surprise and disbelief! The barristers' wigs and judge's gavel got another outing, as the boys held courtroom debates about the use of the Death Penalty. They have risen to the challenge of developing their extended writing and they have shown their competitive side vying to get the most raffle tickets in the rewards draw – well done to our eventual winners Lewis, Reuben and Alex.

During 'Shine Week', we looked at Social Catholic Teaching; year 7 and 8 were investigating the principle of the dignity of work, considering workers' rights, fairtrade and our role in making sure we build a fairer world. The students led some really thoughtful, and thought provoking discussions.

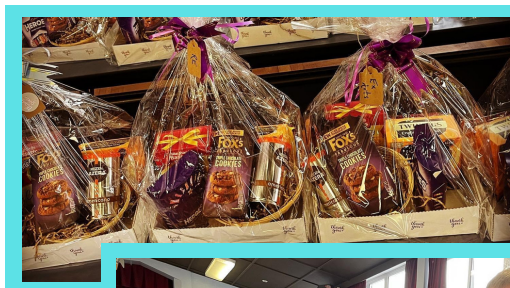
Mrs Weights' Year 10 Philosophy Club met after school to research, plan and write their entries for a national essay competition which required them to evaluate the statement 'There is no good reason to believe in God'. Their essays were fantastic – well done, and fingers crossed! We have drawn story maps, found out about Michelangelo's Pieta, used different revision strategies, written postcards from Lourdes, developed our extended writing, made rosaries out of sweets!

We try to keep our faculty Instagram up to date with what we've been up to – give us a follow! [re_at_browndedge](#)



Equality and Diversity Day

On Friday 25th June, our student Equality Ambassadors led our school in celebrating Rainbow Friday. This was a day to celebrate the diversity and equality of all the people that make up our vibrant community. We were reminded of our belief that we are made by God, in His image, which makes us all unique and very special. We are all worth celebrating, and that is what we did!



Thank a Teacher Day

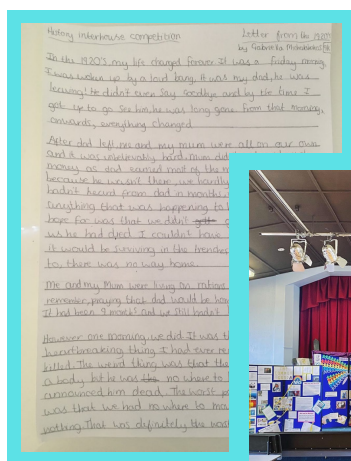
This term we celebrated National Thank a Teacher Day with our staff. Thank you to all our staff, who teach our pupils daily through your many interactions. Your continued hard work for all our pupils throughout this pandemic has been phenomenal and much appreciated.



Shine Week

In May, the whole of school took part in Shine Week. Throughout the week, staff and pupils took part in activities to celebrate our School Mission. We reminded ourselves about how Catholic Social Teaching helps us how to live out our mission to let our light shine in school and in the world. As a school we aim to follow in the footsteps of Christ and hope to make present in our unjust and broken world, the justice, love and peace of God.

Through the teachings we looked at how we can live out Jesus' work in all we do. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the week and described it as learning about "being the best you can be" and knowing that "we can work together to make people happier and look after the world because it is a gift from God".



Let Your Light Shine

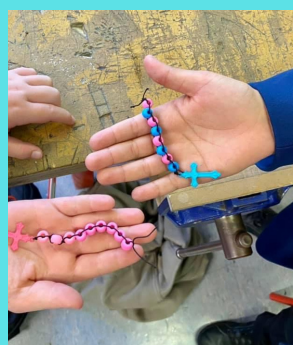
We couldn't be prouder of three of our year 8 boys. We were called by a member of the public who told us about their kindness and help in the local park. They were shining examples of our values through their actions in the local community this term. Thank you boys!



Mary Day

On 30th April, we came together to celebrate our school's patron, Mary.

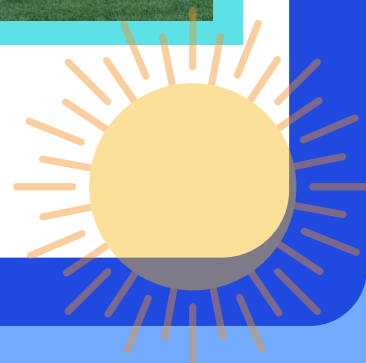
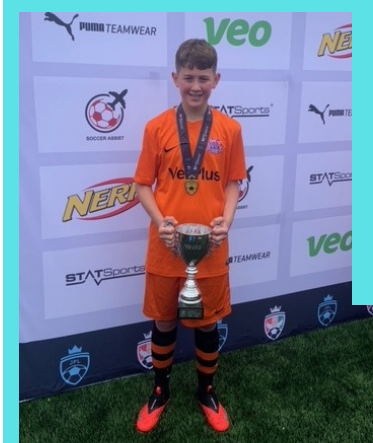
We had a day of fun and prayer, reflecting on Mary's 'YES!' Students made and prayed with their own Rosary, created art works based on different aspects of Mary's personality, prayed with the scripture of the Annunciation, wrote letters of encouragement and reflected on music about the ways that Jesus and Mary hold on to each of us.



U13's JPL National Cup

Congratulations to Charlie Botham who captained his team to the U13's JPL National Cup glory on Saturday 3rd July. Not only did he push his team to victory, he scored the all important penalty.

Congratulations Charlie, keep up the hard work.



Duke of Edinburgh

As a recognized Duke of Edinburgh Award centre, we are so proud of all our pupils working through the challenges of this prestigious award. The Duke of Edinburgh award is awarded as recognition of a young person's successful journey of self-discovery and development. Its balanced programme develops the whole person - mind, body and soul, in an environment of social interaction and team working. Over 60 pupils are currently engaged in the award. Congratulations and keep going!



Year 7 Retreat

This summer, all of our Year 7 students were given the opportunity to go on retreat to Castlerigg Manor, in the Lake District. For the first time ever, every child's place was fully funded by our governors. This retreat was a time to step back from the busyness of life, and spend some days getting to know ourselves, our friends and God more.

The week was filled with beautiful walks, prayers, games, water fights, art workshops and much more! We all had a wonderful and joyful time. Thank you to all who took part!



Golf Celebrations

On Monday 19th April, Fin Anderson and Emilie May got school sport back to some form of normality and represented Browndedge St Mary's in the Lancashire Schools' Golf Championship at Pleasington Golf Club. Having the opportunity to play Pleasington Golf Club was a treat for both pupils. Emilie playing of a Handicap of 13 performed extremely well and for a long time held the lead, only to be beaten by players from the last couple of groups. Emilie played fantastically well finishing with a gross 85 net 72 to finish in 4th place. An amazing achievement well done Emily.



Fin found the going slightly tougher. Having never previously played the course before it was always going to be a difficult test and it proved to be so. He finished with a net 87 to finish in 38th place overall. Both players represented the school amazingly well and both were commended by the Head of English Schools Golf for the conduct and etiquette they displayed on the day.

In true Browndedge style our pupils continue to live out our Gospel values beyond the classroom and the school walls. Well done to both of you. I can't wait for next year, hopefully I will be able to come and watch you both play, and even take my own clubs for a sneaky round! Any chance Mrs Oddie? (Not a chance Mr Crusham! :))

Emilie May continues to go from strength to strength with her golf game and the success just keeps on coming. On the weekend of 3rd July 2021, Emilie took part in the Lancashire Golf Association Junior Championship at Lee Park. Playing a demanding 36 holes in one day Emilie performed exceptionally well. Her first round score of 83 gross, 73 net kept her in contention for the afternoon round. Her second round score of 79 gross, 69 net enabled her to walk away with the title U14's Champion, overall net aggregate winner and round 2 net winner. A big day for Emilie. Well done on a fabulous performance. Her recent success has not gone unnoticed at county level with Emilie being asked to represent East Lancashire Golf Association in the U18's Lancashire Association Northern Championship at Morecambe Golf Club on Monday 19th July.



Good luck Emilie, all of us at Browndedge will have our fingers crossed for you. May you get the bounce of the ball and in the words of Dan Jenkins, "Fairways and Greens". Good luck Emilie!



Welcome to our new Year 7 pupils

This term we have been busy preparing for the arrival of our new year 7, and we couldn't be more excited. Although our transition days could not go ahead as planned, thwarted by an extension to restrictions, we have continued to find ways to ensure our future pupils are transitioned smoothly into our family. We have succeeded in visiting 23 primary schools to personally meet all our new arrivals, we have held taster days for some of our larger feeder primary schools, we have an exciting and very popular Olympic themed summer school planned in August and for our families we have been able to invite them in for 'covid secure' guided tours.



For many of our families it was the first time they have ever been able to enter the building and we are delighted to be able to welcome them and familiarise themselves with our community. We are looking forward to September, when we have a bespoke induction programme planned for year 7, which is going to kickstart what is going to be an amazing year.

Lent Reflection Day



Students began their day by building their own den, reflecting the words of Psalm 27: "For there he keeps me safe in his tent." They then reflected on Mrs Hall's story of her journey on pilgrimage, before going on their own reflective walk. Students were invited to write their own poems and create an artwork based on some worship music. They finished the day by writing a letter of encouragement to their future selves. We received so much beautiful work from the day - thank you everyone!

Learning for Life

Pupils have enjoyed three Learning for Life days, where pupils covered Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE). An essential part of their curriculum and their development. By utilising TenTen's programme of Life to the Full pupils experienced an enriched provision within the context of a Christian understanding of human sexuality rooted in the wisdom and teaching of the Catholic Church.

To ensure our pupils didn't miss out because of COVID disruption we designed three bespoke drop down days that were packed with activities and experience that covered everything from healthy relationships to sex educations, from drug misuse and abuse to staying safe online, from how to save a life with CPR to keeping good mental health and wellbeing and from knife crime to keeping control of my choices. All pupils engaged superbly well, and gained so much from them.



Church Mary Shrine

During May, our Parish Church was joined by Bishop John Arnold, for the blessing of St. Mary's Brownedge Church shrine to Our Lady. Alongside Fr Mark Harold, pupils led us in prayer and song, as we celebrated our Mother, Mary. It was a beautiful evening of prayer which we were very blessed to be a part of.



Leavers' Mass

This term we said goodbye to our Year 11, and ended their Leavers' Day with the celebration of Mass at our parish church. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." - Jeremiah 29:11



Careers

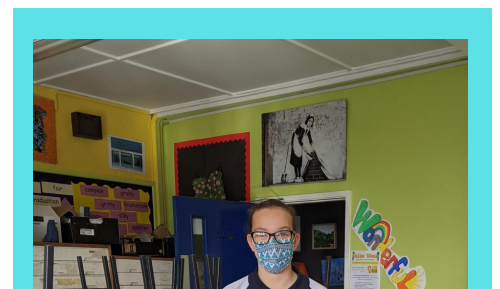
This half term, we have had a real drive in our Careers Programme for pupils to consider their future pathways. This has included focused, targeted sessions as well as whole year group activities. Due to Year 11 missing out on this essential element of their education, once the pupils had completed their formal assessments for Teacher Assessed Grades, they were given the opportunity to attend a variety of sessions led by school and external providers.

Provision included writing CVs and job application forms, virtual university tours and ASK Apprenticeship webinars. Year 10 pupils also had access to some of these presentations. Year 9 have been involved in STEM activities this half term. Some pupils participated in a virtual Energy Quest Workshop. During this event pupils completed a challenge to create a charge using limited equipment and found out about different engineering roles. They were amazing and the session was really interesting! All Year 9 also participated in four hours of STEM learning, delivered by STEM First, during the whole school examination week. They took part in activities, and had the opportunity to investigate the many different job roles that are available in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths through discussions with employees working in STEM careers.



Brownedge Bounce - Rewards Day

To celebrate all the hard work that students have put in this year and all the ways they have lived out the Gospel values, students were given reward a Bounce Back day of fun!



Charlotte's Fundraising

In August next year, Charlotte Duke is visiting Malawi in Africa with her explorer group. She will be working alongside a charity called FOMO, who care for orphaned and vulnerable children in Malawi. Charlotte has been arranging her own fundraisers in school to support this charity. Well done Charlotte!



Catholic Social Teaching Competition

The Church teaches that Catholic Social Teaching has been given to us by Jesus to guide us in acting out our faith. This term we launched a very special competition challenging our school to live out the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Each House, along with the Intervention Team and SLT, were given one of the seven principles of Catholic Social teaching to act out in the lead up to Pentecost. There was so much amazing work completed during this competition and many incredible examples of how we can build God's Kingdom here on Earth. Fr Mark struggled to choose a winner as they were all so wonderful! Well done to everyone.



Each of our school Houses, along with SLT and the Intervention Team, were given a principle of Catholic Social Teaching (CST) to live out this term:

| | |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| BOSCO | The Dignity of Work |
| DREXEL | Solidarity |
| KOLBE | Care for Creation |
| ROMERO | The Option for the Poor |
| TERESA | The Common Good |
| SLT | Dignity |
| INTERVENTION | Peace |

Drexel - Solidarity

Drexel House completed lots of tasks which displayed solidarity in our school and community! These included: collecting donations for toiletries for the homeless; writing letters to the elderly in care homes; gifting Year 11 students with welfare packs; writing letters of welcome to our feeder primary schools.

Bosco - The Dignity of Work & Participation

During a busy term, Bosco House led many wonderful initiatives to boost morale amongst pupils and staff. These included: gifting each staff member with chocolate and encouraging scripture artworks; finishing displays early so that staff and students could have more time of dedicated rest; researching Pope Francis' 'Fratelli Tutti' document; taking the time to make prayerful art; working with our school governors to see how we could further improve the dignity of work and participation.

Teresa - The Common Good

Teresa House worked to promote the common good through: educating others on the environmental problems the world is facing; building safe homes for bees; collecting food for our local food bank; raising money for CAFOD through a cake sale; looking at ways we can work to end hate crime; recycling plastic to make plant holders and footballs.

Kolbe - Care for Creation

Kolbe House have been working together to care for our common home by: litter picking around school; challenging each Kolbe student to write one way they can commit to caring for our community; growing plants together; ensuring more recycling and turning off electric in school; working towards the Blue Peter Green Badge.

Romero - The Option for the Poor & Vulnerable

Romero House have been caring for the poor and vulnerable through: collecting spare change from students and staff; making pledges of how each student in Romero House will help those less fortunate; running a clothes bank to give to those in need in our local community; creating wellbeing bundles for the homeless, an initiative which will continue throughout the year.



Mental Health Champions

This term the Intervention Team recruited a group of 'Mental Health Champions.' They received many fantastic applications from pupils in Year 10. These wonderful students will be trained and supported to help others to promote positive mental health and well-being.



End of Year Liturgy

On our final day of the school year, we joined together to celebrate our End of Year Liturgy. Our Liturgy took part virtually, with students and staff watching together in form. The Liturgy included reading, songs and reflections from both students and staff. It was a time of thanksgiving, where we showed our gratitude to God in this challenging year. You can watch and pray with our Liturgy via our school chaplaincy Instagram: @bsm_chaplaincy

SCHOOL REOPENS FOR TESTING ON 6TH SEPTEMBER 2021



Brownedge St Marys



@browndgestmarys



@BrownedgeStMary

**Have a happy
summer break!**

