



# Shining Lights Newsletter

December 2017

*Celebrating success*

Welcome to our Christmas Edition of *Shining Lights*. Once again, we celebrate the wonderful achievements of our young people who constantly take up the challenge to develop skills and talents, to contribute to wider school life or to lead. I am so pleased that so many are coming forward to do these things with true Growth Mindset determination. Above all of the activities and events we have provided this term, the ones linked to charity give me most joy. In an often dark and damaged world, there is a light of hope in the way many of our young people jump to the challenge of doing "little things with great love". This is what Christmas is really about. When Christmas finally comes for you, I hope you have a happy and peaceful one.

## Little Shop of Horrors

There we were, awaiting the delivery of a giant man-eating plant, uncertain if it would even fit on the stage, pretty sure that this was meant to be one of those alternate years when we don't actually put on a show. But when you have the bug – not to mention students with the talent and the enthusiasm of those at Brownedge – two years between shows seems an eternity, so there we were, twelve months on from 'Grease', all ready to go again, just so long as a flower with a taste for human flesh could be wedged into place.



As ever, we've been utterly wowed by the spirited way in which the cast threw themselves into the production; they performed over three nights as well as entertaining 200 Year 5 pupils from local feeder schools. Special mention to some of our Year 11 pupils who have now performed in their last musical production for Brownedge; Elizabeth Evans (Audrey), Emily Crook (Audrey II) and Jack Denwood (Dentist), supported by Jessica Bentham and Beth Shepherd. Other principal parts were led by Sam Wilson (Seymour), Jessica McGrail (Mrs Mushnik) and Rachel Goulding. In addition it was wonderful to have some of our new Year 7 pupils involved. Everyone had a fantastic week, finished off with what has become our traditional cast party after the Friday evening performance. 'Don't feed the plants' we were warned, but fed them we did and it was certainly worth it...though a trip to the dentist will never be the same again!

## Caroline Paige - Stonewall Role Model



We were delighted to welcome our third Stonewall Role Model, helicopter pilot Caroline Paige, to school on 3 October. Caroline has been a navigator for the RAF and served 35 years in the Royal Air Force, flying tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. She has also been part of the security rapid response team protecting the Pope on his tour of European countries.

Caroline is a trans woman and spoke about her life and experiences in an inspirational way. Her key messages are: Follow your dreams; believe in yourself, and let your light shine.



## University of Manchester STEM Trip

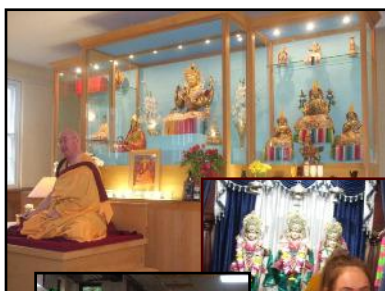
On the 3<sup>rd</sup> October a group of Year 9 and Year 10 students attended the Dalton lecture at the University of Manchester. This year the lecture was given by a leading professor of biochemistry on the theme of 'Making the Tiniest Machines'. The students learnt how modern technology and chemical synthesis is being used to create tiny machines that have many applications in the field of medicine. One of our pupils was picked to take part in a demonstration and all pupils gained an invaluable insight into how current techniques are being used to combat diseases. We even bumped into a few former pupils who have gone onto study science subjects at college.



## Interfaith Week

Year 7 had a taste of various faiths by getting to meet and question faith representatives from Hinduism, Bah'ai, Islam and the Salvation Army. They asked many questions and explored the impact that faith can have on people.

They really enjoyed picking up artefacts and dressing in traditional Muslim dress.



30 Year 9 pupils visit the Jewish Museum in Manchester. They took part in a very interactive morning that examined Jewish beliefs and practices. The museum was once an active Synagogue so pupils were to explore the features and functions of a Jewish Synagogue.

The week finished with 30 year 8 pupils going on a tour of some of the places of worship in Preston. They visited the Jamea Masjid, which is Preston's largest Mosque. They also visited the Gujarat Hindu Temple and Vajravarahi Kadampa Buddhist Centre. Pupils got to tour these

places of worship, speaker to worshippers and even witness some worship taking place. We were really overwhelmed by the beautiful places we saw and the very warm welcome that we received by our hosts! One pupil commented: "We should all visit if we can! I was so surprised

at how welcoming and loving people were. It was surprising how many things we all have in common too. I would describe the trip as very opening. It opened my eyes to some of the different faiths that make up our amazing community!"

## PAPYRUS Walk

Two pupils from school participated in a charity walk on Sunday 10th September for PAPYRUS (the national charity dedicated to the prevention of young suicide). Gary Dawson and Olivia Waite participated in a 10 mile walk raising money for the charity aimed at tackling the stigma of young suicide by encouraging young people to seek help and support, and encourage people in the local area to talk through the taboo.

Gary and Olivia were the youngest of all the walkers which ranged up to people in their 50's. They completed the walk with enthusiasm and dedication and were "fantastic representatives for the younger generation, and representatives for your school."



## Hope in the Future

Saphena Parker in Year 7 and her father Michael represented St Mary's parish in collecting an image of the Cross of San Damiano at Salford Cathedral in October. The Cross is to highlight the Hope in the Future initiative, a five year project in the parishes of the Diocese of Salford, which is seeking to refocus the way we function as parish communities so that we will be better suited to flourish in today's society; to become what Pope Francis describes as missionary disciples.





## Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Appeal

As a school we want to be a part of changing children's lives all over the world in Jesus' name and one way we do this is through the power of a simple gift with Operation Christmas Child. Every year we support Samaritan's Purse, a charity that sends shoeboxes full with gifts for children who are poor and needy. A small shoebox can have a big impact. What goes into the box is fun, but what comes out of it is eternal. Since 1990, more than 146 million children in over 150 countries have experienced God's love through the power of simple shoebox gifts from Operation Christmas Child. We are very proud to say this year we collected an astounding 90 boxes. Watch this space for more information on where our boxes were sent to.

## Amazing Accelerated Readers!

This term, Year 7 and 8s took part in an Accelerated Reading competition. The students had to score 100% or the most points in the Accelerated Reader Book Quiz. Twenty Four students achieved this and let their light shine. The students' reward was a Pizza Party on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December. Top marks: Carly Johnson, Alex Finch and Isabelle Monaghan who achieved the highest points overall. Well done to everyone involved. Competition will begin again in the new year.



## Year 7 Service of Welcome

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October we celebrated our year 7 Welcome Mass with Fr Mark, welcoming all our new students to Browndedge, and they welcomed their families! Everyone did a great job of singing our school hymn (Christ be our light), 7T led us in the first reading, 7R led the responsorial psalm and 7K wrote some beautiful bidding prayers. 7D brought up items that represented their start at school, and their year 9 buddies offered prayer candles in the house colours. 7B prepared a drama on welcoming people and the Mass ended with a great song and actions: SHINE! It was a very special evening and there was a lovely prayerful atmosphere as we all celebrated the Eucharist.

## MBA Donation

Once again we have been the recipients of a donation of office furniture from MBDA Bolton, a division of British Aerospace. We heard they were moving location and that they were donating office furniture to worthy causes, so Mr Watkinson sped down the M61 in the minibus and returned with desks, chairs, and filing cabinets. Many thanks to MBDA Bolton



## Lancashire Book of the Year 2017

Browndedge has been chosen to take part in the Lancashire Book of the Year competition.

This is a competition in which a select number of pupils are provided with books and asked to read as many as possible. Certain pupils from the group are then asked to take part in meetings where pupils discuss and decide which books to short list. The final stage of the competition takes place at the University of Central Lancashire where the winning book is announced!

For our first meeting six pupils in year 9, Aliya Corkindale, Rhiannon Garfeild-Lane, Nathan Care, Owen Black, Patrick Rogers and Rhiannon Bradshaw, went to Corpus Christi Catholic High School. Browndedge pupils spent the afternoon discussing and debating books with 12 other pupils from Corpus Christi and Garstang Academy. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and cannot wait to receive their next allocation of books!



## Year 7 and 8 Form Masses

Strengthening our Catholic ethos, we are celebrating the Eucharist more in school this year. Fr. Mark has been coming in to celebrate form Masses each week during the school day. Each form has prepared readings, bidding prayers and music along with Carmel and their Form Tutor. We have really enjoyed having time to pray together and celebrate Jesus' presence in our lives. Fr. Mark has been celebrating Masses with Years 7 and 8 so far, and these are leading up to whole year celebrations of the Eucharist. Years 9 and upwards will be celebrating after Christmas.



## Youth SVP

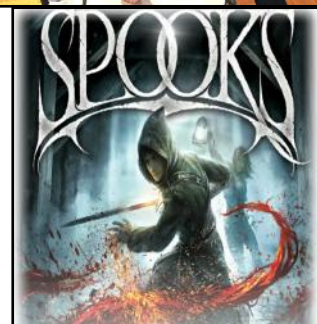
Our Youth SVP group had a visit from the Diocesan co-ordinator and were officially commissioned as Youth SVP members. SVP is the Saint Vincent de Paul society that helps the most needy and vulnerable in our local community. Congratulations to our new Youth SVP members – good luck with your promise to help the less fortunate in our area!

## Visit of Joseph Delaney

Joseph Delaney visited Year 7 and Year 6 from St Mary and St Benedict's and Aidan's on 29 November to launch his latest novel for young people. In an interview with Joseph, he was asked about his books:

*The role of prophecy is highly important to your novels. How much do you yourself believe in these and to what extent – if any – have these influenced your writing?* **"I've always been fascinated by prophecy and predestination. I like to encounter it in other fictions and have made it an important part of the Wardstone Chronicles Series. I do think that some things that happen in our lives are meant to be. It may only be a trick of the mind; sometimes, retrospectively we think that things could only have happened in that way. But I can think of occasions in my own life that I feel very strongly that something was meant to happen; where I made a sudden decision and it did change my life. But I was free to choose – or was I?"**

Thank you to St Mary and St Benedict's and St Aidan's for helping to make Joseph's visit a huge success. Many books were bought, and we look forward to a "Spooky" Christmas holiday's reading!



## Harry Walton and Lancashire Hockey

Congratulations to Harry Walton in Year 9 who was picked to play Hockey for Lancashire Under 14s. Harry currently plays his hockey for Preston Hockey Club and was asked to attend Lancashire Development Squad training sessions at the beginning of this season.

Well done Harry, a great achievement.



## Hothersall Lodge Geography Field Trip

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 26 Year 10 and 11 students gave up their weekend to enjoy an amazing geographical experience to Hothersall Lodge Field Study Centre.

On the Saturday we went to the Trough of Bowland to investigate the changes along the River Wyre from the source to the mouth and also get to get their willies wet by carrying out a number of experiments. The evening was spent relaxing, playing games and enjoying socialising with each other. Before an early Sunday morning breakfast, followed by a trip to the coast to study first hand, in the sun, the different approaches to defending the Blackpool and Lytham coastline. Staff and students really enjoyed the whole weekend.



## ROTARY YOUTH SPEAKS COMPETITION

### Youth Speaks

On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> of October, pupils from across Years 7-10 took part in a Public Speaking Workshop, which was run by the Rotary Club. The session was really enjoyable and gave the members of Debate Club good information on how to structure their arguments.

In January, three teams will take part in the first heat of Youth Speaks, a public speaking competition where they will be debating an argument that they have chosen. If the teams win, they will be able to move on to the next stage of the competition and a chance for them to compete at both the regional and national finals! Good luck to #teambrowndedge.

### Youth SVP

Our Youth SVP group have recently held an inter house competition in school. Pupils have been making Christmas decorations that can be distributed to the elderly, at the local food banks and to the local hospitals and hospices. They have been spreading a little Christmas cheer! We had an overwhelming response and as a school we made 100's of decorations that can be distributed. Here are the winners of the competition, with their stunning entries!

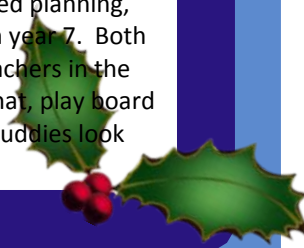


### Remembrance Sunday

The History department and 8 Year 11s led a memorial on Remembrance Day 11th November 2017 for John McNamara. The pupils did the school proud as we remembered the VC winner from our parish.

### Year Buddy Group

Our Year 9 Buddy group have further enjoyed working with Year 7 this half term. Activities have included planning, preparing and delivering lessons based on 'Community' as part of the Learning for Life programme with year 7. Both year groups had great fun along the way, and we may have witnessed the 'spark' being lit for future teachers in the making! We now have a year 7 base room for lunchtime activities where year 7 pupils can come and chat, play board games, get help with homework or simply get to know one another. It's been a fun half term and the Buddies look forward to spending more time with our younger friends.





## Christmas Jumper Day

We support a vast array of charities, but one we hold close to our hearts is St Catherine's Hospice. A variety of fundraising activities have taken place over the advent period including a Christmas Jumper Day, selling Christmas cards, making Christmas hampers for visiting relatives and creating Christmas Wreaths which are now adorning patient bedrooms. The jumper day itself raised over £500. A huge thank you to all pupils, staff and parents involved.



## Autumn Term Interhouse Competitions

Since the introduction of the new House system in 2013 the prestigious Interhouse trophy has been played for every term. Faculties arrange imaginative competitions and events that are competed for in a fiercely competitive atmosphere...that is just the Heads of House!! At least 13 activities have been arranged so far this term ranging from quizzes, 'Don't feed the plants' model making, pokemon, design a T shirt, comic strip and SVP xmas decorations to name a few. Over the last few terms Kolbe have been awarded the trophy but currently Bosco are in the lead, but things are tight at the top with only a few points in it with only a couple more results to come in. The result is always given on the last day of term after the liturgy in St Mary's church..... we eagerly await the result!

## Bob Box Night

We hosted a '**Bob Box night**' on Tuesday 14th November at 6.30pm in the design technology room at Browndedge St Marys Catholic High School. We've been talking about the Bob boxes (bat or bird boxes) as a practical way we put our faith into action - loving others and the environment, and students have been linking this to Laudato Si in their RS lessons. It was jointly ran by RE, Technology and Chaplaincy, supported by members of our school CAFOD group. The parish CAFOD group also came up to support us which was lovely!

We were inspired by the way the Bob box brings people together - the fathers and sons building them, and the people in our Connect2 Peru project - so we wanted to bring people together here too, to build them. Doing it in the evening meant we had whole families attending. Each Bob box costs £10 : £2.50 of this covers material costs, and £7.50 goes to the communities we are supporting through CAFOD in Peru.



There was a great buzz on the evening and wonderful to know we are supporting families in our country, people in Peru and also the environment.



## Careers Fair November 2017

The day began at 11.20am with our Year 10 and 11 students being invited to meet representations from local Colleges, Further Education Providers and Businesses including Leyland Trucks Ltd. Our year 8 and 9 students also had the opportunity to meet with representatives during the day, and ask questions to support them with planning their future pathways.

All students' fully engaged with the experience and many of the representatives commented on how impressed they were by the number of parents who came to support their children after school.



## U16 South Ribble Athletics

This competition was held in September this year instead of the summer so that the current Year 11 could participate. Brownedge fielded both a boys and girls team with the girl's team coming 4<sup>th</sup> overall and the boys 7<sup>th</sup>. There were some notable good performances by Will Lancaster and others including Kate Danby coming 1<sup>st</sup> in the 800m, Kaylah Cottam 1<sup>st</sup> in shot. We will find out later in the year whether we have any athletes who have made the District team in the County schools competition



## South Ribble Cross Country

Around 70 Brownedge pupils participated in the annual XC event which was held at Hutton Grammar. There were some great performances from our runners with 7 pupils making District selection. Three girls achieved silver medal status in their age group, Robyn Kelly Yr7, Grace Brown U14's and Kate Danby U16's. The yr7 girls and boy's teams came 4<sup>th</sup>, U14 girls team came 3<sup>rd</sup> and boys 4<sup>th</sup>, U16 girls and boys came 4<sup>th</sup>. The Overall girls result BSM came 2<sup>nd</sup> and boys 4<sup>th</sup> and all points added together to give the overall school position, Brownedge came 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 11 District schools. The pupils making the District team are:- Robyn Kelly, Grace Brown, Faye Houghton, Emily Knell, Kate Danby, Regan Wilkinson, Zac Smith

## North West Trampoline Competition

This annual competition was held at Robin Park Wigan and we entered many pupils in the days competition in classes ranging from U13 novice to U19 elite. Two of our pupils came second and were awarded trophies as well as getting through to the zonal round to be held in Huddersfield in February. Chloe Cattnach came second in the U19 elite category with a score of 53.90 and Daniel Duerden came second in the U15 boys novice event.

Good luck to both gymnasts in the next round.



## North West Floor and Vault

Thirteen of our pupils entered this competition in October and we walked away with 7 medals of various colours. Notable performance were; Yr10 Sophie Proctor- silver on floor, bronze on vault. Daniel Duerden Gold on floor and vault. Yr9 Caitlin Ward- silver on vault. Yr8 Madison Ogden- Bronze on floor and in yr7 Sophie Gardner- bronze on vault.



## South Ribble Handball Tournament

Year 10 boys won the South Ribble Handball Tournament beating All Hallows, Balshaws, Leyland St Mary's and Penwortham Priory to finish the tournament undefeated. The pupils have been learning handball as part of their GCSE PE practical so this tournament was an excellent opportunity for them to test themselves against other schools. Year 10 handball team: Will Edgerley, Zack Smith, Spencer Beattie, Davey Grice, Tyrone Longton, Joe Rodwell-Grant, Jack Wachowski, Spencer Close, Luke Ingleson, Kian Clarkson, Brandyn Calvert.





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

**We are on the web!**

Website: [www.st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk)

Twitter: @BrownedgeStMary



## Charity begins at home

Well almost. In this case it began right outside school when Owen Aiton (8B), Thomas Norris (8K) and Adam Scolah (9B) went to the aid of an elderly lady who had fallen in the street and cut her head. The three boys helped her up and took her back to her house and made sure she was OK. The three boys pictured above paid a visit this week to take her a Christmas present too. Great work!



## Book Fair

Congratulations to our Librarians who have once again put on a record breaking Book Fair.

There were many entries in our competition to win a free book and more students than ever came back over the five days to buy an exceptional £1000 worth of books. As a result, Scholastic has also rewarded us with hundreds of pounds of free books for our library. Miss Close's enthusiastic team of Librarians, Elise, Ruby, Josh, Rebecca, Connor, Dean, Adam and Corey, all contributed to the fair's success.

## The Foxton Centre

Bosco House have been busy raising money for variety of charities this Advent. Hope hampers have been donated for St Catherine's Hospice for visiting relatives. In addition to this members of Bosco House have engaged with The Foxton Centre and their Hungry Campaign. This campaign aims to buy homeless people in Preston a healthy, balanced meal at The Foxton Centre. We have raised £122 towards this and it will buy a good meal for 40 people for more than 3 weeks. A huge congratulations to all involved. A special thanks to Abbie Caldwell, who donated a food hamper for the centre and for Maddy Bell who single handedly raised £40 for the cause.



## South Ribble Indoor Athletics

10 schools from the District entered this event with our Year 9 athletics leaders doing a great job officiating in both the track and field events. The events included on track- 4 x 1 relay, 2 lap, 4 lap, 6 lap, 8 lap paarlauf, 4 x 2 lap relay and field events included- shot, standing triple jump, standing long jump, vertical jump, and speed bounce. The Year 7 team came a very creditable 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Year 8 team came 4<sup>th</sup>.

Pupils involved;

Year 7 -Robyn Kelly, Kiera Hopla, Niamh Hopla, Katie Orrell, Grace Woods-Porter, Kayleigh Adair, Laura Cottam

Year 8- Niamh Murphy, Shae Kirkpatrick, Annabelle Price-Bilham, Emily Knell, Jess Lane, Caitlin Ward, Kayleigh Welfare, Rosie Walsh.



# Happy Christmas to you all

School reopens on

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 8.50 am

