

Shining Lights Newsletter

April 2020

Celebrating success

A very warm welcome to the Easter edition of Shining Lights. This has been written under very different circumstances, at a time where we are all fighting to stop the dreadful spread of Coronavirus. It is a time when we need to celebrate the wonderful activities that have

taken place in school more than ever. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all school staff who are working hard and going to exceptional lengths to provide a vital service for our children, young people and communities. We pray to our Patron:

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,

to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus,

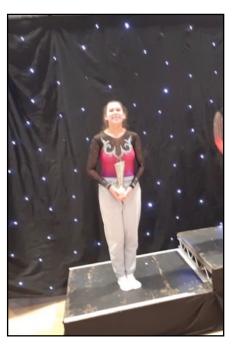
who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.



National Trampoline Success

On Saturday 14th March, Lucy Wright 11B competed in the British Schools Gymnastics National Trampoline Finals in Southampton. Lucy had already won the regional and northern rounds to make it this far which, in itself, is an amazing achievement. Lucy has been trampolining since Year 7 and competed regularly through the National Development Programme up until Year 9, when she decided to retire and concentrate on coaching. Having to keep some competitive aspect for her GCSE practical grades, Lucy still involved herself in school competitions and her passion and commitment for the sport finally paid off.

It was a tough competition for Lucy with competitors from all over the UK. Lucy finished in a fantastic 2^{nd} place, narrowly missing out on the Gold by 1 point. What a fantastic way to finish your time at Brownedge Lucy!



We knew it, now everyone can know it!

It is with a great sense of pride that our recent visit from Ofsted confirmed we continue to be a GOOD school. Their report clearly validates what we already know about our outstanding school family.



Extracts from the report include:

- o "This is a school where pupils are confident, full of life, and considerate of others. Pupils are known well and cared about. Pupils behave well and work hard in class."
- "Pupils said that they feel safe and can be themselves in this school community. Bullying almost never happens."
- "Pupils said the wider curriculum is a strength of the school. It provides them many new experiences.
 Staff go out of their way to provide pupils with extra activities and school trips. Pupils use these opportunities to find out about the wider world and what they enjoy and are good at."
- Staff help all pupils to access the curriculum equally. Most parents and carers of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are full of praise for the school. They say their children receive excellent support from staff. They achieve well."
- "Pupils develop as good and successful citizens. They learn how to contribute and make a difference to the world in which we live."
- "Pupils pay attention, try hard and behave well in lessons. This good behaviour extends beyond lessons.
 Pupils are happy and orderly between lessons, and at break and lunchtime."
- "Most pupils achieve well in their examinations, across almost all subjects. This includes pupils with SEND, who move on to well-chosen courses after Year 11. Disadvantaged pupils' examination results are improving year on year."

An overwhelming number of parents endorsed the school through the Ofsted online survey saying how safe and well taught their children are at the school. Good teaching, challenging problems and diligent marking ensure that students are eager to learn, achieve well and are proud of their school. High quality care and support, and a family atmosphere promote a high level of attendance and a good standard of behaviour.

We are so pleased that Ofsted has seen the fantastic achievements of our pupils, their determination to work hard and succeed, and the dedication of their teachers. The inspectors confirmed just how GOOD our school really is – we are thrilled!





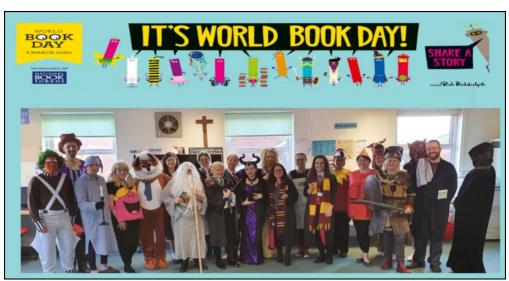


In early January over 100 pupils and 10 staff spent 8 days packed with snow, fun and laughter on a truly memorable ski trip to New Hampshire, USA. From skiing to snow tubing, pupils enjoyed all the activities New Hampshire had to offer and over the first five days as the snow continued to fall, so too did the pupils on the slopes! Students regularly skied Black Diamond runs, venturing to the top of the mountain and enjoying the packed powder that the week's snow had left. Leaving the snow, our group moved onto New York City. The bright lights and tall buildings left our pupils in awe of the magnitude of this wonderful and iconic city. From Time Square, Hard Rock Café, the 911 Memorial and Memorial Fountains, the Top of the Rock, the Empire State Building and Lady Liberty on Liberty Island pupils didn't know where to look next. What a supreme way to end a memorable trip. This was a full Brownedge team effort and shows what an outstanding family we are. The Twitter updates had one common theme #makingmemories. I think we can now change this to #memoriesmade. 2022 Anyone?

World Book Day fun!

On Thursday 5th March, students were surprised to find famous fictional characters had replaced their teachers for the day, as staff took part in World Book Day. The day was to celebrate books and reading, and is marked in over 100 countries around the globe. Celebrations took place all over the world to recognise the magical power of books — 'a link between the past and the future, a bridge between generations and across cultures.'

We know that reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator for success in life, more than family circumstances, educational background, or income. But it's in decline. So, we at Brownedge St Mary's, are doing our bit to reverse that. Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils were given book vouchers and staff celebrated the day by dressing up as a book character of their choice. Pupils voted on the best costume and after a very tightly challenged contest, the results were... 1st place – Mr Hayhurst (Oompa Loompa), 2nd place – Mrs Bland (Miss Agatha Trunchbull), 3rd place – Mr Banks (Willy Wonka)



Lancashire Schools' Cross Country Championship

On Saturday 18th January, Grace Brown, Jessica Lane, Abi Duffell, Ethan Barbarewicz and Emily Knell represented Brownedge at the annual Lancashire Schools Cross Country Championships at Witton Park. This was as a result of their fantastic performances in the District Cross Country Championships in October 2019. All ran fantastic races and as a school, we were extremely proud of their efforts and achievements. Places are: Grace Brown 12th, Emily Knell 16th, Jessica Lane 25th, Abi Duffell 14th, Ethan Barbarewicz 24th. A special mention has to go to Grace Brown who, by finishing 12th, has qualified to represent the Lancashire team for the up and coming season, a magnificent achievement and one that goes to show hard work does pay off.



Ash Wednesday

"The ashes mean I'm a sinner, the shape of the cross means I have a saviour" - Fr Mike Schmitz. On Ash Wednesday, our whole school marked the beginning of Lent with a prayerful service at St Mary's church. Our students read from scripture and distributed Ashes to each member of our school community. The beautiful service reminded us of the importance of turning back to God and believing the good news.

Savio House fun!

This term, Year 8 and 9 visited Savio House, a retreat centre inspired by the work of St John Bosco, for three days of reflection, friendship and prayer. Over these days our students took part in some beautiful walks in the sunshine, prayerful services and a chance to build new friendships. Our joyful retreat ended with an evening of dancing and karaoke!









Year 10 Handball

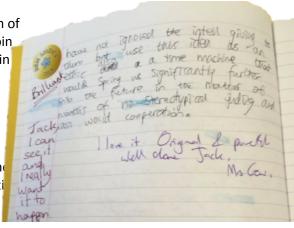


On Monday 13th January, the Year 10 Handball squad headed to All Hallows to take part in the regional handball qualification tournament. Winners of this would go on to represent the district nationally. The squad which included Keiran Flintoff, Ben Greenway, Seb Mellis, Mackenzie Jackson, Bradley Norwell, Daniel Rimmer and Luke Woodcock did not disappoint with our pupils going on to win the whole tournament, remaining undefeated as they With Daniel Rimmer and Keiran Flintoff as competitive and strong as always, Ben Greenway solid in goal and Mackenzie Jackson threatening in attack, the boys never looked any danger being beaten. A brilliant performance by all involved.

LitCoin Launch

Literacy currency is being offered to students in recognition of articulacy and verbal excellence. The new Brownedge LitCoin recognises students' efforts to use ambitious literacy skills in writing and speech.

Jack Woof's inspirational speech harnessed the power of language to engage and inspire the English department – Jack's oratory skills were impressive and his aspiration to communicate a powerful message were fulfilled through the carefully considered language choices – well done for creatian moving speech and for being one of our first LitCoin recipients!







Six weeks ago, a very enthusiastic group of Year 9 and 10 pupils turned up at Miss Hall's classroom, eager to hear more about the Young Enterprise scheme. What was it? How could it help them? The mission of this fantastic initiative is "Empowering young people to discover, develop and

celebrate their skills and potential" and with a mission so similar to our own, how could we not have a group in school?

Following their first meeting, the group were asked to visit UCLAN and put their first ideas to 'dragons' as in 'Dragon's Den'. The dragons liked the idea so much that two of them have become involved with the group — now called 'Woodwork Premier'. The company has a logo, a mission, an idea, a business plan, and have started to create and produce their items, together with packaging and gift tags. So, watch out Sir Alan Sugar! And watch out parents, staff and pupils! Woodwork Premier's products will be on sale once we are back at school and production can take place. Well done Woodwork Premier.

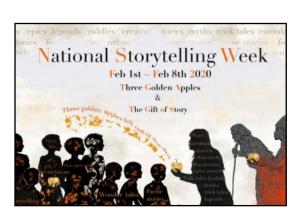


Regional Gymnastics

Congratulations to the U19's Gymnastic squad who qualified for the national finals having beaten all competition at the regional finals. All the hard work the girls put in on a Tuesday night paid off. Good luck and let's see if we can emulate Lucy Wright in the Trampolining competition and bring home a medal.



What's your story?



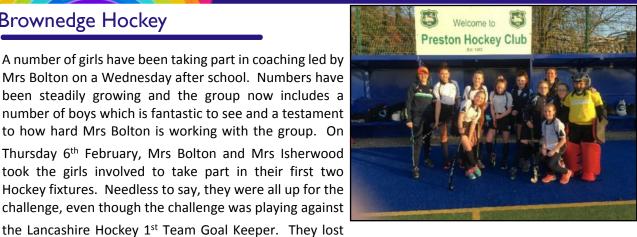
During National Storytelling week, beginning on 1st February, the whole school engaged in numerous activities to encourage pupils to consider "Stories belong to everyone...what's your story? What will you be telling and where will you be telling it?" Form time activities included introducing pupils to the importance of storytelling, story sentence starters, discussions on favourite books and stories, an audio radio story, image starters and topic storytelling. All of these with one focus in mind - to encourage pupils to use the week as an opportunity to share and listen to stories, and enjoy the process of speaking with others.

Football News

The start of the football season after the winter break has been hit hard with the current climate and the safety of our pupils has to remain our number one priority. A small number of fixtures were played prior to the outbreak of COVID-19 which resulted in entertaining games being played against Leyland St Mary's. Year 7 playing out a 2-2 draw, Year 8 narrowly losing 3-2 and Year 9 winning 5-2. With games still to be played in the league and cup, it could be a very congested end to the school football season. However, with the current uncertainty, there is a real possibility that the fixtures will not be completed this year.

Brownedge Hockey

A number of girls have been taking part in coaching led by Mrs Bolton on a Wednesday after school. Numbers have been steadily growing and the group now includes a number of boys which is fantastic to see and a testament to how hard Mrs Bolton is working with the group. On Thursday 6th February, Mrs Bolton and Mrs Isherwood took the girls involved to take part in their first two Hockey fixtures. Needless to say, they were all up for the challenge, even though the challenge was playing against



their two fixtures 2-0 and 4-0 however without that goalkeeper the scores would have been very different. Well done to all involved and keep it up!

Year 8 Passover Meal



In RE Year 8 have been experiencing a taste of Passover in their learning about Judaism and the Mosaic covenant. Year 11 have also had the opportunity to taste the charoset, matzot and salt water as they explored festivals, completing their learning about Judaism. They also tasted apples dipped in honey to help them remember Rosh Hashanah and sat inside a sukkah! Taste is such a great way to help recall – an important consideration as we begin revision in earnest for the GCSEs.

Duke of Edinburgh

At Brownedge St Mary's we are extremely proud to have become one of the THE DUKE OF Duke of Edinburgh award's licensed organisations, allowing us to give pupils the opportunity to complete their of Duke of Edinburgh award. We currently have 39 year 10 pupils enrolled on the full award, who are working hard to complete their volunteering, skills and physical sections. They are having a huge impact in the local community, volunteering at a range of sports clubs, community groups, nature reserves and by fund raising for local and national



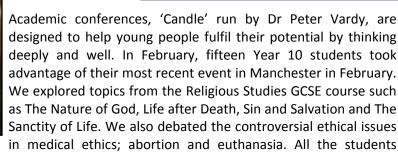
charities. We have also seen them embark on a wide variety of activities for their physical and skills sections, including: taking part in a weekly park run, learning to cook and even archery. Once we return to school, the pupils will begin to prepare for their final expedition and the successful completion of their Duke of Edinburgh award.

Alongside this wonderful start to our full award, we have been granted 100 participation places which will enable the rest of our year 10's to complete individual sections and will see them receive a nationally recognised certificate of achievement for doing so. For regular updates and challenges follow us on twitter @st_dofe.

Year 9 Handball

On Monday 20th January, Year 9 boys headed to All Hallows to take part in a District Handball Tournament. The boys have literally only been playing for a couple of weeks and what a performance they put in, remaining unbeaten on their journey to the final before narrowly missing out on being crowned champions, losing to All Hallows in a tense and close game 6-5. This game could have gone either way and the boys should be extremely proud of what they have achieved in such a short space of time. The squad included Reuben Woodward, Joel Chester, Liam McCann, Lewis Cartwright, Archie Porter, Alex Monk and Luke Goodeve.

Candle Conference



represented the school well; taking copious notes, listening carefully to the lectures and film clips and applying their learning to examination questions.

Stephanie Ramsden did us all proud by taking an active part in the closing debate.

Drexel Feast Day

On Friday 6th March, Drexel House celebrated the Feast of St Katharine Drexel, our House Saint. The day started in the hall with a Jacob's Join breakfast. During period 5, Years 7-10 all met in the hall for a carousel of activities, all organised and led by members of each form. This year, the activities centred around our Lenten preparations and the weekly theme of 'generosity'. Some thoughtful items were created which we look forward to adding to our sacred spaces in form rooms. Year 11 joined us at the end of the day for a final reflection and prayer and of course a celebration cake! Extended thanks to all staff and pupils who helped with the supervision and planning of the activities.





Refugee work in the Parish

This Lent our school has been working with St Mary's Parish to begin raising money to house a Syrian refugee family in Bamber Bridge. So far, our community has seen many parish coffee mornings and a sold out gig from 'The Mercy Brothers' - our very own Fr Mark's band! We are looking forward to continuing this fundraising and welcoming the family into our community.

Brownedge St Mary's own Garden of Eden

Staff and pupils at school have decided to resurrect the school garden that had sadly lapsed. To kick start the project Mr Robson received 200 trees from The Woodland Trust School and every student in Year 7 with the support of the student Eco Group helped plant the trees in the Autumn term. At the same time Mr Wilson, the Behaviour Support Mentor, began, with the assistance of some pupils, to prepare a raised bed and another vegetable bed at the side of the science block.

We planted some broad beans, garlic and onions to overwinter them and these are now in good shape for an early crop. It is planned to create more raised beds and vegetable plots over the coming months.

Mr Wilson also wrote to several local companies for any support that could be offered and South Ribble Council offered

us 20 fruit trees comprising of a mixture of apple (2 varieties), plum, cherry and pear. In addition, some blackcurrant and raspberry bushes were planted. These have been planted and we await the fruits of our labours in years to come. Mrs Oddie would like to use the Brownedge 'orchard' as an area of reflection for pupils, complete with bird feeders and wind chimes.

Mr Wilson said that 'encouraging pupils to get involved in the garden is a great way to get children to learn about nutrition. There are many other advantages including bringing aspects of the curriculum in Science, Food Technology and DT to life as well as providing links to a variety of other subjects. It also allows pupils to develop life skills and increase environmental awareness as well as promoting the Catholic ethos and gospel values of the school.' It would be great if we could get more students involved and any students interested in joining the Eco group or helping with the school garden are asked to speak to Mr Robson or Mr Wilson

Corinthians 9:6; "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."



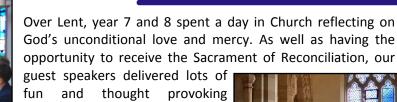
As we journeyed through Lent, our school challenged ourselves to make one act of generosity each day. At the end of every day, when each form had completed their acts of kindness, reconciliation and friendship, they were invited to place a flower on our cross. As the days passed, our once barren cross was

transformed into a beautiful symbol of hope, made from acts of love.





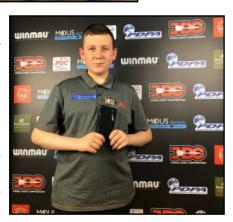
Lent Days of Reflection



fun and thought provoking workshops. From creative activities to powerful testimonies, each of our speakers inspired us with their stories of God's unconditional love.



Nathan Care once again proved his talent on Saturday 25th January winning the Junior Darts Corporation Tour 1 event and, in the process, guaranteeing him a place at this year's World Junior Finals. Nathan achieved the magical 9 dart leg on his way to victory, something some of the seasoned professionals who compete on the PDC week in and week out haven't achieved. Two 180's followed a treble 20, treble 19 and the all-important double 12. Two weeks later he also went on to win tours 3 and 4, cementing his place at the top of the junior rankings. Congratulations Nathan on both counts and good luck in the world finals. Mrs Oddie has her ticket!



While school's out, reading carries on!

School closures don't have to mean that reading stops. Waterstones observed a 30% rise in sales before stores closed, and online book sales have risen by 400%. We have been doing our bit in school, too. Year 7 had just started reading Cirque du Freak, by Darren Shan, when children were asked to stay at home. Mrs Goldson had the bright idea of contacting Darren and asking for permission to read the novel aloud online, something that publishers normally don't allow. Ten minutes after she wrote to Darren, Mrs Goldson was delighted to receive his consent, and, as a result, Year 7 pupils have been treated to a chapter a day, which has been available on Insight. Pupils have responded with delight.

<u>Charlie:</u> " Hi Miss, Chapter six was wonderful, - the suspense of the main character when he had both fists closed and then as he opened them slowly!"

Evie: "Hello, Mrs Goldson, I was on Insight watching the chapters, and you said at the end, do you like them? Well, yes, I do; when I finish my subject early, I go and watch a chapter. Thanks, Evie x"



Darren Shan @darrenshan · 1m Replying to @BrownedgeStMar1 Nice bit of reading!! :-)



17

Bosco Feast Day

The feast of St John Bosco was celebrated on 31st January. As has become tradition, pupils enjoyed a non-uniform day, began the day by sharing breakfast and ended it with a delicious cake featuring the face of St John Bosco himself! In the spirit of St John Bosco, the afternoon was filled by playing a variety of ridiculous (ridiculously funny) games including Basket Catch, Oreo Stack and Elephant March. It is always highly entertaining watching some individual pupils wandering around with elephant trunks (think tights and tennis balls!) attached to their heads with the aim of knocking over paper cups. An extra treat this year

was provided by a group of Year 9 pupils who spent time making us Bosco shaped biscuits which we all got to take home along with our prayer cards made by the Chaplaincy Team. As ever, the message of the day..."Pray when it's time to pray. Study when it's time to study. Play when it's time to play."(John Bosco) And today was a time for play.



Bright Lights for Jess



Huge congratulations to Jessica McGrail in Year 11 who found out just before Easter that she has been given a place at LIPA (Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts) to study Musical Theatre in September. Lead Patron for LIPA is Sir Paul McCartney and the Institute, which opened in 1996, is renowned as part of the UK's higher education provision for performing arts. Over the past three years, three Brownedge pupils have gained entry to LIPA; Elizabeth Evans, Rachel Goulding and now Jess. All three pupils made a huge contribution to performing arts whilst at Brownedge. Most recently Jess took to the stage as Tallulah in our fabulous production of 'Bugsy Malone' last November. Prior to this, she stepped in with just three weeks to 'curtain up' to play the part of Mrs Mushnik in 'Little Shop of Horrors'. Jess is passionate about performing arts; as well as her contribution to school productions she has also participated in

professional shows and we wish her every success at LIPA in September. No doubt she will be one to look out for in the West End in future years!

St Vincent de Paul First Youth Mass

On 3rd March, seven members of the Youth SVP spent the day in London attending the first ever SVP Youth Mass. The event took place at the beautiful St George's Cathedral, Southwark. Mass was celebrated by the Most Reverend Archbishop John Wilson, who reminded us in his sermon to have the courage to continue with the work we do. It also gave our Youth SVP group the opportunity to meet with other Youth SVP and see that they are part of and contribute to a much larger family. We had to ask our local larger SVP family to help towards the cost of the trip



as we donated the majority of our SVP account last summer to sponsor a child go on holiday who would not normally have the opportunity to do so. We express our thanks to Rose Greyless and the Brownedge St Mary's conference and the President of the District Council, Phil Mahon who generously donated funds for our group to go on this fabulous trip..

Home Learning Fun!

This is an article I never thought I would write...

On Friday March 20th 2020, we had no choice but to close our school doors to the majority of our pupils in a national effort to try to contain the Coronavirus. As a result, teachers, parents and pupils have had to learn quickly to adapt to the new way of continuing pupil's education from home. It has been a challenge in many ways, but our fabulous family has worked together to find different approaches to make it work...who would have thought six weeks ago that Mr Hickin may be getting ideas of becoming the next Strictly Come Dancing 2020 champion?

As you know, pupils have been working hard





over the last couple of weeks at home. They have been completing work booklets which

have been made available on INSIGHT or in paper packs, they have been competing in Quizlet and Kahoot! quizzes, engaging in English's class reading sessions, rising to the challenge by participating in PE's 1-minute challenges and having a giggle at the Maths team's 'tik-tok dance videos'. These are just a few of the innovative and engaging ways your pupils are able to get involved and stay connected with our Brownedge family.

Over the Easter break, we want our pupils to have a well-deserved rest from schoolwork. However, we are planning to set some EASTER activities/ challenges/ competitions via INSIGHT and our school Twitter account. All with the intention of keeping contact and giving each other the opportunity to smile and stay in touch.

Please watch out for the activities and send photographs to <u>dudaniecl@st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk</u> of you completing them so we can post them on our school's twitter account. There may be some prizes available ©

Below are links to some of our Twitter/Instagram pages for you to follow so you can get involved and stay connected:

School Twitter: @BrownedgeStMary

English Twitter: @BrownedgeStMaryEnglish

MFL Twitter: @BSM_mfl PE Twitter: @BSM PE

Chaplaincy Instagram: bsm_chaplaincy

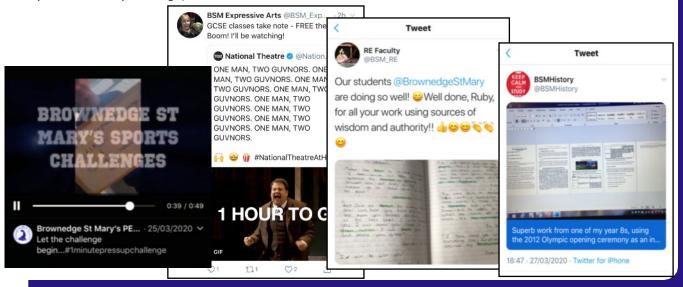
RE Twitter: @BSM RE

History Twitter: @BSMHistory and @SSmith_History

Expressive Arts Twitter: @BSM_ExpArts

Maths Instagram: maths_at_brownedge

Stay safe and keep smiling:)



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

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





👨 a b s m _ c h a p l a i n c y

SEEN SOME GOOD NEWS YOU WANT TO SHARE? EMAIL IT TO BOWER@ST-MARYSHIGH.LANCS.SCH.UK



