



Shining Lights Newsletter



Easter 2022

Celebrating success

Welcome to our Easter edition of Shining Lights. What a term it has been! Full of sunshine and full of activities and events that have enriched the lives of our amazing pupils. It is wonderful to see so many of our young people sharing their talents, serving others with kindness and pushing out of their comfort zone to make a difference to others in their community. This is what makes Brownedge so special and even more special as we continue to move out of challenging COVID times. Thank you to our superb staff who make this happen.



When it comes to school dinners, every Monday at Brownedge is now a Meat-Free Monday! Another initiative proposed by School Council as a way we can help to look after our planet and protect God's creations, our canteen and Brownedge Bites food van are now serving healthy, sustainable alternatives to meat every Monday.

School Council

You asked, and we listened! Following feedback from School Council, our Brownedge Bites food van was installed this term outside the ELC, serving tasty meals and snacks to pupils during break and lunch, and it's proved a big hit!



Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day - an annual day of remembrance where we think of the millions of Jews and other minorities killed under Nazi persecution - was commemorated this term at Brownedge. Our History Leaders delivered assemblies to our pupils to raise awareness of not only the Holocaust, but all the other genocides that have taken place, and those that continue to this day. Our Brownedge family joined thousands across the country in coming together to learn more about the past in order to create a safer future for all.



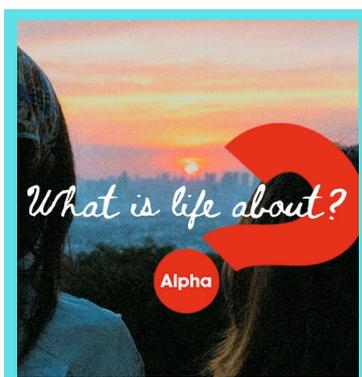
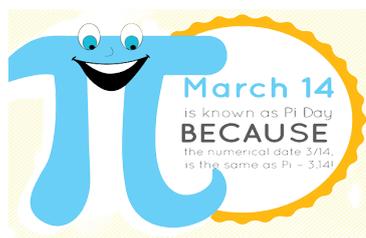
Children's Mental Health Week

Our Mental Health Champions have been hard at work all term, but particularly at the start of February, when they endeavoured to raise awareness around Children's Mental Health Week 2022. Our Champions produced an informative video about mental health which was shown in form time, and they also raffled off chocolate hampers - built with chocolate donated by our school community - to raise money for the excellent youth mental health charity YoungMinds. It was fantastic and important work by all involved, and just a small example of how our Champions always rise to the occasion.



Our Maths faculty held an Inter-house competition where students were asked to bake a Pie for Pi Day, which is celebrated on 14th March every year. The department picked first, second and third place based on the most creative mathematical pie.

Well done to Ruby-Julie in 10R, Ruby in 7K and Jessica in 7T, who placed first, second and third respectively!



Maths 'Pi Pie' Baking Competition

Alpha Group

During the season of Lent, we are called to deepen our prayer life and relationship with Jesus. To support our pupils in this journey, we launched a Youth Alpha series in school. This after-school group is a space where all can explore Christianity's big questions in a friendly and comfortable way. Each week we meet to have a meal together, catch up, watch a video and discuss faith.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the first day in the season of Lent. Throughout this season we take time to think about our lives and the ways we can grow closer to Jesus, as we journey with Him to the cross and to the certain joy of Easter. We prepare our hearts for this joy through praying, fasting and giving.



To mark the beginning of Lent, our pupils and staff spent the afternoon at Church for our Ash Wednesday service. A huge thank you to all the pupils to read and distribute ashes, and to Fr Mark for helping us enter into this beautiful season!

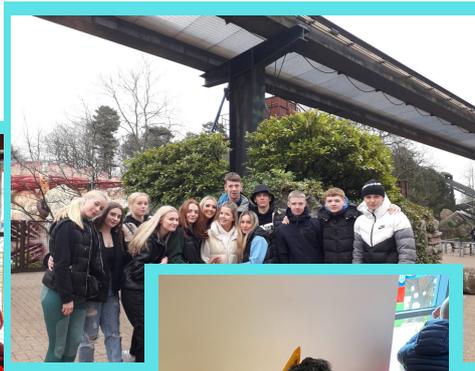
Preston College Interviews

Preston College came to Brownedge to interview some of our year 11 pupils who are pursuing further study. Well done to all who completed interviews - we are sure your light will shine bright as you continue your education!



Year 11 Rewards Trip

Year 11s enjoyed a fun-filled day at Alton Towers, their final trip before the GCSEs and recognition for their hard work this year. The rain and snow held off and they had a great time on the rides and even managed to win some prizes too!



Ukraine Donations

Ever since the crisis began, the entire Brownedge family have been praying for the people of Ukraine. This term, we asked our community for donations to help those affected and were overwhelmed by the response; thanks to your generosity, we were able to completely fill up our minibus full of essential supplies and deliver them to a donation centre. Several teachers and pupils gave up their time to load our bus with items including clothing, toys, toiletries and nappies, all of which were then delivered to the depot by Miss Mault and two pupils. Thank you to everyone for your generosity.



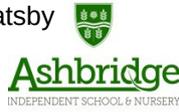
Charity Afternoon

The last week of term saw the school pull together to raise money for charity. Every year during Lent we hold a charity afternoon. This year's charity afternoon included a whole variety of activities such as a chocolate fountain, raffles, a chocolate tombola, name the teddy, a 5-a-side football tournament, sponge the teacher and leg waxing! The money raised this year is being donated to Mary's Meals; a charity which provides school meals for children in the poorest countries of world. Well done to everyone for raising a grand total of £1730 (at the time of print, with more to come!). This will make a massive difference to the lives of children around the world!.



Ashbridge Nursery Visit

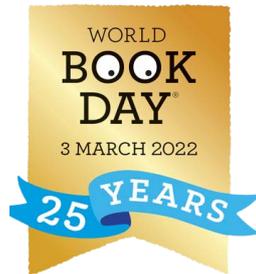
Ashbridge Nursery paid a visit to our Health and Social Care pupils at the start of term. Representatives from the nursery delivered a bespoke employer engagement session to our students, providing a valuable insight into the workplace and the future pathways available after study. Their visit was part of our wider Careers programme, which achieved 100% in the Gatsby benchmarks, the criteria at the heart of the National Careers Strategy for schools.



World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day at Brownedge. Our pupils took part in a number of activities, including a 'Book Stop' at break/lunchtime, interhouse competitions and favourite book discussions.

Our English teachers also dressed up as their favourite book characters - see if you can recognise any of them in the picture!.



Reconciliation Day

During Lent, pupils took part in a Reconciliation Day, where they spent some time in prayer and were able to receive the sacrament of reconciliation. In this season of returning to the Lord with our whole hearts, it was beautiful to be able to offer this sacrament in school once more. A huge thank you to Fr Jonathan and Fr Bernard for joining us for this special day in school, and to our Chaplaincy GIFT Team pupils for their service during the day.



Schools Football

This term has seen several excellent performances from our football teams. Notable results include a 5-4 victory on penalties vs Balshaws and a 5-1 win over Leyland St Mary's for the year 9s, and 5-0 and 3-2 wins over Walton-le-Dale and Leyland St Mary's respectively for the year 11s. Mr Crusham and Mr Hayhurst have been impressed by the dedication of a number of players, noting several excellent performances, including: Jake, Will, Austin and Owen in Year 9; Lewis, Spencer and Chloe in year 7; and Caden and Luca for year 10. Above all, though, football is a team game, and it is together that our pupils' light shines brightest when they pull on the Brownedge shirt. Well done to all who played!



Maths Intermediate Challenge

The Intermediate Mathematical Challenge 2022 was taken on by several Brownedge pupils this year. Students have taken part in a 60 minute mathematical challenge which is designed to make them think hard, with some very difficult problems to solve. 10 students in year 9 were selected to take part. The top 50% of participants in the challenge are awarded Bronze, Silver and Gold in the ratio 3:2:1. The

Year 9s have done brilliantly, with 7 students being awarded a Bronze certificate. Well done to James B, who received best in school.

Romero Feast Day

On 24th March we celebrated the feast day of one of our inspiring House Saints, St. Oscar Romero. Romero was a Catholic priest in El Salvador, where he was born. He was named archbishop during a time of political turmoil in the 1980s.

Despite his own personal struggles, Romero accepted God's call to become a voice for the voiceless in his community. Our Romero pupils and staff dressed in something red to celebrate this incredible saint and martyr, and spent the day partaking in games, creative workshops and prayer to celebrate his witness.





Referees

Well done to Caden and Fletcher in year 10 - both are now qualified referees recognised by the Football Association! The boys completed a day of practical assessment as well as a theory test to qualify, and will now look to rise up the pyramid and one day referee in the professional game. Hard work pays off.

Cross Country Championships and Athletics

Well done to Erin, Charlie and Anna, who all shone bright as they ran in the Lancashire Schools Cross-Country Championships. Representing the South Ribble district, our three runners performed admirably in difficult elements and against a very strong field. We are incredibly proud of their effort and commitment.



Year 7 and 8 boys and girls have also taken part in some competitions recently, and our Y7 girls put in a strong showing to finish third in their recent event. Well done to all who represented Brownedge!



Runshaw Geography Workshop

Four of our year 10 Geography pupils spent the day at Runshaw College as they took part in a 'Volcano Discovery' workshop. Thank you Runshaw for an exciting and informative day, and well done to Amy, Erin, Josh and Marcus for your work!



Mental Health Champions Fundraisers

Our Mental Health Champions continue to work on a number of initiatives that will stretch into the Easter period and beyond. Our champions have several fundraising ideas, including sponsored walks, with the aim of raising as much money as possible for YoungMinds. We are incredibly proud of their commitment.



RS Sistine Chapel Exhibition Trip

This term RS took 28 pupils on a trip to see the Sistine Chapel Exhibition in Manchester. Pupils got the opportunity to see some of the artwork by Michelangelo that we study in the RS GCSE up close and in detail, without travelling to Rome!



Geography Media City Trip

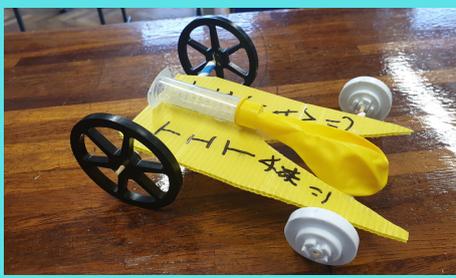
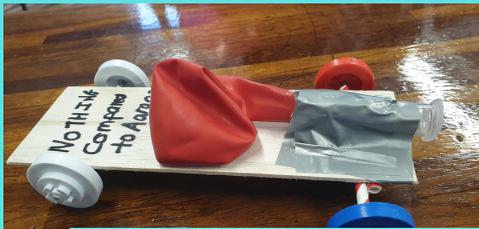
As part of their GCSE geography, 37 year 10 students had the fantastic experience of visiting Salford Quays and Media City in Manchester, in order to carry out field work and to study one of the finest examples of urban regeneration in the UK. Students carried out a land use survey, environmental quality survey and completed some questionnaires with visitors to the area. They also had the opportunity to visit the Imperial War Museum, say 'Hi' to a passing Coronation Street star and enjoy lunch at one of the fine dining establishments. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed the day and the fine sunny weather. A big thank you to Miss Lane and Miss Bowe who supported Mr Goodall with this great trip out.



Science Club

This term in Science Club, the pupils have been looking at properties of materials. They have:

- Investigated different slimes
- Looked at the polymer found in nappies and investigated its water absorption ability
- Made and tested different glue recipes, some dating back to the ancient Egyptians
- Investigated the strength of a variety of sticky tapes, to see which needed the most amount of force to pull the tape off a wooden board.
- They have also spent several weeks building balloon-powered cars and then competed against Mr Brooks' still-unbeaten balloon car.



STEM Club

Working towards their CREST award, the STEM club are investigating several things needed to help them survive a zombie apocalypse. So far, they have built and tested:

- Early warning systems - they built pressure switches attached to an alarm
- Communications devices - one team built a Morse code device; another improved on the classic cup-on-a-string to make a switchboard of cups on strings.
- Neck armour - one team designed a simple neck armour similar to a scarf; another team built a whole protective armour using polycarbonate plates
- Sound-dampening shoes; they had to build a device to put over their shoes to make their footsteps quiet. Both teams were very successful, only making 3 decibels over the background sound of the lab

Future projects include:

- Building a solar oven
- Building a siege engine to launch a zombie vaccine
- Researching real zombie infections in nature



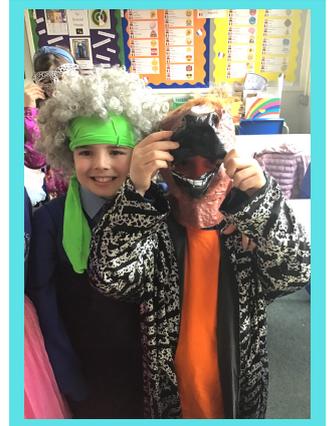
UCLAN Saturday Club Exhibition

Mrs Oddie and Mrs Stockton were able to visit UCLan's PR1 Gallery for the opening of their UCLan Saturday Club exhibition. Four of our year 11 pupils have been attending their Fashion and Business Saturday Classes for the past 3 months designing and making clothing from recycled denim fabric. The show was opened by Turner Award winning artist Lubaina Humid CBE who praised the students for their creativity and enthusiasm. Well done Eddie, Tia, Veronica and Agrita. It was a fabulous show.



Year 5 Taster Days

Lots of fun was had by our year 5 visitors from local feeder primary school in our series of Taster Days! It has been a privilege to welcome pupils from St Patrick's, St Mary & St Benedict's, Coupe Green, St Joseph's, St Leonard's and St Bede's, and give them a taste of life as part of the Brownedge family. The sample lessons put on by our Food Technology team - where pupils got to bake cookies - were a particular hit with our visitors!



8T Fundraiser

Throughout the season of Lent pupils have been raising money in forms to be donated to Mary's Meals. These form donations were inspired by some wonderful pupils in 8T: Mia, Luca and Zac, who after we introduced them to this amazing charity, decided to bring in a glass jar to fill with donations throughout the term. Over the coming weeks, these pupils worked hard to raise these funds, and also decided to share this idea with all other forms. 8T raised an incredible £70! Thank you all for being so caring and generous.



Drexel Feast Day

On Thursday 3rd March, Drexel House celebrated the Feast of our house Saint, St Katharine Drexel (her actual Feast Day date!). We started our day with a croissant and juice breakfast and prayers led by the school GIFT Chaplaincy team. During P5, years 7-10 all met in the hall for a carousel of activities, all organised and led by members of each form. This year, the activities centred around our Lenten preparations, as well as prayers and actions for those in Ukraine. Year 11 joined us at the end of the day for a final reflection and prayer and of course the celebration cake! Extended thanks to all staff and pupils who helped with the supervision and planning of the activities.



Lent Masses

It has been a blessing to welcome Fr Mark into school each week throughout lent, to celebrate Mass for us. Pupils and staff have been invited to the chapel each Tuesday morning, to celebrate this sacrament, before joining together in the cosy room. A huge thank you to Fr Mark, and to all the pupils who read each week!

Year 7 Rock and River

At the end of a long term, pupils were rewarded with a trip down the road to Rock & River Outdoor Adventure centre. It was a wonderful day out for pupils; they practiced their orienteering skills, canoed and paddle boarded on an exceptionally cold lake and climbed to their hearts content, ending the day with the airbag jump. It was action packed and we're sure they slept well that evening after all the activity and fresh air. You rock year 7!



Bosco Feast Day

On 31st January we celebrated the feast day of St. John Bosco. This amazing saint worked with young people for much of his life, and was passionate about helping them to live out their faith with joy. One of the many ways he did this was through his love of games and circus tricks.

St. John Bosco reminded the young people he saw every day that their faith is supposed to be fun and joyful. The pupils and staff of Bosco House followed in his footsteps, having a day of games, cake, prayer and fun!



Lent

This term, we have been journeying together through the season of Lent. This is a time in which we are called to think about our lives and the ways we can grow closer to Jesus, as we journey with Him to the cross and to the certain joy of Easter. Our Chaplaincy GIFT Team pupils have been working hard of these weeks to help us enter into this season, in which we are called to pray, fast and give. Pupils have done this through weekly videos, where they have reflected on the Sunday gospel from Mass, fundraising for Mary's Meals, chapel prayer times, daily challenges, collective worship activities, assemblies and many other prayerful ways of preparing our hearts for Easter!



Long Service Award

Mrs Oddie was delighted to present our cleaner, Mrs Fields, with a Long Service Award, recognising her incredible 50 years of service to Brownedge. Mrs Fields commented that her favourite thing about working at Brownedge is how "friendly, kind and considerate" everyone is. She also shared her favourite memory of her time as part of the Brownedge family, remembering how, after she told a pupil how long she'd been working here, he replied, 'Oh my goodness! I'm going to go home and tell my mum we've got the oldest and best cleaner in the world!' Mrs Fields - our longest-serving member of staff - has been at Brownedge under five Headteachers during her time at the school.



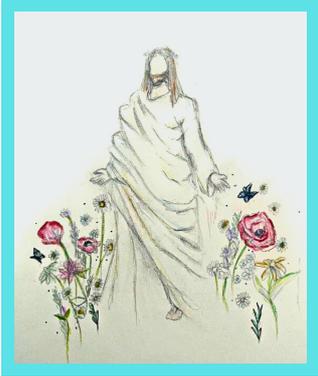
Celebration Assemblies

At the end of every term, we celebrate the achievements of our community with our infamous House Celebration assemblies, with certificates, vouchers and lots of chocolate eggs handed out. Pupils receive recognition for everything from their work ethic in lessons, to their sporting accolades, to their actions underpinned by our Gospel Values. We are always so proud of everything they do and this provides an opportunity to celebrate the skills, talents and actions of our young people. They are just fantastic. Well done everyone!



Easter Liturgy

On our first day of the summer term pupils will be gathering at our parish church to celebrate this year's Easter Liturgy. It has been three years since we have been able to celebrate an Easter Liturgy in person, therefore for this year's Easter Liturgy, we wish to get back to the core of what this season is about – that Jesus Christ rose from the grave, and life shall never be the same again.



We hope that in a time of continuing struggle globally, focusing on the story of what happened that Easter Sunday will fill our school with a hope which only Jesus can bring. Pupils have been preparing dance, drama, song, artwork and prayer to help us celebrate!

Headteacher's Award

Mrs Oddie was delighted to present five pupils with the Headteacher's Award at the end of the term. All five pupils achieved 100% attendance, zero negatives and outstanding Attitude to Learning.

They were each presented with a £40 voucher from Mrs Oddie as a reward for their hard work. A fine example of our pupils shining bright - well done!



SCHOOL REOPENS ON TUESDAY 19TH APRIL 2022



Brownedge St Marys



@brownedgestmarys



@BrownedgeStMary

Have a lovely Easter!

