



Shining Lights Newsletter

Summer 2026

Celebrating success

Welcome to our final edition of Shining Lights for the 2025–2026 academic year. As always, this newsletter captures only a snapshot of the many experiences, achievements and memorable moments that have shaped life at Brownedge over the past year. Within these pages you will see our pupils learning, competing, performing, serving others, growing in faith and embracing every opportunity available to them. Together, these stories reflect far more than individual successes; they demonstrate the vibrant, caring and ambitious community that makes Brownedge such a special place.



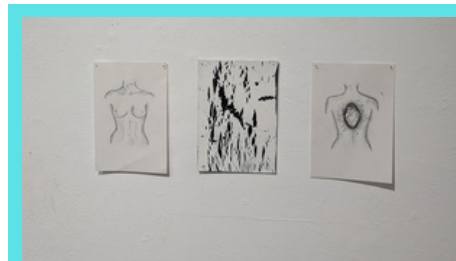
Every achievement featured has been made possible through the dedication of our pupils, the unwavering commitment of our staff and the invaluable support of parents, carers and governors. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, on stage, through our chaplaincy, in the local community or on educational visits, our young people continue to impress us with their enthusiasm, resilience and willingness to embrace new challenges. They are a constant reminder that success is measured not only by outcomes, but also by character, compassion and the way we support one another. As you read through this edition, I hope you enjoy celebrating all that has been accomplished this year and gain a real sense of the opportunities our pupils experience each day. Thank you for your continued support in helping us ensure that every child is able to flourish, fulfil their potential and, in the words of our school mission, truly 'Let their light shine.' - Mrs Oddie

University Art Exhibition

Well done to Frankie in Year 11, whose brilliant artwork was recently displayed in an exhibition at the University of Lancashire! Frankie has been attending the university's Saturday Club, where she has been able to develop her skills and meet fellow young people with a talent and passion for art.

You can read more about Frankie's work and the exhibition on the University of Lancashire's website:

<https://www.lancashire.ac.uk/news/saturday-club-exhibition-26>



Mental Health Champions Walk

During Easter, a group of our incredible Mental Health Champions undertook a 10-mile sponsored walk around Ullswater in the Lake District, raising money to support those in need. Thank you to everyone who kindly sponsored, and well done to our pupils for their hard work!



University of Manchester Trip

Thank you to the University of Manchester for welcoming a group of our Year 7 pupils!

Our pupils enjoyed a guided tour of the university's campus in central Manchester, while they also took part in sessions where they worked alongside current university students, learning about higher education and working in teams to design and pitch new business ideas.

Well done to all of our pupils for representing Browndedge so well.



Springwatch Club

Springwatch Club has been in full swing this term! Pupils have been making bird feeders and installing bat boxes in our grounds to make our school environment welcoming to wildlife, with more projects planned for the future. Well done to everyone who has got involved!



Mental Health Award

We are proud to announce we have been awarded the Silver School Mental Health Award by the Carnegie Centre of Excellence!

Awarded in conjunction with Leeds Beckett University, the award recognises excellence in mental health support in schools, and is testament to the fine work undertaken by our Mental Health Lead, Miss Mellor, and her team of Year 11 Mental Health Champions

Well done to all in our Browndedge family who have worked to support mental health initiatives across school life.





Sister Act

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our recent production of Sister Act, 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 put on an incredible performance.

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



Leyland Play Scheme

Thank you to the team from Leyland Play Scheme for joining us to speak to Year 10 about summer volunteering opportunities in our local area.

Pupils got to hear about the incredible work the Leyland Play Scheme does to support children across South Ribble, with many now eager to sign up and offer their time to give back to the local community.



Leeds Rhinos Challenge

Well done to Derry in Year 7, who recently competed with the Chorley Panthers as part of the Leeds Rhinos Rugby Challenge!

A committed rugby player, Derry helped his team to place in the top 10 at the event, which was held in Skegness. He returned to school a little bruised, but full of pride over his team's achievements. Keep letting your light shine, Derry!

Girls Football

Well done to our Year 7-9 girls football team, who recently represented Brownedge in a tournament at Leyland St Mary's. The girls well and truly let their light shine, with coaches Mrs Hampson and Mr Clarke-Davison praising their outstanding teamwork. Great job!

And well done to the girls U16 football team, who played in the South Ribble Schools 7-a-side tournament, finishing as runners up!

The girls won three and drew three games, conceding zero goals in the process. For most of them, it was their final chance to represent Brownedge St Mary's before leaving after their GCSEs, and they without doubt did themselves proud, as they have done since they started playing together in Year 7.

Congratulations on letting your light shine!



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 Brownedge spirit in their drive to let their light shine. 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 Brownedge journey.

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

Netball Success

Well done to the Year 9 netball team, who recorded a 2nd place finish at the recent South Ribble schools tournament!

The girls have had a great year with a number of impressive performances - keep letting your light shine!



TeenTech Festival

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

Pupils got to grips with theatre stage lighting, NHS cyber security 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 'Most Fun' award for their pitch for wearable medical devices for pets.

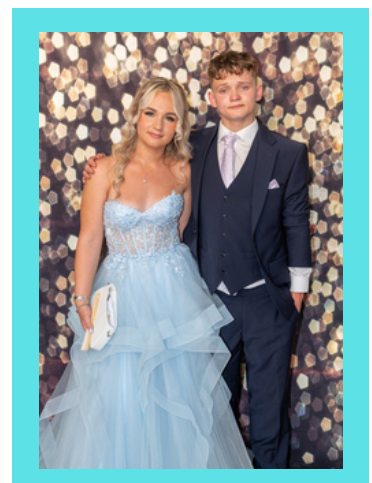


Valedictory Dinner 2026

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

From horseback and limo arrivals to an array of dazzling outfits, it was a joyous evening where we celebrated this year group's time at Brownedge.

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





Year 7 Football

It was a great day out for our Year 7 boys football team recently, as they competed in a tournament at the University of Lancashire's sports arena against more than 20 schools.

The team played with real determination, represented the school brilliantly, and showed excellent spirit throughout the day. Finishing with a win and a draw was a deserved reward for their efforts. A fantastic opportunity and valuable experience for the lads. Well done!

Muay Thai Champion

Congratulations to Ruby in Year 10, who was recently crowned winner of the Muay Thai Sandee Championship! As a result of this brilliant achievement, Ruby will now travel to Italy in October to represent Great Britain in the World Championships! Well done on letting your light shine, Ruby



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, Greg Finn, 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.



International Rugby Star

Congratulations to Kyle in Year 11, who represented Scotland's under 16 Rugby League side in the Four Nations fixture against England!

A talented and committed rugby player, Kyle also plays for St Helens side Thatto Heath Crusaders. His next international fixtures are scheduled for the summer, when Scotland round-out their Four Nations campaign with games against Wales and Ireland.

Keep letting your light shine, Kyle!

Sacrament of Confirmation

Congratulations to the 43 pupils who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Wednesday 13th May, led by Bishop John Arnold, Bishop of Salford.

Following several weeks of preparation, pupils reflected on the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit before taking this important step in their faith journey.

Thank you to all families, staff and parish members who supported this special celebration.



Alumni Success

As the May half-term drew to a close, we were delighted to be visited by a former pupil who has excelled since leaving Brownedge.

After completing his GCSEs last year, Travis enrolled in army college, where he is currently training as a Junior Soldier as part of 20 Platoon in Burma Company.

His training has already seen him travel to France, and he is due to 'pass-out' and graduate from his training programme soon.

Keep letting your light shine, Travis!



Refugee Week

This term, we marked Refugee Week in school. Our Equality & Inclusion Group led Celebrations of the Word, we had prayer stations in our chapel, lessons, the Great Big Live Assembly, input from guest speakers and an Interhouse Competition.

Let us pray for peace, unity and love in our world.

Loving God,
You know each of us by name.
You walk with those who are afraid,
those who are far from home,
and those searching for safety and hope.
Help us to be people of courage.
Give us the strength to welcome others,
to speak up for what is right,
and to trust that you are always with us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



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 Brownededge alumni who are excelling in their post-16 studies and continuing to let their light shine!



University of Cambridge Event

Thank you to Sidney Sussex College at the University of Cambridge for welcoming a group of our Year 9s to their information event.

Our pupils took part in various sessions on life at an elite university, such as witnessing a sample lesson, taking part in Q&As with current students and staff, and receiving guidance on future A Level choices. It was a highly informative day and a real eye-opener for all involved.



Trampolining Finalist



Well done to Emily in Year 7, who picked up a bronze medal at the trampolining Inter-Regional finals in Birmingham recently. Representing the North West, Emily performed very strongly and is rightly proud of her achievements. Great job!

Worship Leadership Day

40 of our pupil Form Worship Leaders attended a pupil leadership day led by Salford Diocese on prayer and liturgy at our parish church. We were joined by other high schools from the local area too. Pupils learnt how to plan and lead Celebrations of the Word, create a prayer focus, lead Lectio and Visio Divina, take part in a symbolic action and lead an Ignatian prayer experience plus much more. Pupils enjoyed the day and made plans to bring some of their learning into times of prayer in school.



World Cup at Browndedge

Over 200 pupils joined us at 8am on a Monday morning to share in the World Cup festivities, as we came together to watch England record an historic win over Mexico!

The atmosphere in the sports hall was something special, as pupils celebrated the success of the Three Lions alongside their friends.



SEND Takeover Day

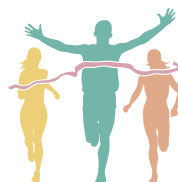
Well done to our Year 8 pupils who participated in the Lancashire SEND Improvement Board Young People Takeover Day Challenge!

The pupils worked together to explore ways to make Lancashire more inclusive for children and young people with SEND, demonstrating excellent teamwork, creativity and advocacy. We are incredibly proud of their contribution.



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!



Wimbledon

It was great to once again be able to take a group of pupils to visit the Wimbledon tennis championships!

Pupils got to sample some world-class tennis in action, and even got their hands on some silverware! What a fantastic experience.



Drop Down Day

As term came to a close, we held a drop down day for all pupils across school. We were able to welcome a number of guests to share insight across various aspects of our Learning for Life curriculum, with activities including a Careers Fair, Water Safety Talks and First Aid some of the sessions put on. Well done to all pupils for engaging so well!



Blackburn College Photography Competition

Three of our pupils who entered Blackburn College's photography competition did incredibly well by having their entries shortlisted, resulting in them being presented with certificates and professional prints of their entries at this year's Careers Fair. Congratulations to Ava-Lea, Amelia and Poppy - you really let your creativity shine!



Spain Water Sports Trip

It was a sun-packed end to term for everyone at Brownedge, but particularly those pupils who took part in the Spain water sports trip! Pupils took part in a range of water activities like banana boats and snorkling, while they also visited some of Barcelona's iconic sights like the FC Barcelona Museum and Sagrada Familia. What a fantastic experience.



Work Experience

Year 10 pupils spent the final week of term on work experience, where they undoubtedly let their light shine. Pupils undertook placements at a range of providers including vets, pharmacies, shops, hairdressers, nurseries and many more, and we've received some brilliant feedback from employers!

A great example of this is what we were told about Tolu in 10K, with her employer describing her as someone who "is going to go far - the best work experience student we've ever had."

Well done!



BAE STEM Competition

We entered two teams into the BAE's STEM 3D printing competition, both of whom demonstrated outstanding commitment, creativity, and teamwork throughout the project. Miss Smith was immensely impressed by their collaborative approach and the high quality of the products they developed. One team received a special award in recognition of a particular aspect of their design.

In acknowledgement of their achievements, both teams were invited to attend the awards ceremony and take part in a tour of the BAE training facility. Well done to Prince, Karol and Conor for their entry. Congratulations to Joseph and Noah for their award.



BAE Careers Talk

Our Year 9 and 10 pupils were delighted to welcome back former Brownedge student Megan Pearson, who returned to share her inspiring career journey with us. She spoke about her experiences studying A Levels, securing a place on the BAE Systems Graduate Apprenticeship Scheme and her current role with the company, which has taken her to work in Japan. It was incredibly motivating for pupils to see someone who once sat in the very same classrooms achieve such success through hard work and determination. We are also extremely grateful that she has arranged a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to take part in two days of virtual work experience with BAE Systems over the summer, giving them an invaluable insight into careers in STEM and engineering.



Edge Hill University Maths Challenge

In June, a group of our students attended the final of the Edge Hill University Mathematics Challenge. During the event, they had the opportunity to tour the university campus and explore its Media and Technology departments, gaining valuable insight into higher education and future career pathways. As part of the competition, the students presented their solution to a challenging mathematical problem. Through their hard work, determination, and teamwork, they successfully progressed to the final after competing against more than 600 other teams. We are immensely proud of their dedication, enthusiasm, and achievements throughout the competition.



College Masterclass Day



Thank you to Runshaw College for inviting a group of our Year 10 pupils to take part in their Masterclass event. Our pupils got to sample a variety of post-16 courses, with sessions designed to provide academic challenge and an insight into college life. Well done to all who took part for representing Brownedge so well.

South Ribble Athletics Championship

Earlier this half-term, our athletes in Years 7,8,9 & 10 competed in the South Ribble schools athletics championships at Stanley Park. There were some great performances across a number of disciplines. Congratulations to all the pupils who took part for their effort and sportsmanship!

Year 7

Harryson Kingswell 800m (1st)
Harryson Kingswell Long jump (1st)
Beau Proos Dalton 1500m (2nd)

Year 8

Alfred Wright 1500m (1st)
Alfred Wright Long jump (3rd)
Billy Marlow 100m (2nd)
Michelle Onukwuga 100m (3rd)

Year 9

Mikey Foster (2nd)
Isaac Sill 100m (2nd)

Year 10

Rebecca Rowlings 300m (1st)
Finnley Brennan 1500m (2nd)
Sammy Peacock 1500m (3rd)



Headteacher's Award

Mrs Oddie was delighted to end the year by handing out the prestigious Headteacher's Award to a number of pupils. Three winners - Audrey, Joanna and Piotr - received their awards on the penultimate day of term, with their fellow winners otherwise occupied on the Spain trip. Congratulations to all who received the award - you represent the very best of Brownedge!



Pleasure Beach Rewards Trip

Eligible pupils in Year 7-9 ended the year with our annual rewards trip to Blackpool Pleasure Beach! There was lots of fun had, from rollercoaster rides to carnival games and an array of tasty treats, as we rounded out the 2025-2026 school year in style. Well done to everyone who let their light shine and earned a place on the trip - we hope you enjoyed it!



FutureU Careers Workshops

Pupils in Years 9 and 10 took part in some valuable Careers workshops in the final week of term. Delivered by FutureU - who work alongside our local universities to promote post-18 pathways - the sessions focussed on an introduction to university life and skills for revision. It was a really valuable learning opportunity - our thanks to FutureU for their support.



Baby Isaiah

Our realistic baby doll learning tool, Baby Isaiah, has been home with some of the Year 10 Child Development pupils this term, and he has certainly made an impression on some of them!

He has been well cared for, and the digital reports we've had prove that the pupils have met his needs. They have enjoyed the experience so far, and Baby Isaiah is looking forward to more sleepovers next year!



SCHOOL REOPENS ON THURSDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2026



Brownedge St Marys



@brownedgestmarys

**Have a lovely
summer!**

