



# Shining Lights Newsletter

July 2023

*Celebrating success*

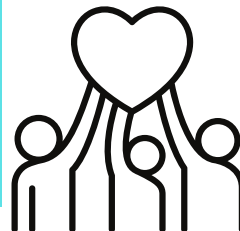
Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Let your light shine

Welcome to our final edition of our Shining Lights Newsletter for 2022/23. It has been another busy yet productive term and inside this issue you will find details of many of the amazing activities and opportunities put on for our pupils by our dedicated and hard-working staff. Pupils have indeed benefitted from an array of enrichment events. Enjoy the read and the Summer break! **Mrs Oddie, Headteacher**

## Charity Afternoon

Our annual Charity Afternoon took place at the end of the Spring term, with the Brownedge community electing to support CAFOD and Papyrus this year. Pupils came to school in their own clothes and put on an array of stalls including a penalty shoot-out, face painting, sponge the teacher, food and drink stands and many more. It was a great day that really showed the togetherness of our family and the ability of everyone to let their light shine. Thanks to everyone's generosity and hard work, we were able to raise just shy of £1600.00 for our nominated charities, money that will go an awful long way to improving the lives of many. Well done everyone on your efforts - here's to next year!



## Mental Health Champions Walk

Our Year 11 Mental Health Champions set out to raise money and awareness for Papyrus on their charity walk from Pooley Bridge to Glenridding. All the champions did incredibly well, covering the 15km of difficult terrain along the south shore of Ullswater. The pupils were all a credit to themselves and to school and were spurred on by donations from members of the public they met

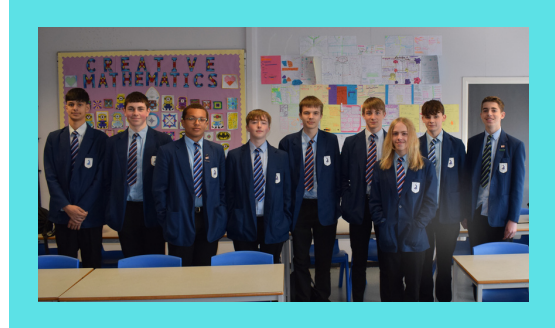


## Papyrus Bike Raffle

Charlie and Oscar have been supporting Mrs Watson to raise funds for Papyrus, by selling raffle tickets for a bike which was kindly donated by Mrs Kenny. Both boys raised £60, with funds going in support of Papyrus' work with youth mental health. The total raised for Papyrus by us this year, when accounting for Charity Day, the Mental Health Champions' sponsored walk and the bike raffle, is an amazing £2000 for this very important cause. Well done everyone!

## Maths Challenge

The Intermediate Mathematical Challenge 2022 was taken on by several Brownedge pupils this year. Pupils have taken part in a 60 minute mathematical challenge which is designed to make pupils think hard, with some very difficult problems to solve. Ten pupils 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 pupils being awarded a Bronze certificate. Well done to James B, who received best in the school award.



## The Coronation

Celebrations took place at Brownedge in honour of the crowning of King Charles III. Pupils were presented with a commemorative bookmark, while many areas of school were decked out in Union Jack bunting! Our kitchen team also joined in with the festivities, donning their red, blue and white hats and baking special coronation cakes for our pupils. Our Chaplaincy GIFT Team pupils joined St Mary's parish CAFOD group for their coffee morning, celebrating coronation.



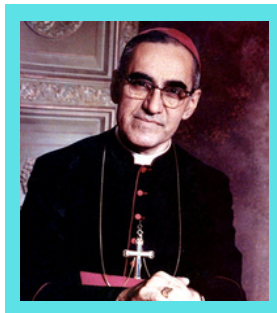
## Everton FC Tournament

Our Year 7s were invited to take part in a tournament at Everton FC's Finch Farm training complex. Watched on by the Premier League team's scouts, our boys put in a great shift in what was a fantastic opportunity to utilise world class facilities. Thank you to Everton for having us.



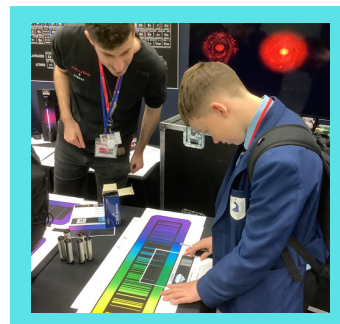
## Romero Challenge

Unfortunately for Mr Hayhurst, the Romero House Captains were victorious in last term's joke competition, meaning he had to do a forfeit of the pupils' choosing. That forfeit was the Ice Bucket Challenge, and so on a chilly Friday morning, Romero House gathered round to watch icy cold water be poured over their Head of House, much to their amusement. Mr Hayhurst has since gone away to work on some better jokes for next year!

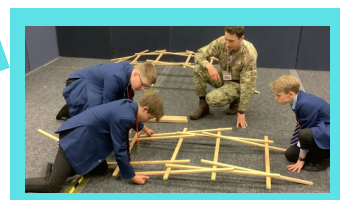


## TeenTech Festival

What a brilliant day we had at the TeenTech festival! A group of our Year 9s were able to take part in a range of activities, including state of the art flight simulators and bridge building with the army. The group also got a chance to show ideas they had for new inventions to a group of industry experts, who were all impressed with the creativity of our pupils.



A special mention to Kinga and Althea, who bravely presented to the entire room, with Althea picking up a certificate for the best use of science for simplifying a problem. Well done also to Seb and Layton, whose idea for a cloud-based memory system for those with Alzheimer's was voted second-best overall idea of the day!



## District Cup Champions

A huge well done to footballers Max, Lewis, Bobby and Kyle in Year 8, who all featured in South Ribble's 2-0 victory over Hyndburn. This achievement stems from a years hard work, starting with trials that took place over 12 months ago. The boys were selected from a large pool of talent from the South Ribble Schools and have represented the District flawlessly across the season. This led to a nail-biting match played at Darwen FC's Anchor Ground, where South Ribble were crowned District County Cup champions. Congratulations, boys!



## South Ribble Schools Athletics Championships

On Friday June 16th, fifty pupils across years 7,8 & 9 travelled to Stanley Park athletics arena in Blackpool to represent Brownedge St Mary's in the annual South Ribble Schools Athletics Championships. On what was a very hot day, pupils were up for the challenge, whether that be running, throwing or jumping. We are so proud of their dedication and determination and a number of pupils should be particularly proud of their own individual achievements. They are:

- Erin (8B) 2nd place 1500m
- Alexandra (8R) 2nd place long jump
- Lewis (8T) 3rd place shot putt
- Ryan (7R) 3rd place 100m



## Runshaw College German Talk

Paul Wyton, a German specialist and teacher at Runshaw College, came into school on Thursday 15th June to deliver an interesting session on the importance and usefulness of language learning to our Year 9 pupils studying German. He talked about career aspirations and the route to university, and then explained the many different ways how learning a language and spending time abroad can benefit your life as a whole, such as improved communication and confidence. He also discussed with the pupils some common misconceptions in the German language.

Pupils finished the session with a quiz testing their knowledge of all things German. Thank you for coming, Paul!





## Ryan's Race for Life

Ryan in 9D ran Cancer Research's Race for Life early in June. After committing himself to hours of training and relentlessly raising funds, he completed the 10K in an impressive 56 minutes, and better yet, he raised £160.00 for Cancer Research's vital work. What a fantastic effort. You are an inspiration to so many Ryan, well done!



## Geography River Wyre Field Work

Our Year 10 GCSE Geography classes went on a Physical Geography field trip to study the River Wyre in the Trough of Bowland. The purpose of the trip was to carry out a River Study with specialist equipment to prepare for their GCSE. During the day, pupils observed and measured the changes of rivers downstream by putting on their wellies, grabbing their tape measures and stepping into the water at two sites near the source. We then got back in the school mini-buses to drive to the Centre of Garstang to see the changes further downstream as well as looking at the £800,000 flood defence scheme built by the Environment Agency to prevent flooding in the Garstang area. The weather was kind, and students really enjoyed the day with many saying that they would like to go again. It is a beautiful part of Lancashire, and it is always a real pleasure to see our pupils apply their classroom learning to the real world as well as experiencing our great outdoors.



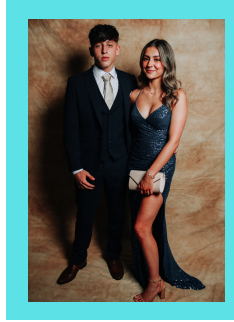
## Geographers visit Media City

The Geography Department took 49 Year 10 pupils at the end of May to experience first-hand the amazing regeneration of Salford Quays and the new Media City development. This was in order to carry out field work in preparation for their GCSE examination. The day included environmental quality surveys, land use surveys, pedestrian counts and questionnaires. The regeneration has created a world class Creative Hub, creating 27,000 jobs in the area and has attracted over 250 different media companies, including the BBC and ITV. The pupils particularly enjoyed talking to workers and residents from media city and how modern it all looked. This is what we call in geography a "super learning day!"



## Valedictory Dinner

Our departing Year 11s had a blast at their end-of-year Prom! It was a brilliant night of fun and a great reward for a year of hard work. A three-course meal was served before the annual awards ceremony and an evening of partying! After a year of working together, staff and pupils celebrated at Shaw Hill in what proved the perfect send-off for our leavers. We know you will all Let Your Light Shine in whatever you do next. Don't forget us!



## Duke of Edinburgh's Award

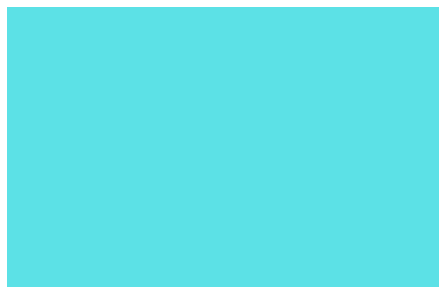
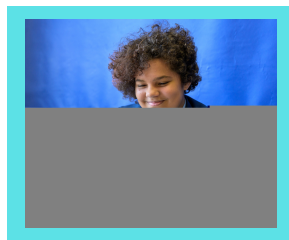


This year has been very busy for our pupils taking part in their Duke of Edinburgh awards. Our Year 9s have embarked on their programmes and are currently starting their volunteering, skills and physical sections, all of which encourage them to try new things and gain new experiences. Over the last few weeks of the summer term, our Year 10 and 11 pupils have completed their expedition training and day walk, followed by their final expeditions. All the groups did incredibly well displaying their map reading and campcraft skills over the two days of their final expedition. There were a lot of very tired bodies and minds at the end, but with that came a great sense of pride and achievement in completing their awards. Well done to all those who took part and congratulations on completing your award. We wish the best of luck to those of you taking on the challenge of the silver award.



## Reading Leaders

This year, we recruited Reading Leaders in Years 9 and 10, to support and guide our younger readers in school, and promote the school's ethos towards all things literary. We now have 23 Reading leaders who have undertaken training with Mrs Tilling and who will begin their roles in September 2023. Well done, Reading Leaders, for setting such a good example to your peers!



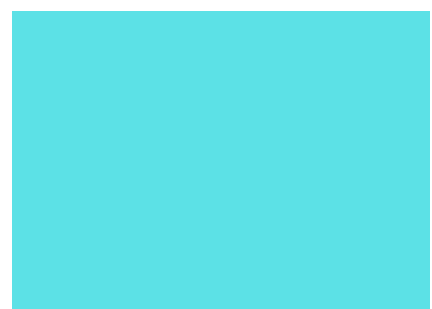
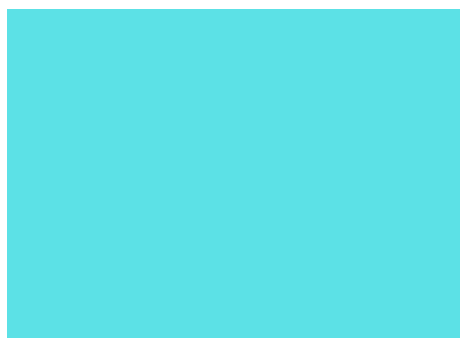
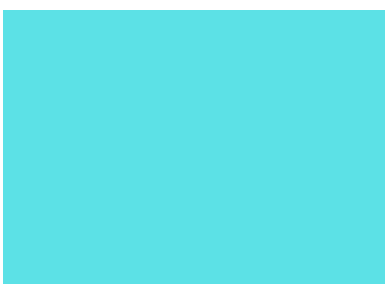
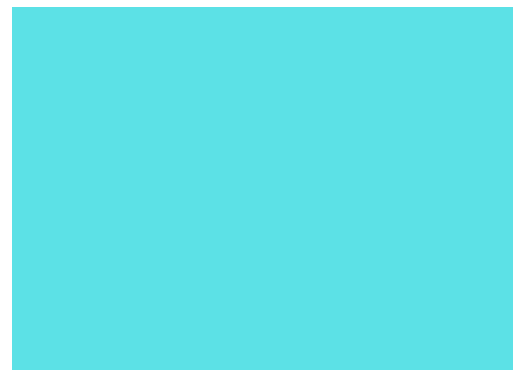
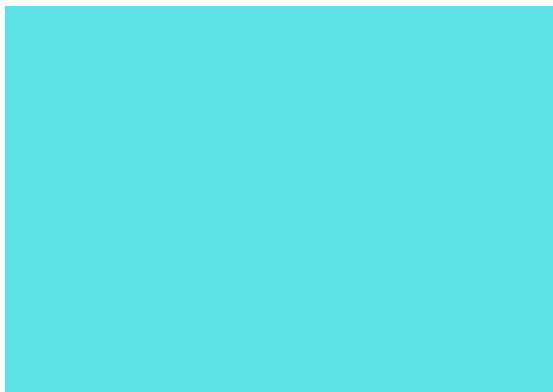
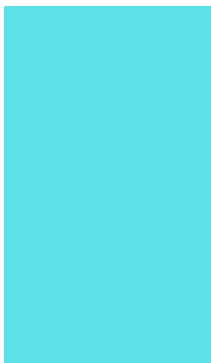
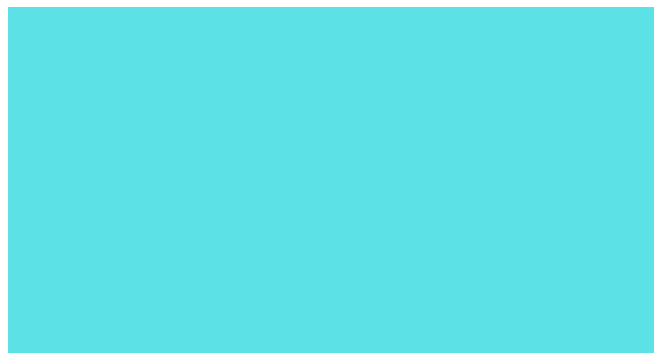
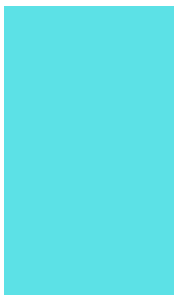
## Go-Karting Star

Well done to Hannah in 9D, who has been pursuing her love of go-karting throughout 2023. Hannah - who races for the National Schools Karting Association - competed in the National Sprint Championships in Cumbria recently, finishing an excellent 7th place in her class. Her hard work is really paying off and we are all very proud of her achievements as she lets her light shine.



## Year 6 Transition Days

It was a pleasure to welcome what will be our new Year 7 to Browndedge for our recent induction days! We can't wait for you to become part of the Browndedge family, and hope you enjoyed the little taste of life at your new school. Pupils took part in many activities across the two days, including writing letters to their future selves, learning about our patron saint, Mary, and of course the infamous Browndedge treasure hunt! Lots of fun was had, and it was great to see our new Year 7 starting to form friendships with their peers.





## Refugee Week

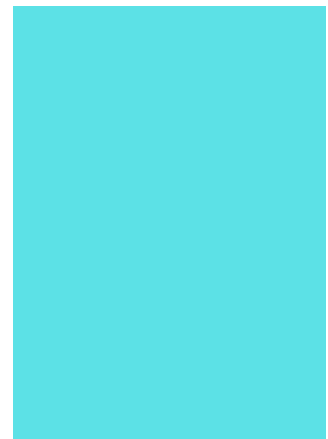
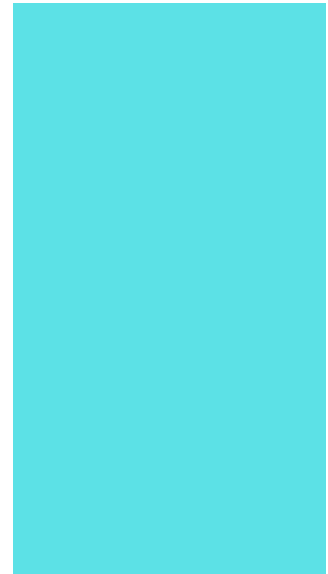
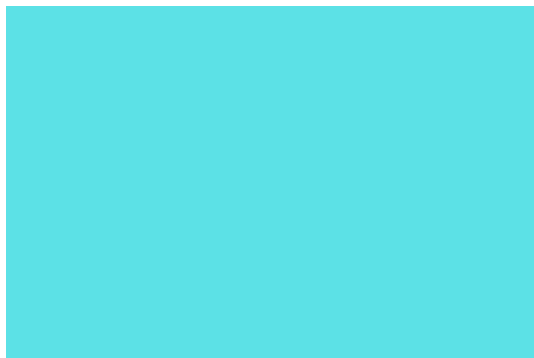
As a School of Sanctuary, we commended Refugee Week by exploring different stories of real-life refugees and learning about their lives through the portal of our many subjects. One such exploration was through poetry, where pupils were able to express their empathy and understanding of a refugee's journey to sanctuary. Each class in Year 7-9 then created a stanza of a poem that we collated to create a whole year group poem for Year 7,8 and 9, which tell the story of a refugee's journey. The pupils managed to produce some fantastic poems and we are all very proud of their efforts. Please enjoy a snippet of these amazing collaborative poems, and check out the pictures from our Walk of Solidarity and arm-wrestling fundraiser which were great experiences of our family making a difference together.

### **Year 9 Poem**

The hopeless girl illuminates in the sunlight's reflection.  
The huge ocean of memories that holds the whispers of the  
others before her.  
Just a child  
The whispers of home: so close, so fond  
Flashes of glory  
The compass guides them to a faraway land, where no man  
dares to go.  
Sanctuary?  
Now just a distant memory from a different time and place.  
The sunlight illuminates our grieving eyes  
But it will always be a burning memory.  
Our souls devoured by darkness  
Leaving us empty vessels without a safe place to call  
HOME.

## Leavers Day

This term we said a fond farewell to our class of 2023. They have come such a long way and we are so proud of each and every one of them. Their Leavers Day was a lovely end to their Brownedge career, but they will forever be part of the Brownedge family. Good luck for the future and may God's Light forever shine through you.



## Outstanding Careers, Advice and Guidance

After a recent external evaluation, we are delighted to announce that Brownedge St Mary's has retained its 100% across all Gatsby Benchmarks. We are very proud of this as it enables our pupils to flourish and develop into successful people in the future.

Year 10 pupils are currently completing their Work Experience in the final week of the Summer Term. Pupils are gaining valuable experience in a work environment showcasing their skills and talents outside of their day to day lessons. Those who have remained in school have taken part in Mock Interviews, learnt about financial capability and started to prepare their CVs and application letters for post-16 education or training. This part of a child's education is essential in preparing them for the future. It allows them to develop communication skills, problem solve, embed Growth Mindset values and adapt to new situations. We continue to work with, and develop our partnership with Career North, who provide outstanding independent career advice to our young people. The advisors regularly tell us how wonderful, aspirational and engaged our pupils are and the pupils really value their help and support.

**CARDINAL  
NEWMAN  
COLLEGE**

**PRESTON  
COLLEGE**

## College Taster Days

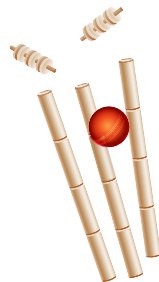
As our Year 10s begin to think about their next steps after Brownedge, they had a brilliant opportunity for them to attend Runshaw, Preston and Cardinal Newman colleges to sample life on their campuses. Pupils explored college life and got stuck in to a variety of different courses over a series of day visits. The days were a great success, giving our pupils more clarity about their future options, and the colleges commented on the excellent conduct of our pupils while they were visiting.

**RUNSHAW  
COLLEGE**



## Lancashire Cricketer

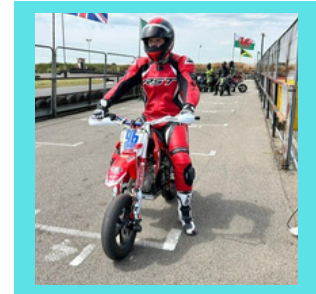
A huge congratulations to Neve in Year 10, who had the honour of being selected for the season to represent Lancashire County Cricket's under 15s. This included fixtures against the Australian Academy and the War of the Roses match (Lancashire vs Yorkshire). During this game, Neve performed exceptionally well with the ball, taking two wickets, missing out on a hat-trick only by a dropped catch. It is without doubt that Neve is a talented cricketer, and has already played at Lords and hit a six! A brilliant example of letting your light shine. Well done, Neve!



## British Minibike Championships



Well done to Harry in 10K, who continues to impress as he competes in the British Minibike Championships. Harry is quickly moving up the leader board with his impressive times, and has recently been approached by new sponsors due to how well he is doing. A star in the making!



## The JJ Effect

After many years of working with the JJ Effect, we were delighted to be able to invite Byron to our school again. As part of our Learning for Life programme, and focussing on keeping pupils safe, Byron delivers a powerful session on knife-crime and the consequences of making the wrong choices, as well as First Aid and practical advice. Our pupils always engage fully with his sessions and this year was no different. Thank you, Byron - see you next year!



## I Can Save a Life First Aid

Thank you to 'I Can Save a Life' First Aid, who came to school as part of our Learning for Life curriculum to demonstrate the key skills, including CPR, our pupils may need in a life-threatening situation. After an informative talk, our pupils got to practice their First Aid skills on the dummies, and they all got stuck in to apply the important new skills they had learnt.



## Water Safety

Thank you to Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service, who took time out of their busy schedule to talk to our Year 7s, 8s and 9s about water safety. Our guests covered subjects including drowning prevention, float to live, the dangers of cold water shock and the use of What 3 Words. A very important session for our pupils, and something they learned a lot from.



## Recycled Footballs

Year 8 have had the opportunity to create their own footballs using recycled materials, just like the children across Africa and Asia. Pupils have been learning about the 'World of Sport' and, under the inequality area, they investigated the range of wages in football, as well as the use of sweatshops by big named brands such as Primark, Nike and Adidas. Working in teams, pupils made their footballs and then had time on the Chapel Yard to try them out. This year's attempts were of the best quality as all balls were still intact after testing! Great fun was had by all.



## Spanish and Japanese Clubs

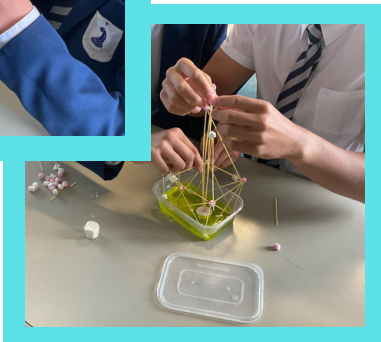
Since Easter, our MFL faculty have been offering lunch time clubs learning about all things Spanish and Japanese. Our pupils have really enjoyed learning these challenging new languages, expanding on the knowledge they have of French and German via the core curriculum.



## Earthquakes

In Geography, Year 10 have had the opportunity to create their own earthquake-resistant buildings.

They had a go at planning by using the Stop Disaster game on the iPads to be able to see the benefits of retrofitting buildings and planning for tectonic hazards. They then used a jelly base, spaghetti and marshmallows to create a structure that would withstand an earthquake (which was actually Miss Lane shaking the table!). Working in pairs, pupils discussed their plans and then got to work. Sometimes, getting your hands dirty is the only way to learn!!



## Tensworth Hockey

A huge congratulations to Erin in Year 8 on being selected to represent the North West through the Tensworth Academy. Erin will compete as part of the squad in tournaments against other UK regions in the coming weeks. A talented young hockey player, who we have no doubt will be playing at the highest levels in years to come. Well done on letting your light shine!



## Alpha Retreat Day

This term we had our Alpha group retreat day at St Mary's Church. We started the day with Mass, had breakfast together, then spent the rest of our day getting to know each-other and the Holy Spirit more!



## Rounders

This term, the Year 7 and 8 girls rounders teams were in action at the South Ribble Schools District rounders tournament. The Year 8 team played despite the wet conditions. One of the highlights was when Peyton did a super dive to catch a great hit against All Hallows! All the girls played well and have developed so much since Year 7!

The Year 7 team also participated and this time the conditions were not quite as wet. The girls showed some excellent batting skills against All Hallows in their first game but were not quite strong enough to achieve the win. Next they faced Penwortham Girls. Our batting was strong again but we sadly lost by a couple of rounders points. The girls fully enjoyed their first taste of rounders and we will go again next year hoping to improve upon this year's performance.



## Saturday Club Graduation

Talented designer Holly went to London on Saturday 15th July for the Saturday Club graduation. She received a certificate, and saw her dress displayed with work from other Saturday Club groups from across the country in Somerset House. Saturday Club is run in the Art and Design department of UCLan. If anyone is interested in taking part, they should contact Mrs Stockton for information.



## Sports Day

Our annual Sports Day took place once again this year, although at the time of writing, only some of the events had taken place due to the typically unpredictable British weather! Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed competing in their field events, but make sure to check out Shining Lights next term for a full round-up of the track races, and to find out the final results!



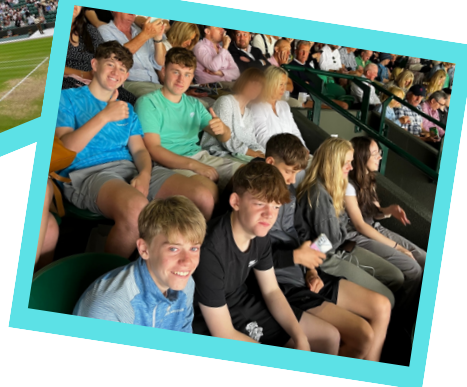
## Saints Peter & Paul

On 29th June the Church celebrates the Feast Day of Saints Peter & Paul, which honors the lives and contributions of these two apostles, and their pivotal roles in establishing the foundations of the Christian faith. To mark this special day, our form worship leaders and pupils from the Chaplaincy GIFT team attended our parish church for the celebration of Mass.



## Wimbledon

We were delighted to have secured tickets to the All England Wimbledon Tennis Finals for 2023; the greatest tennis event in the world! Our pupils were privileged to be able to watch some spectacular matches, including Medvedev vs Eubanks, Sabalenka vs Keys and even the eventual Boys winner, Henry Searle. It was a lovely day to watch the tennis and even sample Wimbledon's iconic strawberries and cream. It will be something our pupils will remember for a long time to come.



## Year 10 College Awards

Several of our Year 10 pupils who attend Preston College recently received awards for their efforts on their courses. The Innovation Award is given to who has grown with maturity over the year and has shown that he will become a very competent mechanic. Congratulations to Layth.

The Self-Development Award for Automotive went to a learner who has made so much effort this year within the classroom. He always tries his best and completes work to a great standard. Well done, Tyler.

The Self-Development Award for Childcare was given to Nicole, who is always smiling and works exceptionally hard every lesson. She has grown in confidence as the year has progressed and is a pleasure to have in the group. Well done, Nicole.

## Prize Night

Our annual Prize Night took place on Wednesday 5th July, as we celebrated all those pupils who have let their light shine brightly over the past 12 months. We honoured to have Mr David Wells join us as Guest of Honour - David is an experienced teacher, Catechist, author and speaker - and we were delighted to have him be a part of this special evening. Prize Night is our most formal evening of the academic year and the showcase of talent and skills is a delight to behold. Every pupil recognised on this special evening should be most proud of their achievements. On this evening we award our Major Prizes as well as announce our incoming Senior Prefect team.





# Major Prize Winners 2023

**Brownedge Shield for Religious Education**



**Silver Jubilee Award for Boys Sporting Achievement**



**Zenith Cup Award for Girls Sporting Achievement**



**Neville Award for English**



**George Woodcock Award for Public Speaking**



**Cardinal Newman College Award for Maths**



**McHugh Award for Science**



**Mullard Award for Art**



**Progress Housing Award for Drama**



**Knights of St. Columba Trophy for Languages**



**Bernard Loffler Award for History**



**McNamara Award for Humanities (Geography)**



**Peter Winders Trophy for ICT/Business Studies**



**Cooper Shield for Music**



**Brownedge Trophy for Technology**



**PTA Award for Work in the Local Community**



**Anne Marie Award for Charity Work**



**Fletcher Award for Consistent Effort Throughout School**



**Fr. Thomas Loughlin Bene Merenti Award for Outstanding Service to School**



**Alexandra Astley Award**



**Simon Brown Shine Award**



**David Livesey Challenge Award**



**W.L. Moxham Award presented to our retiring Head Boy**



**De Hoghton Award presented to our retiring Head Girl**



## Rewards Day at the Trafford Centre



Hard work is always rewarded at Brownedge. At the end of term we were delighted to be able to take 200 pupils to the Trafford Centre as a reward for their efforts throughout the past few months. Some of them shopped until they dropped, others sampled activities including the arcade and cinema, but the main thing was that everyone had a brilliant time, ending the 2022/23 academic year on a high. Well done everyone, it was a great day and thoroughly enjoyed by all.



## Historical tour of Berlin

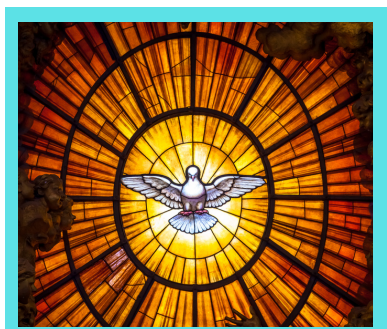
Also taking place at the time of writing was our History trip to Berlin! On the first day, our pupils took part in a walking tour of Germany's capital city, seeing sights including the Reichstag and the Brandenburg Gate. Stay tuned for next term's Shining Lights for even more about what they got up to!



## Confirmation Group

A group of our pupils have been meeting weekly with our Lay Chaplain, Rachael and Fr Mark to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. During Confirmation, candidates receive the power of the Holy Spirit, through which they are strengthened to be witnesses of Christ in the world and gifted with comfort, hope, inspiration, and peace.

As part of their preparation, pupils had a retreat day at our parish Church, St Mary's Brownedge. This day included times of prayer, reflection, games and even some birthday cake!

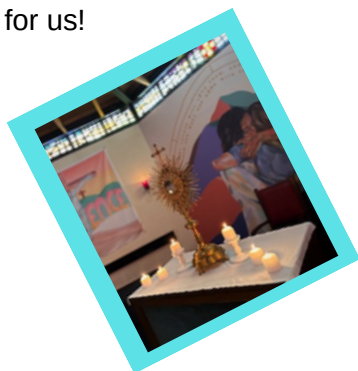


These pupils will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this September - please keep them in your prayers.

## Kolbe Day

On 14th August, the Church celebrates the Feast of St Maximilian Kolbe. This incredible and inspiring saint was a Polish priest who volunteered to die in place of a man named Franciszek Gajowniczek in the German death camp of Auschwitz. We marked his feast day this term.

Our Kolbe pupils and staff dressed in green to celebrate this incredible saint and martyr, and spent the day partaking in games, creative workshops and prayer to celebrate his witness. On this special feast, we are praying especially for all of the staff and pupils in Kolbe House. St. Maximilian Kolbe, pray for us!



## Feast of Corpus Christi

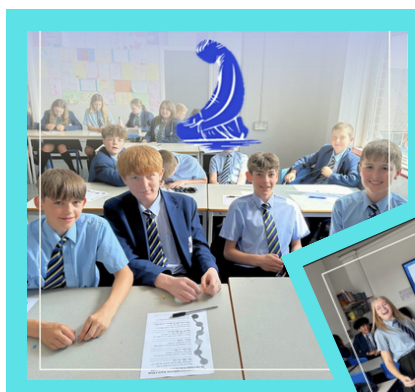
To mark the Feast of Corpus Christi, we had a time of Eucharistic Adoration in our school chapel. All staff and pupils were invited to drop by the chapel to spend some time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. A huge thank you to St Mary's Parish for making this possible.

## Celebrating our Patron, Mary

For centuries, the Catholic Church has set aside the entire month of May to honour Mary. This May we celebrated Mary Day in school - a day of fun, prayer, and even doughnuts! This year's Mary Day reflected on the qualities of Mary we see through our school badge and how these can inspire us daily.

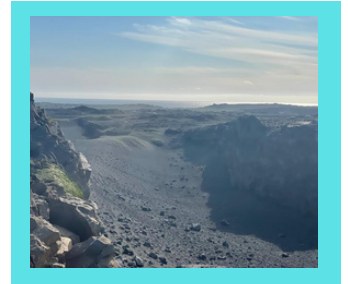
As part of Mary Day, our Faith in Action Group held a cake sale for Mary's Meals, a charity who provide daily school meals in parts of the world where they are desperately needed.

During this special month our Chaplaincy GIFT Team pupils took part in the May Procession at St Mary's Church, celebrating the crowning of Mary.



## Iceland

In the last week of term, 30 pupils ranging from Years 8-10 headed to Iceland for a Geography trip. They arrived past the erupting volcano you will have seen in the news and went to the bridge between continents, managing to stand between Eurasia and North America. Due to a delayed start, they then drove to the capital Reykjavik to check in. At the time of writing, they were heading for a guided tour of Reykjavik and the largest geothermal plant in Europe, before several more busy days to enjoy all this amazing country has to offer.



We hope you enjoyed reading this term's edition of Shining Lights. Why not test your knowledge of recent events in school by taking on the Shining Lights quiz?! You can work out all the answers by reading through the articles.

## Shining Lights Quiz

1. Who was the Guest of Honour at Prize Night?
2. Our Year 10s visited three colleges this term. Cardinal Newman and Preston College were two, what was the third?
3. The MFL faculty held two languages clubs, what were they?
4. Our Year 11s had their Valedictory Dinner this term, where was it held?
5. Our Year 10 pupils went on a Geography trip to Media City - where is Media City?
6. Some of our Year 8 footballers featured in South Ribble's cup final victory over Hyndburn, what was the final score?
7. One of our pupils picked up a certificate at the TeenTech Festival, who was it?
8. Mr Hayhurst had to do a forfeit for Romero house, what was it?
9. How far did the Mental Health Champions walk for their Papyrus fundraiser?
10. Which Premier League club did our Year 7s visit for a football tournament?



**SCHOOL REOPENS ON TUESDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2023**



Brownedge St Marys



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**Have a happy  
summer!**

