



Shining Lights Newsletter

December 2016

Celebrating success

We hope you enjoy reading the December edition of our school newsletter packed with highlights and information about activities and events that took place during the Autumn Term.

Attitude to Learning - 2s across the board!

Three Year 10 girls each share the £200 reward for any student achieving grade 2 for ATL in all their subjects at the last assessment point. What an amazing achievement! Kate Danby in Year 10 has scooped this award twice on the run. Who will win in the next Assessment challenge next term?



Grease



Never mind the 'chills', it was the thrills that were 'multiplying' for our recent production of the iconic musical 'Grease'. And while 'summer lovin' happened so fast', putting together this show certainly didn't. You could even say it's been years in the making, awaiting the perfect alignment of male and female talent that this show required, but the audience certainly agreed that, from the beauty school to the bleachers, the talent of this cast shone brightly.

As well as performing for our primary schools we also had a run of 3 nights, followed by our traditional cast party. Mrs Bland and Mr Perkins are very proud of the cast and what they achieved. We told them they'd 'better shape up' at the first rehearsal – and they did just that!



Year 7 Biology Cell Models



7SS1 were set a task to make a model cell for homework. They were given strict guidelines on the type of materials they could use and were encouraged to recycle household items. The results were absolutely fantastic! The whole class went above and beyond in their enthusiasm and creativity for the task; we even had cell cakes and a cell pizza!



Leavers 2016 GCSE Certificate Evening

A huge celebration took place in December with over 200 people attending the 2016 GCSE Certificate Evening. Mr Reynolds remarked on the outstanding results of this year group and reminisced on some of the events and characters.

The certificates were presented by Mr Peter Crook, Head Middle Distance Performance Coach at Preston Harriers and father of past pupil Charlotte. He gave an inspiring speech about commitment, hard work and determination being the key to success and related this to his many years of experience being a running coach.



CAFOD Fast Day



We celebrated CAFOD Harvest Fast Day and it was great: students paid £1 to come in their own clothes, the whole school said a grace written by our CAFOD group and some students did a sponsored fast for 24 hours!!

In addition to this we had an exciting lunch time - our CAFOD group led students in a 'blindfold taste test' where they sampled 9 different foods and tried to guess what they were. Each form was allowed one entry, and there was an overwhelming number of volunteers. The foods included avocado, mango, sweet potato, blue cheese, turkey, guacamole and marmite crisps! Everyone who took part was presented with a fairtrade chocolate bar as a 'well done'! We believe that it's important to take time to think about the flavour and texture of our food, and this can help us to appreciate what we are eating, and feel more motivated to help those who are without. We had a great day raising money and awareness, and praying together.

Beautiful Bowness

We took 73 GCSE Year 11 students to the Lake District on a sunny Tuesday in September to carry out a geographical investigation into the effects of tourism. While in Bowness students completed a land use map, counted the traffic and people, drank lots of Costa coffee, carried out an Environmental quality survey and asked members of the public lots of questions.



All the students did really well and many said they really enjoyed the day finding it really interesting. One student suggested it was one of his best days out and thought Bowness was a really nice place to visit. Two visiting American tourists told Mr Goodall how impressed they were by our students who had carried out the interviews.

Year 10 Philosophy



This term, Year 10 have been given the opportunity to take part in philosophy after school, as part of our provision for gifted and talented young people. P4C, or philosophy for children, has been running across the country for some years, and research has shown that young people who learn philosophy are better, more critical thinkers, and they typically go on to achieve higher scores in examinations. On top of this, they learn about what studying A level philosophy might be like, which is a useful subject for anyone considering a career in medicine, law or politics, as well as teaching and other public service careers.

Year 7 Service of Welcome

On Thursday 6th October we formally welcomed our Year 7 students and their families into our own Browndedge family. The Year 7s sang beautifully to 'Keep Holding On' and the service included everything from jigsaws, to drama, to pineapples! Our senior prefects did a great job of welcoming and serving everyone. The service was based on the parable of the mustard seed (Mark 4:30-32) and it's been great to see since then how we have all been growing into the people God calls us to be.



*Keep holding on,
'cause you know we'll make it
through, we'll make it through just
stay strong, 'cause you know I'm here
for you I'm here for you*

Big Question Week

During the week beginning 21st November the whole of the school took part in a Big Question Week. The aim of the week was to explore the idea of Justice across all areas of school; subjects, year groups and classes. Teachers planned some really thought provoking and challenging questions which enabled pupils to explore topics and concepts that sometimes as adults we would find stretching. All areas of spiritual, moral, social and cultural education were explored across the week. Some topics included the Sanctity of Life, unfair distribution of resources, forgiveness and animal testing. Questions included; Does the human race need disease? Why do we emotionally respond to music? Should scientists be persecuted in pursuit of science? If Maths is already there in the universe and people only 'discover' it, does this imply that God thinks in mathematics?

There were some ambitious starter activities posing philosophical questions with no clear answers which really stretched the children across all abilities and year groups, forcing them to explain their opinions. Pupils were engaged and positively contributing with careful answers which reflected the Gospel Values and ethos of the school. In many areas the pupils described the work as 'fun' and were evidently engaged in group work and debate. All pupils were considerate in their responses and the week has demonstrated some real Growth Mindset values.



Call up for England U15 Girls Football



Milly Robertson from Bamber Bridge has been successful in gaining a place in the England U15 Girls football squad following three intensive trials, with the last one being held at Stafford on the 11th December.

Milly has played for Lancashire for the last three years and has been captain for the last two. As well as representing the County she has represented the North West and North in fixtures. Sixteen girls have been selected in this age category and there are training camps planned and tournaments in Portugal and Ireland which will happen in the New Year.

Author Visit Megan Rix

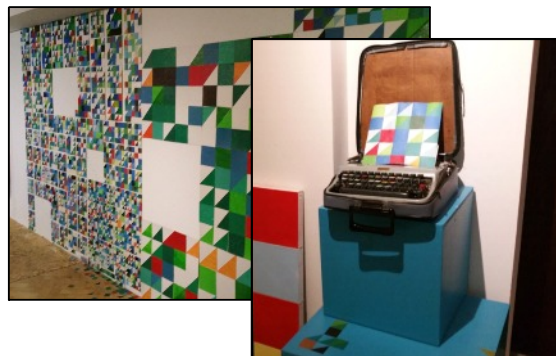
Megan Rix joined us on Friday 23rd September to support us as a Reading School and encourage children to read widely. Megan writes stories based during war time and includes animals in her books. She has been nominated for the Carnegie medal, and has won the Stockton Book Award. During the afternoon she talked to many of our Year 5 and 6 feeder primary pupils and signed copies of her latest book.



Art goes to the Royal Exchange!

"Breaking the code" was this year's annual Northwest Schools competition run by the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester. Every year the theatre invites selected schools to take part in this competition with the chance of pupils' work being displayed during the run of the show. The story of Alan Turing who created the Enigma machine that was instrumental in ending the Second World War was used to base the idea of codes and discrimination.

The artwork featured code and contained hidden messages about equality, a key feature in our school. Well done to pupils whose artwork was so good it was chosen to be included in the exhibition and looked amazing. Visitors were then given a copy of the code and invited to decipher the hidden messages contained in the artwork.



Year of Mercy

Tom, James, Carmel and Mrs Oddie were very happy to celebrate Mass at Salford Cathedral on Friday 25th November to mark the end of the Year of Mercy. We travelled with St Patrick's Primary School and enjoyed being part of a joyful celebration where Bishop John prayed with all the schools in Salford Diocese.

It was a great reminder to live out our Gospel Values.

Book Fair

More books were sold than ever before at our October Book Fair – just in time for plenty of half-term reading! Miss Close has been joined by a new team of Librarians, lead by David Hawkyard and James Knell, our enthusiastic and talented Year 11 Literacy Leaders, and this term they have been working hard to run our Book Fair, come up with ideas for competitions and ways to help everyone find the right book for them.

Many students entered a competition to win a free book voucher by designing posters to highlight the positive impact reading can have in our lives. We're glad to say that we know the benefits and although life is often very busy, many more of us are making time to get into a good book.



Careers Fair

Wednesday 23rd November saw our annual Careers Fair. The day began at 11.20 am with our Year 11 students being invited to meet representations from local Colleges, Further Education Providers and Businesses including BAE systems.

Year 9 and 10 students came down during the afternoon and our Year 8 students were invited to come along after school with their parents. Students fully engaged with the experience and several organisers commented on how impressed they were by the number of parents who came to support their children.

Cancer Awareness Day

In support of those dear to us, currently undergoing cancer treatment or those who have benefitted from fantastic support from various cancer organisations we spent Friday 30th September raising money for a Cancer awareness day, supporting charities that provide that invaluable support for sufferers and their families.

On the day we hosted a coffee morning for the wider school community, with a talk from Macmillan Cancer carers. The whole school then participated in

**'LAUGHING.
YUMMY CUPCAKES.
GETTING TOGETHER...
AND HELPING FAMILIES
AFFECTED BY CANCER.'**

their own huge coffee morning with cakes galore on sale, entertainment from various students and an exciting

game of bingo! In total a staggering amount of £3,500 was raised in less than 2 hours and shows how generous but also caring our school community is - truly embracing our school mission of loving others. Monies raised will go to Macmillan Cancer Support, Ben Ashworth and his Ben's Bowel Movement fund raising, Breast Cancer Care and Asbestos Victim Support.



Interfaith Week

Interfaith Week is a national week that celebrates different faiths. During the week our pupils were encouraged to learn about a variety of religions and to recognise the similarities and differences found in faith.

Year 7 took part in a carousel of speakers. They got to hear and ask questions to speakers from the Bah'ai faith, Islam, Hinduism and Christianity. Thirty Year 8 pupils got to take a tour of places of worship in Preston. We visited a Buddhist Centre, a Hindu Mandir and a Mosque. At each place of worship we were very warmly welcomed and were given a guided tour. Pupils got to sample foods, different forms of worship and even tried a short meditation.



Finally the week was rounded off with a Year 9 visit to the Jewish Museum in Manchester which is a converted Synagogue. Pupils got the chance to participate in an interactive workshop about Judaism and the Sabbath and were given a tour of the Museum. One Year 7 pupil said, "Finding out about different religions is really interesting and inspiring".

Science with a bang!

Throughout the autumn term, Year 7 and 8 pupils have been having great fun in Science Club. They have been completing a variety of activities including: making ice cream using salt and ice, building rockets, making hand warmers, completing the spaghetti bridge challenge and finally creating their own light bulbs! To celebrate Christmas they have been making gifts including bath bombs and crystal tree decorations.



Mark Elo - a true inspiration

Mark Elo left Brownedge St Mary's in 1984 and walked away with average grades. He came in to speak to the Year 10 pupils about being committed, working hard and doing what you love; if you do all of those things it is amazing what you can achieve. Mark is Director of Product Marketing of Anritsu Company and is based in San Francisco and flies 5 times around the world every year on business. Mark ended the presentation with a Q & A session and captured the attention of audience with his involvement in the roll out of 5G!

WATCH THIS SPACE YEAR 10!



Santa Dash

On Friday 9th December 138 Year 7-10 pupils took part in the annual Brownedge Santa Dash raising over £800 for St Catherine's hospice. The pupils took part in 2 separate activities which included a Santa dodge ball and Santa bench ball game.

Well done to all those involved!



Shoebox Appeal

Thank you for being involved in the shoebox appeal this year and for helping us to provide children across the world, in desperate situations, with gift-filled shoeboxes filled with love.

This year, the lorry left our church on Saturday 27th November 2016 with 2796 shoeboxes from the North Lancs Area, that is 500 more than last year. After further pickups in the Fylde and Liverpool areas, the latest information we have is that the lorry was headed for **Latvia**. The boxes will then be distributed in conjunction with local churches in various areas.

Nativity with St Joseph's

This half term, Brownedge St. Mary's has been working with one of our partner schools, developing their provision for Art with teachers of Years 3 and 4. The scheme of work involved: researching sculptors and their different styles; learning how to draw the human anatomy and how to draw animals in proportion. These skills were then put to excellent use as pupils created their own sculptures of the characters for The Nativity: making angels, shepherds, wise men, Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus, along with camels, a donkey, cattle and sheep.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience and a fantastic outcome was created and housed in a specially made stable for the ensemble.



Snowmen Maths

The maths department took advantage of the Christmas period to develop some team working skills across KS3 and KS4. The classes took part in a Snowman building competition which developed their knowledge of symmetry and 3D shape as well as manual dexterity and team working. Each Snowman consists of at least 40 'truncated tetrahedrons' constructed using origami skills. Pictured are some of the winners.



North West Trampolining Competition

This event was held at Robin Park Wigan on Sunday 5th December. 15 pupils from Brownedge competed and for some it was their first trampoline competition. Lucy Wright and Chloe Cattanaach participated in the intermediate U14 event with Lucy coming 4th, losing out by 0.1 of a mark off qualifying for the zonal round and Chloe coming 9th.

Daniel Duerden, Luke Ingleson, James Danby and Jack Heise competed in the U14 Novice event. Daniel was 0.1 off qualifying for the zonal (for the second year running!) and came 4th. The boy's team came 3rd in the North West.

Sophie Proctor, Leah Kennan, Chelsea Singleton and Charlie McKenna made up the U14 girls novice team. This category had over 130 girls competing in it. Sophie came 19th.

The U19 girls team of Chelsearose Butler, Emily Wylie, Beth Holden and Leanne Yeomans all did well against very strong bouncers. Chelsearose Butler came 12th.

South Ribble Year 7 & 8 Indoor Athletics Championships

This event took place on Friday 9th December at Lostock Hall Academy. Nine South Ribble schools entered teams with Brownedge St Mary's Year 8 team winning their age category and Year 7 coming runners up. The event included indoor shot, speed bounce, standing long jump, standing triple jump, vertical jump, 2 lap, 4 lap, 6 lap, 8 lap paarlauf, 4 x 2 relay and the 4 x 1 relay. As well as both teams doing extremely well there was some individual outstanding performances.

The Year 8 team have been invited to the Lancashire School Games final on Thursday 23rd March at Blackpool Sports Centre. Many thanks to the great parental support at this event.



Teams **Year 8** - Faye Houghton, Grace Brown, Macy Cura, Mia Kay, Abbie Sellers, Ellie Wolstenholme, Daisy Hulse.
Year 7 - Shae Kirkpatrick, Emily Knell, Kayleigh Welfare, Jess Lane, Niamh Murphy, Annabel Price-Bilham, Georgia Treverton, Caitlin Ward.

North West Gymnastics Competition

Over 200 gymnasts competed in the North West gym competition with some of the age groups having over 60 pupils competing for the medals. The competitors came from a wide area with some schools from Manchester and Liverpool up to Morecambe in the North. 18 pupils from Brownedge competed - Year 11, Chelsearose Butler, Megan Kay, Beth Holden, Year 9- Chloe Cattanaach, Mia Black, Daniel Duerden, Luke Williams, Adam Simpson, Year 8- Leah Kennan, Lucy Wright, Sammi Arnold, Phoebe Anderson, Caitlin Barnett, Caitlin Ward and Year 7- Madison Ogden, Nakitta Barber, Abbie Cordwell and Niamh Murphy. 11 medals were achieved by Brownedge gymnasts, 3 gold, 4 silver and 4 bronze.

The gold medallists were- Year 7 vault- Niamh Murphy, Year 9 floor Daniel Duerden and Year 9 vault Luke Williams.
 Silver medallists- Year 9 Chloe Cattanaach vault, Daniel Duerden vault and Adam Simpson floor and Year 8 Sammi Arnold floor



Bronze medallists - Year 9 Luke Williams floor, Adam Simpson vault, Year 8 Leah Kennan floor and Lucy Wright vault.

A great days competition, well done to all!

We are on the web!

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

Twitter: [@BrownedgeStMary](https://twitter.com/BrownedgeStMary)



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

Boys' Sport News

Another good start to the year for boys' Physical Education and once again they have been involved in numerous sporting activities both inside and out of school. These have included football teams, badminton, cross country, as well as Interhouse events.



The football teams have once again made a good start to the season with Year 7 winning four out of their five games and finishing runners up in the South Ribble 5 a-side event. Year 8 have only lost one match so far and again the Year 9 remain unbeaten and look good to follow up last season's cup success. Year 10 and 11 still have plenty to play for and we expect more success from these teams after Christmas. Congratulations to a number of pupils who have represented South Ribble at football including Kian Clarkson, Jack Wachowski and Joel Lloyd. Joel has also been called up to the Lancashire boys Football squad, a great achievement.



Away from football the Year 7 boys have excelled within the field of cross country. The team finished second overall but Reagan Wilkinson and Luke Duffel showed their talent by finishing 1st and 2nd - a truly outstanding effort. Both of these will represent the South Ribble team alongside Zac Smith who finished an impressive 5th in the Year 9 race.

School Calendar for 2017-18 has now been published and can be found on the school website

2017 - 2018

Autumn Term 2017

School reopens	Tuesday 5 th September 2017
Last day of school	Thursday 26 th October 2017
INSET DAY	Friday 27 th October 2017
School reopens	Monday 6 th November 2017
Last day of school	Thursday 21 st December 2017
INSET DAY	Friday 22 nd December 2017

Spring Term 2018

School reopens	Monday 8 th January 2018
Last day of school	Friday 9 th February 2018
School reopens	Monday 19 th February 2018
Last day of school	Friday 23 rd March 2018

Summer Term 2018

School reopens	Monday 9 th April 2018
Bank Holiday	Monday 7 th May 2018
Last day of school	Friday 25 th May 2018
School reopens	Monday 4 th June 2018
Last day of school	Thursday 19 th July 2018
INSET DAY	Friday 20 th July 2018

**May we take this opportunity
to wish you a very
Happy Christmas**