



Shining Lights Newsletter

April 2019

Celebrating success

Welcome to our Easter edition of **Shining Lights**. This year we rebranded our termly magazine to reflect our Gospel Values which lie at the heart of all we do in Brownedge. How amazing it is to see so many of our young people sharing their talents, working for justice, pushing out of their comfort zones with courage, or serving others with kindness. These are the things that make our school so special. More and more children are getting involved in the many things we offer outside the classroom which build self-confidence and which build up community. Thank you to our generous staff who make it happen. Wishing you a peace-filled Easter.

Lent Days of Reflection

Throughout Lent, Catholics make an extra special effort to grow closer to God through praying, fasting and giving to others. Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 have all had the opportunity to have a day off timetable to step away from the busyness of school life and find time to reflect on the bigger picture. Each form group took part in workshops looking at music, peace and reconciliation, communion and community, the Liturgy of the Word and personal intentions. The workshops all fed into a special Mass for the year group as a whole in our local parish church with Fr. Mark. Students particularly enjoyed making the prayer bead bracelets and being led in meditation, which can take a lot of patience!



National Schools Trampoline Competition

In January Daniel Duerden, Year 11, qualified in the North West round of this event in Belfast, Ireland. Daniel performed two good, clean routines which resulted in him coming second and qualifying for the second year running for the National final. The National finals were held in Birmingham at the beginning of March and Daniel scored 24.30 in his set routine and 25.00 in his voluntary routine. He came a creditable 7th. Well done Daniel for all your courage, commitment and dedication to the sport you have shown over the last 5 years.



CAFOD Fast Day

On Friday 15th March we held our CAFOD Fast Day in school. The CAFOD group ran assemblies in the build up, praying for justice. Between a non-uniform day and lunch donations we managed to raise £674.62 which is great! We also fasted throughout the day with simple food being served at the canteen and a noticeable lack of meat. Students were challenged to pray, fast and give.

Queen Visits Brownedge

No, not that Queen, but Teri Terry, the QUEEN OF TEEN, visited Years 8 and 9 on March 1st. We already had a link with Teri, because Mrs Evans and the RAW (Brownedge Readers and Writers club) met her at the Hay Festival in Wales a couple of years ago. So, Mrs Goldson began a campaign to get Teri into school, which succeeded, and meant that she could speak to Years 8 and 9 about the joy of writing and the trilogies of 'Slated' and 'Contagion'. Both are dystopian novels - and who doesn't like a good dystopian novel?

The brilliant thing about author visits is that they always grab a few non-readers and turn them into readers. Teri has made at least three new readers in Year 9 – students who used to say they didn't like reading – so, if you know of anyone else who loves her books, let us know!

Teri Terry was born in France, then lived in Toronto, Canada, and then in Australia for years until moving to England, where she now lives with her husband and her dog, Scooby. Her books have been published in many different languages. You can find out more about her on her website, teriterryy.jomdo.com.



Lancashire Indoor Athletics

The Year 8 girls won through the district competition to compete in the Lancashire final held in Blackpool on the 13th March. The team consisted of 8 athletes, Robyn Kelly, Lucy Dolphin, Kayleigh Adair, Katie Orrell, Kiera and Niamh Hopla, Sophie Gardner and Casey Pilkington, who competed in various events such as obstacle relays and running events, speed bounce, standing long, triple and vertical jumps. They never gave up hope and came a very creditable 6th in the County. An excellent afternoon's competition girls, well done!

Maths Feast Challenge

A group of eight pupils were chosen for the Maths Feast competition from Year 10. Team 1 consisted of Louana Avison, Leo Pearson, Jonathan Rigby and Connor Monaghan. The second team included Grace Brown, Aliya Corkindale, Lily Singleton and Jonathan Hawkyard. Both teams showed great courage and determination throughout the competition, which consisted of four different rounds. Each round tested a variety of skills: knowledge, patience, team work, and problem solving, with Team 1 securing the winning title for two rounds. The competition organisers highly praised our pupils on their kindness, courage and patience, declaring they are a credit to our school.



Lancashire X-C Championships

Nine of our pupils achieved South Ribble colours and represented the District in the championships held at Witton Park in February. In the Inter girls event Grace Brown came 2nd, Faye Houghton 21st and Abbi Rhys-Sharples 45th. In the Inter boys, Ethan Barbarawicz came 34th and Zac Smith-DNF.

Emily Knell, Jess Lane and Robyn Kelly participated in the Junior girls event and came 33rd, 42nd and DNF respectively. Morgan Griffiths competed in the Year 7 competition.

Grace Brown then went on to represent Lancashire in the National Schools X-C in Temple Newsam Park, Leeds on the 16th March. She came 139th out of over 340 competitors.

Drexel Feast Day



On Thursday 7th March, Drexel House celebrated the Feast of St Katharine Drexel, our House Saint. It was a non-uniform day where pupils wore something purple, our House colour. There were warm croissants served in the Hall for a communal breakfast before school started.

During period 5, Years 7-10 all met in the hall for a carousel of activities which were organised and led by our fantastic pupils. The activities centred around the Gospel Values of Courage, Justice, Hope, Kindness and Patience. At the end of the day, we were joined by Year

11, where we all took part in a final reflection and prayer and of course a celebration cake. Many thanks to all staff and pupils who kindly helped with the supervision and planning of the activities.

Pen Pals and a Donald Trump Handshake

Earlier this year, Mrs Goldson heard of a new initiative called Book Pen Pals. It involves being paired with a published author, who then agrees to write to a class once a month for a whole year, suggesting books to read and inviting pupils to write about what they enjoy reading. The idea is to encourage conversations about books. We were incredibly lucky to be paired with author, strawberry farmer, actor, and competition fencer Kathryn Evans. 25 members of 9SE1 wrote to Kathryn, and she wrote an individual reply to each and every one of them. The students built up such an amazing rapport with Kathryn that she offered to come and do a school visit while en route to a literary festival in



Burnley. On March 18th, she carried out a talk to the entire Year 9 year group, a Q&A with the class she had been corresponding with, and then led a year 10 workshop on plot and character. Louie Temperini learned all about how a 'Donald Trump' handshake can give away a lot about character, and how to use this in creative writing. We are so blessed to have Kathryn as our Book Pen Pal for the year, and are amazed at her kindness in coming 300 miles to visit us.

Read more at <https://kathrynevans.ink/beauty-sleep/>

Year 7 Football



Having won the South Ribble indoor 5-a-side tournament before Christmas, the

Year 7 boys football team represented our school at the Lancashire finals, competing really well and giving an excellent account of themselves both on and off the pitch. Unfortunately, their run was ended in the group stages. The team were also invited to play in a tournament at Finch Farm, training ground of Everton FC, and took part in the first ever game to be played on Everton's new

4G training pitch. This was a fantastic opportunity for the boys to see the facilities available to top professionals, and hopefully inspired them to keep

playing the game with courage on the ball and smiles on their faces. We finally brought the season to an end playing away at Wellfield High School, finishing the season the way we started it, with an impressive

7-0 win. More importantly, the boys showed fantastic team spirit and kindness, which saw Harvey take Fletcher's place in the back 3 so that he could play further forward in the closing stages, in the hope that

he would score his first goal of the season. He did. Well done to all the Year 7 boys and girls who have

represented our school during the season in the various competitions we have entered.

South Ribble Trampoline Competition



Ten pupils from Years 7 to 11 participated in this annual event and Brownedge came away with six medals. In the year 7 category, Aysha Jones got gold, Alicia Collier silver and Beverley Onyesi won bronze. In the Year 8 and 9 competition, Eve Ashbrook won silver medal. In the Year 10 and 11 beginners group, Leah Kennan came 1st, and in the intermediate category Lucy Wright came 2nd.



Flame



A faithful group of Year 11 students went with Carmel to 'Flame' – a Catholic youth event in Wembley arena on Saturday 2nd March. It was an early start to get the coach down to London with Animate, but what a fantastic day! We met lots of other young people growing in hope and faith. Tim Hughes led us in worship; we had adoration and heard a great message about recognising our own significance and "Staying In Our Own Lane, With Our Eyes On Jesus" by Robert Madu. Guvna B inspired us with some rap music, and we loved travelling home with an inflatable Jesus!

Pupil Review - A Monster Calls

On 6th March, many of our Year 9 English students went to Runshaw College to watch the fantastic play, A Monster Calls. This story is based around a girl, Connie, whose mum is suffering with cancer, and her life goes to pieces. In the play Connie is told three tales, the fourth being hers and at the end of the play Connie realises each tale told her a moral story of the darkness of life.

The Drama students at Runshaw performed this play. Personally, I think that this was a great play to watch and kept me on the edge of my seat the whole show. It was a very hard-hitting performance and I believe the Runshaw students did an absolutely fantastic job. We give a massive thank you to Runshaw College for kindly letting us come and visit, and we thank the Runshaw Drama students for their excellent work on 'A Monster Calls'.



Year 10 Handball

On 15th January, the Year 10 Handball team made the journey to all Hallows to take part in the South Ribble Handball competition. This is always a fiercely contested competition and this was no different. The boys played against schools in South Ribble and showed their excellence, winning 4 games, drawing one and losing two. Both of the losses came in extremely close fought games against Hutton and All Hallows, with the boys only losing by one goal on each occasion.

Louie Temperini and Kyle Doherty were both nominated for player of the tournament by staff from the other schools present. Louie was typically dominant in defence, and showed outstanding drive when going forward. Kyle was his usual cat-like self, producing a number of outstanding saves. Well done to all the lads involved; you represented Brownedge with fantastic courage.



Youth Speaks

Did you know the top fear in a survey carried out recently is public speaking? (Death is number two on the list!) Despite this, a group of Year 9 courageous students have trained in public speaking, in order to enter the Youth Speaks competition. In February, Year 9 students Tiya Sherliker,

Amelia Hobin and Talyssa Rowe won through to the regional final of the Youth Speaks competition, which is run by Rotary Club UK. On Saturday February 2nd, we set off for Windermere School, which meant we left Bamber Bridge at 7 a.m. No lie-ins for us! We arrived at the school and very

beautiful it looked, too, surrounded by the snow capped hills of the Lake District. After a climb up from the car park to the school hall, we had a last practice and then performed in front of a large audience. The judges gave us 100% positive feedback, so it was a bit of a disappointment when we didn't get through to the north of England final, but we gained a huge amount of praise from all present and are also now more experienced speakers. What a great achievement for the students' CVs.

A special thank you to Richard Lea of Rotary Leyland for training the speakers.

Never too Late to Right a Wrong

The start of Lent got off to an amazing start when Mr Reynolds received an anonymous donation of £280 from a former student from 1971, who forgot to hand in their sponsored money of £20 for a fundraising event. Full of guilt for 48 years, our mystery donor calculated that, with inflation, the £20 was now worth nearly three times that amount. Thank you to our donor for the money, but also for teaching us all in school that Lent is a time to turn back to God and that it is never too late to put right things that are wrong. The donation of £280 will be used for rewards for pupils in school who consistently show Gospel values.



South Ribble Gymnastics

Over 80 gymnasts from South Ribble took part in this competition hosted at Worden. Out of six categories of competition we won medals in five. The medallists were:

Year 11 Sophie Proctor 2nd- floor, Year 8, Sophie Gardner

1st -floor, 3rd vault, Caitlin Massie 2nd - floor and Year 7,

Scarlet Howarth 3rd floor, Chloe Dutton 3rd- vault. A big well done to all 14 Browndedge gymnasts who took part.

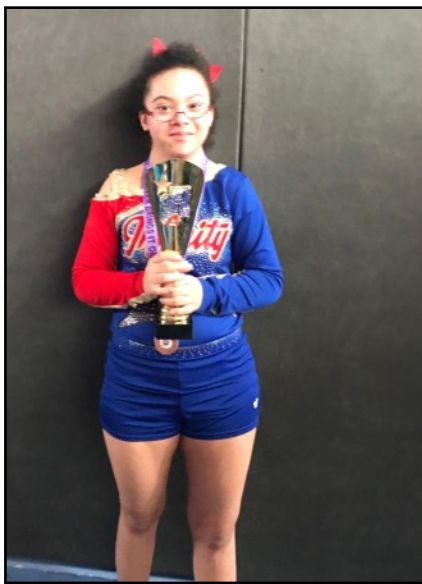
St Joseph's Penny Box

The Expressive Arts Faculty were asked by Caritas to redesign the St Joseph's Penny box to represent everything they do for our diocese with the theme given to us by Pope Francis: "Ladauto Si: Care for our Common Home." The faculty ran an interhouse competition to encourage pupils from Years 7 - 11 to get involved. We had some fabulous entries, but Meriel Woodwood from Caritas felt that the design created by Chloe Turner, Year 8, stood out, as it represented all that Caritas stands for. The box is shaped like the world. However, each individual segment represents areas in which Caritas provides support in our **local** community. We have adopted this charity for our Lenten almsgiving, and money raised from our annual Charity Afternoon will be given to this worthy cause.



We are a Reading School

Year 7 students have been enjoying visits to the recently re-opened Bamber Bridge library, and have been busy opening library accounts. The great thing about the library is that you can download audio books free of charge using an app on your phone or tablet called 'BorrowBox.' Let an audio book take the hard work out of reading by plugging in your headphones and being read to! Year 7 are enthusiastic about the app and enjoyed a tour of the library and a talk by the librarian, who we are delighted to say is one of our previous students, Holly Chatfield (now Holly Rain). Holly was in the same year as Claire Challinor, who now teaches English at Bishop Rawstorne in Croston. It's a small world! So, why not pay a trip to the library this weekend, and say hello to the friendly librarians? Best of all, there are no fines for junior borrowers.



Saphena, you're so fine!

Saphena Parker, Year 8, participated in an international cheerleading competition, in Paris. Saphena is a member of Shooting Stars cheerleading group made up from individuals with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities, commonly referred to as SEND. The group was set up by Sian Thorley, leader of Infinity Cheerleading Group, as a way of including students of all abilities, thus removing the artificial ceiling of expectations.

Inclusion is a concept often spoken about within our school setting. Sian's vision is in parallel with ours - having SEND athletes, whatever their limited ability, completing tasks in the same environment as their non-disabled equals. Saphena has been welcomed into the school gymnastics team and competed many times for school. Hey Saphena, you're so fine, you're so fine, you blow our minds!

Year 10 Football Roundup

On Tuesday 5th February, the Y10 Football squad hosted Lostock Hall at home in a thrilling game. Having been second best for the majority of the contest, the lads found themselves 3-1 down with 2 minutes to play. Brad Taylor never gave up hope, and had other ideas and grabbed the game by the scruff of the neck, pulling one back to set up a tense final minute. Brad was not finished yet, and scored a brilliant goal, calmly slotting past the keeper while one on one to grab a draw. A brilliant end to an exciting game of football. Man of the Match went to Brad, for the outstanding work rate he demonstrated throughout the whole game.



On Monday 1st April, the Y10 Football squad travelled to Leyland St Mary's Catholic High School to play the quarter final of the South Ribble Cup. On arrival, it was clear to see that the boys' normal short passing game was not going to be used, as the state of the pitch was poor to say the least. It was 'go big go quick' tactics. The boys fought hard, but really struggled to deal with the poor pitch. Trailing 2-1 at half time, the boys put up a very good fight in the second half, and were unlucky on a number of occasions not to equalize. Pushing for that elusive equalizer proved the boys' undoing as they were caught out with a quick counter attack in the final minutes. Man of the Match was Stephen Unsworth, for his industrious work all game.

GCSE PE Climbing

The Year 10 and Y11 GCSE PE groups have had a busy 10 Mondays completing a 20 hour climbing course that gained them marks which will go towards their GCSE grade. Each Monday they travelled to West View Leisure Centre, and, under the instruction of three climbing instructors, completed some amazingly difficult skills, including learning to Abseil, Lead Climb, Traverse, Scale Overhangs and Speed Climb.



The group developed skills they never thought they would be able to master, became very competent climbers. Special congratulations have to go to Tom Hardwick, Tyrone Longton, Kirk Davies, Joel Lloyd, Alex Willacy, and Josh Ashcroft, who all managed to climb a V3 boulder, which at one point means having to hang almost up-side-down, showing fantastic core strength. Well done to all.

Lancashire Book of the Year



In our school we have all tried something new this term. In our English class, (9ES1) we decided to help other schools to judge the Lancashire Book of Year. After we entered, about 30 new YA (young adult) fiction books were sent over for us to read. On Monday 4th February, all the schools that entered met up and spoke for three hours about our favourite books. At the start of the meeting, we did

icebreakers, and told everyone which fictional character we would like to be. When we got back to school, we were given a task to create a shortlist of five of our favourite entries to win the competition.

Niamh Murphy Y9

Year 8 Tennis Leaders

A selection of Y8 pupils have been chosen to represent Brownedge at the Tennis Leaders award this term. This qualification will allow the boys to lead at the upcoming primary tennis festivals. The pupils involved include: Joel Chester, Lewis Cartwright, Ellis Cottam, Michael Firth, Luke Goodeve, Liam McCann, Reuben Woodward, Charley Milburn, Robyn Kelly, Ella Temperini, Isabelle Evans, Lucy Dolphin, Abigail Aspinall, Katie Orrell, Josephine Schwarzer and Keira Atkinson.

Savio House



On 16th January a group of 30 students from years 7 and 8 went on a retreat to Savio House with Carmel, Miss Farrington and Mr Hayhurst. We had an AWESOME time! From an exciting adventure on the coach getting there, to lots of team games and prayers, to the celebration Mass and karaoke – a great time was had by all! One of the highlights was Mr Hayhurst's courageous dancing (including the 'lawn mower' during Mass,

and 'the worm' at the disco!). Our theme was 'bridges', and we came back to school feeling that the friendships between us and God had definitely been strengthened.

Northern Athletics - 5K event

Grace Brown and Faye Houghton, Year 10 pupils, represented Preston Harriers in this U15 competition held in Birkenhead on Sunday 24th March. Preston Harriers team came first, with the first runner home being Grace, coming 5th with a time for the 5k of 18.53 secs.

We are on the web!

Website: www.st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk

Twitter: @BrownedgeStMary



Any news? Send it to Mrs Oddie
oddie@st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk

Future U and Blackpool Zoo

23 students from Years 9 and 10 took part in a residential weekend to Blackpool Zoo, funded by the Future U programme. The first day started off with a tour around the zoo before the students got stuck in mucking out giraffes and zebras, and had the opportunity to hand feed these gentle giants. They also built enrichments for different species, such as meerkats and gorillas, and took part in an endangered species workshop, where they handled snakes, lizards and insects. The afternoon saw them watching a Sea Lion show, and then having a meet and greet with these beautiful and intelligent creatures. Everyone was excited to see the elephants, and we were lucky enough to get the opportunity to go behind the scenes and see them being trained. All of the students fully embraced the unique opportunities they were given, and were awarded certificates for completing the Zoo Keeper Academy course.



Year 8 Football

On Wednesday 13th February, Year 8 made the Journey to Finch Farm, Everton FC's training complex to take part in a North West based Tournament. The boys had been really looking forward to this, as it was a chance to see the facilities professional athletes have to train and raise hopes and aspirations that one day they may have the same opportunity. On arrival, the boys looked on in awe, as they could now actually see how big the complex was, and the number of pitches, or was it just the number of Ferraris and Bentleys that the boys were clearly obsessed with? Game time came, and the boys were placed in a tough group with schools from the Wirral, Manchester and Macclesfield. Playing four games, the boys lost three and drew one, but, more importantly, they had had an experience that will live with them for the rest of their lives. Well done to all. Player of the tournament went to Liam McCann, for never giving up, demonstrating hope and determination in the face of adversity.

Magistrates' Mock Trial

On Saturday 16th March, 12 Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 students represented Brownedge in the local heat of the Citizenship Foundation's national Mock Magistrates' Court Competition.

This year, team Brownedge excelled themselves and really did shine. Justice was served at Burnley Magistrates' Court as our prosecution and defence teams both beat their opposition. Unfortunately, we were beaten on points by the winner of the parallel heat. We were definitely knocked out too soon! A brilliant team effort with students demonstrating their acting and advocacy skills - well done!



BAe Rotary Technology Challenge

In March, three teams of students attended the annual BAE Rotary Technology Tournament at Leyland Civic Centre. Twelve pupils from Years 8, 9 and 10 had to pitch their knowledge and skills against other pupils from schools in the South Ribble area, to design and make a challenge devised and judged by BAE.

The day was great fun whilst also developing leadership and teamwork skills. The tasks required super designing skills and oodles of patience to create a robust product from the materials provided, to meet the challenge set.

We didn't win, but we did have a tremendous day!