



Shining Lights Newsletter

Summer 2025

Celebrating success

As we reach the end of another busy and successful term, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to every member of our school community—students, staff, families, and supporters—for your incredible efforts, commitment, and teamwork. This term has been nothing short of exceptional. Together, we've achieved so much. Our pupils have continued to amaze us with their determination, creativity, and ambition. From academic excellence and sporting victories to inspiring performances, competitions, fundraising, and community outreach—there has been something to celebrate at every turn. We are incredibly proud of all that has been accomplished, and we invite you to take a moment to explore the many highlights shared in this newsletter. Every achievement reflects the dedication, care, and collaboration that define our school.



OFSTED

We are delighted with the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection, which resulted in school maintaining our GOOD judgement. This outcome is a reflection of the hard work, dedication and shared commitment of our entire school community.



The inspection team truly understood the heart of our school – recognising the inclusive, nurturing environment we work so hard to create and the high aspirations we hold for every pupil. They saw the strong relationships between staff and pupils, the high standards of teaching and support, and the safe, respectful and ambitious culture we foster every day.

Highlights from the report:

- *"Pupils and their parents and carers describe Brownedge St Mary's as a school with a 'family feel' where everyone is valued."*
- *"Pupils are united in their praise for the school's inclusive ethos. One pupil reflected the views of many, saying, 'You don't have to be afraid to be yourself here.'"*
- *"The school's work on pupils' personal development is a tangible strength. A meticulously designed programme of spiritual, moral and cultural opportunities is at the heart of school life."*
- *"Pupils leave the school as confident individuals, more than ready for their next steps in life."*

None of this would be possible without the commitment of our dedicated staff, the enthusiasm and resilience of our fantastic pupils, and the ongoing support shown by parents and carers. Thank you to all for your support.

Headteacher's Award

Well done to those pupils who recently received the prestigious Headteacher's Award from Mrs Oddie.

Aidan, Tania, Michael, Moreblessing, Owen and Althea were rewarded for their outstanding contributions to school life this year. Congratulations!



University of Manchester Trip

We took a group of Year 7s for an exciting day at the University of Manchester!

Pupils embarked on a tour of the city centre campus, while they also learned about university life and took part in a collaborative task where they launched their own sustainable businesses.

Thank you to the University of Manchester for welcoming our pupils.

Media Literacy Ambassadors

Thank you to UCLan and the Guardian for welcoming a group of our Year 10s yesterday to train as Media Literacy Ambassadors!

Our pupils took part in a workshop designed to help them spot fake news and disinformation online, with our group then utilising their knowledge in school by delivering Media Literacy sessions to pupils in Year 7.



Ruth Eastham Writing Masterclass

It was great to welcome author Ruth Eastham back to Brownedge this term.

Ruth led a day-long writing masterclass with some Year 8 pupils, where they explored their creativity by penning their own short stories before acting them out for the group. Ruth also treated our pupils to a reading of some of her new book, *The Warrior in the Mist*. It was an inspiring day celebrating the power of reading and writing.





Into the Woods

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our recent production of Into the Woods, from parents and carers to our dedicated staff. A brilliant team effort from the Brownedge family saw us light up the stage for three nights, as our incredible pupils told the magical story of Cinderella, Red Riding Hood and their friends.

A special mention to Mrs Bland and Mr Bridges for leading our cast in such a fabulous endeavour.



Interfaith Week

We held Interfaith Week at Brownedge - an event where we were celebrating and learning about different faiths, with an array of activities and guest speakers. Guests included Rabbi Zvi teaching us about Judaism, and sessions on Hinduism led by our special guest Aruna Patel. We were also privileged to welcome Hifsa Haroon-Iqbal and Jaswinder Singh for workshops on Islam and Sikhism respectively.



Salford Quays Fieldwork

Mr Goodall led our Year 10 Geographers on a tour of Salford Quays as part of their GCSE fieldwork this term. Pupils completed surveys, interviewed members of the public and sketched some of the sights of this area of regeneration.

Pupils also got the chance to visit the Imperial War Museum, and explore the shops and restaurants on offer at the Quays.

New Mental Health Champions

Our new group of Mental Health Champions have been training with Miss Mellor and mental health support team *Compass Bloom*.

Our exemplary new group of champions have committed to learning about and advocating for understanding around mental health, and will be running a number of initiatives to support their peers and charitable causes in the coming months.

Well done, all.



Digital Advantage at County Hall

Thank you to Lancashire County Council for welcoming us to County Hall to celebrate our work on the recent Digital Advantage project.

Our pupils got to showcase their work alongside other local schools, with three of our pupils - Jaxon, Joey and Alfie - picking up awards in recognition of their outstanding efforts.

Leavers Day



Leavers Day was an emotional one for staff and pupils alike, as we bid farewell to our incredible Year 11s.

This year group have shown true resilience and dedication, embodying the Browndedge spirit in their drive to let their light shine.

It was a particularly special day for this year group, as COVID lockdowns meant these pupils never experienced a proper 'goodbye' from primary school. Getting the chance to celebrate, reminisce and make memories together one last time was something everyone cherished throughout the day.

From a tear-jerking leavers assembly, to a peaceful mass, and pizzas, ice cream and shirt signing in the grounds of St Mary's Church, it was a fantastic way for Year 11 to end their Browndedge journey.

Goodbye, good luck and thank you for everything, Year 11.



Cyber Security Escape Room

Thank you to CyberFirst for inviting a group of our Year 9s to take on the CGI Cyber Escape Room at Media City!

Our pupils headed to Salford Quays to take on the challenge, with all relishing the opportunity to tackle some cyber security-themed tasks. As you can see, Year 9 managed to escape!

Great work!



TeenTech Festival

Thank you to the TeenTech Festival and Edge Hill University for inviting our Year 9s for a day of inspirational tech activities!

Pupils got to grips with VR headsets, equipment used in operating theatres and even tried out some sound engineering with the BBC.

Our team ended the day by coming up with some ideas for new innovations, picking up the 'Super Safety' award for their pitch for an app that alerts users to areas of high crime.

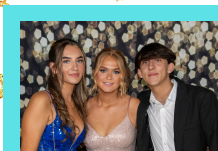


Valedictory Dinner 2025

We welcomed our incredible Year 11s to Shaw Hill for their Valedictory celebration.

From the visit of TikTok stars Spud Bros to an array of dazzling outfits, it was a joyous evening where we celebrated this year group's time at Browndedge.

Pupils enjoyed a three-course meal, speeches and prize-giving, before dancing the night away one last time as Browndedge pupils. Thank you for everything, Year 11!





Expressive Arts Evening

Our inaugural Expressive Arts Evening was held in the penultimate week of term. Pupils showcased their artwork and performed music, dance and theatrical pieces, in what was a joyous celebration of the creativity amongst our student body. We were also privileged to welcome representatives from the Samlesbury Art Society to the event, where they presented an award to one of our pupils, Alethea, for her efforts in the recent Art Bytes competition.



Prize Night

Thank you to all the families who joined us for our Prize Night celebration at St Mary's church. From the scores of pupils who received prizes to the powerful speech by our guest of honour, Rubbi Bhogal-Wood, it was a magical evening where we celebrated the best of Brownedge.

Pupils were recognised for outstanding academic, sporting and artistic achievements, as well as for service to school, charity work and support for our local parish.

Well done to everyone who let their light shine this year.



It is always special for us to celebrate outstanding pupil work. Please enjoy this poem written in July
by Dylan in Year 8:

The Traveller by Dylan C, 8K

*'Is there anybody there?' said the Traveller,
knocking on the moonlit door.
They are there, inside the house, lingering.
They are waiting. They are awake. They remember.*

*'Is there anybody there?' he said.
But no one descended to the Traveller.
Until, a ghostly man peered out of the decaying
window.
He tried to warn off the traveller...
His cries went unheard.*

*The traveller turns to face his horse,
A crow flies away.
He turns back to the house, scared, with a pale face.
A man peers out of the window with a little smile...*

*'Hello?' the Traveller says.
No reply.
The moonlit sky turns red as hell is burning.
Now, it's HIS turn to come out and play...*

*The lonely Traveller is never seen again.
It is too late.*



Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

Throughout the summer term, pupils in Year 10 have been preparing for their Duke of Edinburgh expedition. They have completed sessions including map reading, camp craft, cooking and first aid. All pupils completed their day walk in the hot summer sun and displayed excellent map reading skills which stood them in good stead for their expedition. Thankfully, the expedition took place in cooler conditions during which each group worked together showing excellent teamwork, leadership and motivational skills to get each participant across the finishing line. Well done to everyone who took part - you should be extremely proud of your accomplishment.



Hair Donation

A huge well done to Lily in Year 11, who has raised nearly £800 for the Princess Trust by donating her hair. The Princess Trust are a charity who make real hair wigs for young people who have experienced hair loss from cancer treatment. We are all very proud of Lily's efforts to support this great cause.



College Taster Days

Thank you to Preston College, Runshaw College and Cardinal Newman College for welcoming our Year 10s for their college taster days.



Our pupils sampled lessons and explored the facilities of our local colleges - a great experience before they make their applications in the Autumn.

We even managed to catch up with some Brownedge alumni who are excelling in their post-16 studies and continuing to let their light shine!

Celebrating the life of Pope Francis

In April 2025, our school community, along with the Universal Church, mourned the death of Pope Francis and gave thanks to God for all he did in the world and Church during his time as pope.

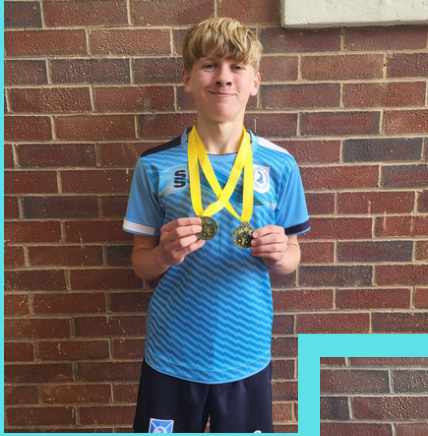
Staff and pupil representatives joined those from across Lancashire at St Mary's Church for a special Mass celebrated by Bishop John Arnold, Bishop of Salford. Pupils from our school led the prayers of the faithful as part of the Mass. In school, we remembered Pope Francis in our assemblies and collective worship. In his homily, Bishop John paid tribute to Pope Francis, describing him as a "pope of his time", who called each and every one of us to be active in faith to make Christ present in the world around – particularly to those facing the challenges of war, poverty, injustice, the impact of climate change, and those forced to flee their homes.



South Ribble Athletics Championships

After an extremely warm few days we were relieved the cooler air to arrive in time for the annual district athletics competition held in Blackpool. There were 11 schools represented on that day and nearly 1000 athletes in total.

The day started off positively with Alfred Wright in Year 7 winning the first 'gold' medal of the day, the 1500m event. From this point forward we started to get a flutter of podium appearances from Brownedge as pupils started to medal in different events. Here are those medal winners:



Year 7

Alfred Wright - 1500m (1st)
Alfred Wright - Long jump (1st)
Dylan Butterfield - Shot putt (1st)
Ava Gibson - 800m (2nd)
Michelle Onukwugha - 100m (3rd)
Girls 4 x 100 relay team (2nd)



Year 8

Freddy Cheyne - 1500m (2nd)
Phoebe Newsham - 800m (2nd)
Isaac Sill - 100m (3rd)
Emily Oldfield - Discus (3rd)
Milly Firth - Javelin (3rd)

Year 9

Rebecca Rowlings - 300m (2nd)
Jaida Bootle - Long Jump (3rd)
Alex Lee - Javelin (3rd)
Chloe Sutch - Javelin (3rd)

Well done to all 50 Brownedge athletes who represented the school fantastically!

Welcoming Pope Leo

In May 2025, the college of Cardinals elected Pope Leo XIV, who previously served in Peru and becomes the first pope to be elected from North America. Pope Leo promises to continue the wonderful work of Pope Francis, help build bridges in the Church and world and to guide society in how Artificial Intelligence can be used for good. We continue as a school community to keep our new Holy Father in our prayers.



Sports Day

Our annual Sports Day took place this term, as pupils headed onto the astroturf to compete in an array of athletics events. Well done to everyone who took part, as well as those who supported their houses fabulously from the sides!



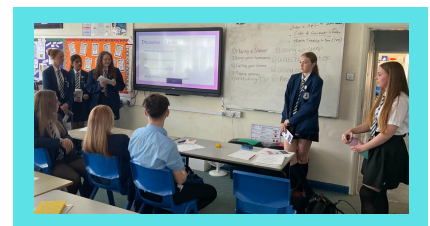
Year 6 Induction

Ahead of them joining the Brownedge family in September, it was lovely to welcome our new Year 7s to school for two induction days in July. Our new pupils got to sample lessons, find out key information and take part in the infamous Brownedge treasure hunt as they got to grips with their new surroundings. We look forward to them starting properly with us in September!



Mental Health Champions Workshops

Well done to our new Mental Health Champions, who led their Year 10 peers in sessions on mental health as part of our July drop-down day. Our champions spearheaded activities on subjects such as the importance of sleep - a great example of them using their platform for good. Great work!



Lancashire Schools Athletics

Two of our pupils put in a great showing at the Lancashire Schools Athletics Championships this term. At Stanley Park in Blackpool, Freddy and Phoebe finished eight and ninth respectively in their events against a really strong field. Well done!



LUSoM Masterclass

Thank you to Wing Liu from the Lancaster University School of Mathematics for joining us this term to deliver maths masterclasses to our high-ability Year 9 and 10 pupils. Wing led our talented mathematicians through a series of brainteasers and maths puzzles designed to stretch and challenge their abilities.



Bee Hives and LiveSimply Award

We have pollinators like bees to thank for every third mouthful we eat. Not only do they pollinate our food crops, but they're also vital for the survival of other wild plants that support so much of our wildlife. Our school is taking more action to meet the challenges facing the environment. As a school we have applied for the 'LiveSimply Award'.

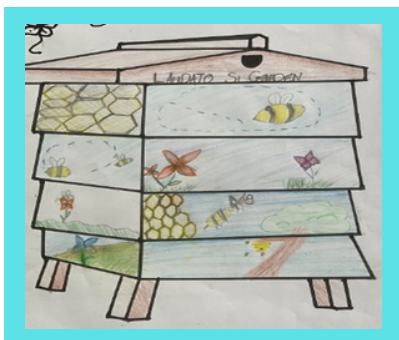
The LiveSimply award is a scheme for communities and schools who can show how they have been living:

- simply
- sustainably with creation
- in solidarity with people living in poverty.

The award celebrates what we do already and inspires us to do more. It helps our community live, not just more simply, but also more fully.

In our application for the LiveSimply Award we have said that we will take action to nurture God's creatures (e.g. creating bird/bat boxes, by building bug hotels, making bird feeders and creating hedgehog homes). We have also installed two bee hives in the wild-flower garden and we will be able to produce our own honey, as well as getting interested pupils involved in caring for the hives.

Pupils have had a say in the hives by designing the outside of the hives in our House competition.



Apprenticeships Fair

Thank you to all the exhibitors who joined us yesterday as part of our Apprenticeships & Technical Education Fair. All pupils in school got the chance to engage with the likes of BAE, the Army and Leyland Trucks, while we also welcomed a number of local colleges and training providers.

Events like these underscore our commitment to providing our pupils with information about the full range of opportunities available for study after school, including work-based routes.

Well done to all pupils who came down to the fair and spoke to prospective employers!



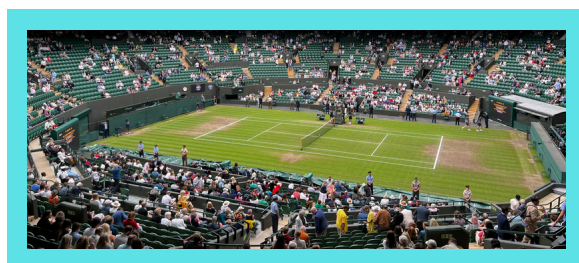
Alumni Visit

As part of our Apprenticeships Fair, we were delighted to welcome two former pupils back to Brownedge. Michael and Jack returned with Leyland Trucks, where they are now both successfully undertaking apprenticeships. The pair were able to pass on valuable information and experiences to our pupils, sharing their story from school to employment.



Fire Safety and First Aid

On July's drop down day, we welcomed the Lancashire Fire Service to Brownedge to deliver a powerful session on fire safety. In addition to this, pupils also practiced their CPR and recovery position skills as they took part in a workshop on first aid. Both activities formed an important part of our efforts to offer an outstanding programme of personal development in school, helping us to develop the whole child.



Wimbledon

Mr Crusham and Miss Mault took a group of tennis-loving pupils to Wimbledon this summer! Our pupils sampled some of the world's biggest tennis stars in action, while they also visited Wimbledon's historic museum.

Woodlands Adventure

During our final week of term, 50 Year 7 pupils went on their woodland adventure.

They took part in activities such as archery, bushcraft, orienteering, team building, caving and rock climbing. They also spent the day at West Midland Safari Park, getting up close and personal with all kinds of animals including lions, rhinos, elephants, hippos, giraffes, snakes, spiders and lizards. On the final day of term, 50 exhausted pupils and five sleep-deprived staff returned to school having had a fun-filled week and ready to start their summer holiday and recharge their batteries.



Goal Posts to Gambia

Charity endeavours are an important part of what we do at Browndge, and we were delighted to recently donate some of our spare goal posts to a village football team in Gambia. By giving new life to this equipment, we are helping those across the world to let their light shine. Our thanks to the PE department for their kind donation.



Alton Towers and Blackpool Pleasure Beach

Excited Year 10 pupils set off to Alton Towers to brave the queues and heat with their bottles of water and sun cream for their summer term rewards trip. All the pupils had a great day enjoying the rides and attractions and returned to school on a peaceful bus full of worn-out theme park goers. The following week, Years 8 and 9 enjoyed a similarly fun day at the Pleasure Beach. Each pupil was a credit to themselves and to school during a great celebration to end the year.



Art Bytes Winner

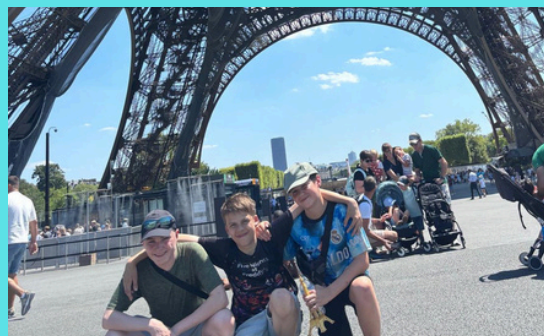
Mrs Stockton and Year 9 pupil Alethea attended the Art Bytes award ceremony at Victoria Gallery and Museum in Liverpool. Alethea placed 1st in the Browndge section of the competition, voted for by friends, family, the school community and members of Salmesbury Art Society.

Art Bytes is a national art and EdTech programme for pupils across England. We are very proud of Alethea, Eva who came 2nd and Rebecca and Kornelia who placed joint 3rd. The online gallery with all Browndge entries can be seen at artbytes.co.uk.



Paris Trip

A group of Year 8 and 9 pupils ended the year with a thrilling trip to Paris. Pupils took in a day of sightseeing, visiting the likes of the Eiffel Tower and Sacre Coeur, before a fun day at Disneyland. It was a special trip that will live long in the memory for all who attended.



River Wyre Field Work

Our Geography faculty took 22 Year 10 pupils to the River Wyre for their GCSE

Field trip to in order to measure the changes of the river from the source to the mouth. It was another fun day out in the sun for our pupils, and a great way to bring a busy term to a close.

Karting Success

For Hannah in Year 11, July brought the end of the karting season, which meant time for the national championship. She performed amazingly well, recording a 10th place finish for the whole weekend and a 7th place spot in the championship - well done!



SCHOOL REOPENS ON WEDNESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2025



Brownedge St Marys



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Have a lovely summer!

