



# Shining Lights Newsletter

March 2018

*Celebrating success*



Welcome to our Easter edition of Shining Lights. In a short term, it is amazing the amount of activities taking place outside busy classrooms. Even when staff are putting so much time into Year 11 GCSE work after school, they still find time to enrich the experience of school for so many of our children by organising such a rich variety of experiences. It's what makes Brownedge so special. Wishing you all the joy and peace of Easter.

## CAFOD Fast Day

Brownedge St Mary's enjoyed a joyful fast day here in Bamber Bridge. Mr Reynolds and Mrs Oddie led assemblies on CAFOD all week, introducing our school family to the Lent appeal. The whole school said the CAFOD Fast Day Grace too. Our CAFOD group had been busy making arrangements for weeks: we hosted a non-uniform day and at break time we got rid of the usual toast and bagels and instead sold fruit - standing in solidarity with those in Zimbabwe we were helping to get a more balanced diet. We also tried to spread a few smiles: "It was fun to hand out the Give It Up stickers at break time," said Connor in Year 10.

After the Fast Day we sent CAFOD our collections so far this year, over £1,500! "We are so happy to be a part of CAFOD! And we respect you guys so much!" from Katie in Year 7.



## Runshaw Sophie Scholl Competition

Farrah Kirk (11R) and Sammy Arnold (9K) both achieved Highly Commended Awards for their entries to the Sophie Scholl competition hosted by Runshaw College, which included over 150 entries from local schools. The competition was based on the life and memory of Sophie Scholl, a young girl who stood up to the Nazi persecution in Germany during WW2 and the White Rose Movement for Holocaust Memorial Week. Farrah created an art piece, and Sammy, a written piece about the inspiration Sophie Scholl has had on young people today. Well done, Farrah and Sammy.



## Leyland Truck STEM Challenge

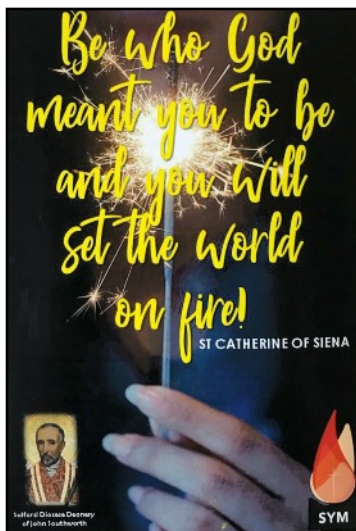
After taking part in the Leyland Truck trail competition last year, some Year 7 pupils took part in a STEM challenge in school. The challenge consisted of teams of pupils competing against each other to make their way around the truck trail map. They had opportunities to develop their team-working, leadership, analytical and time-keeping skills in order to complete a number of challenges.



## eSafety with The Shades

Up and coming boy band The Shades paid a visit to our school recently to share positive messages around staying safe online and tackling cyber bullying.

The band led a workshop with pupils in Year 7 and 8 that looked at the perils of the Internet and social media, and the risks of cyber bullying. Using his own experiences of being bullied online, The Shades guitarist and singer Nathan Lambert and his fellow band members encouraged pupils to think about how young people can take care of themselves online, and the importance of being kind to others. The band encouraged pupils to consider the consequences of using hurtful language online and tackled issues of prejudice and discrimination. Pupils were also treated to a mini-concert as The Shades performed cover versions of chart hits as well as some original material.



## John Southworth Deanery Youth Mass

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March pupils from Brownedge joined schools from across the John Southworth Deanery to celebrate our annual Youth Mass. The theme of the Mass was "Called to Greatness" and it challenged pupils to "be who God made you to be and you will set the world on fire."

Our pupils joined in celebrating Mass, and as their contribution to it, re-enacted the Gospel of the Parable of the Talents. Pupils were fantastic and a real credit to the school and their service to God.

## Stratford-upon-Avon

Year 10 students spent a day in Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire, visiting Shakespeare's birthplace and an evening being entertained at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre with an RSC stage version of A Christmas Carol.

Students listened to an interactive talk on Romeo and Juliet, explored the house where Shakespeare was born and visited the church where he was baptised and is buried. Watching our students act out a scene from A Midsummer Night's Dream was an unexpected delight! Well done to those who took part for being such good sports and well done to everyone on the trip for making it such a good one.



## Help needed for Gambia

A local charity has built a school in Gambia and regularly sends over a container full of equipment to support the school with necessary resources. If any families are tidying out books or equipment that are still in reasonable condition they would very gladly received. They have very little at the school and supplies are urgently needed.

Dick Hodgson (a former teacher at Brownedge) will arrange collection.

Please inform Mrs Higham if you have items. Her contact details are [highama@st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:highama@st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk)





## Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Appeal

A huge thank you and well done to Rachel Goulding in 10R for her caring and thoughtful act of charity this half term, collecting Easter Eggs for the Luv Preston Food bank. This charity works towards helping some of the homeless people in Preston.

Rachel came up with the idea to help those less fortunate over than herself over Easter a few weeks ago. She went to speak to Mr Reynolds to see if she could ask the Browndedge community for their help in donating Easter Eggs. The idea was her own

initiative, and, with some friends, she has coordinated the collection of eggs in school. The Easter Eggs have then been taken to the Luv Preston Food bank, where they have been gratefully received by some of the people the charity helps. Mr Reynolds has received an email from the charity directors thanking Rachel for her efforts, which demonstrates her ongoing interest in helping others. She has also previously helped the charity raise funds. Well done Rachel, you are a credit to yourself and the school.

## Browndedge goes to County Hall

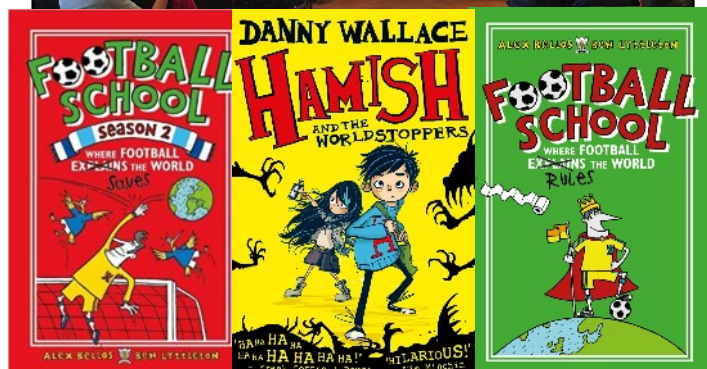
On January 30<sup>th</sup>, ten politically-minded pupils from Years 7 to 10 set out in the minibus on a special mission. They had been invited to Lancashire County Council's County Hall at East Cliff, to see the inside of the building and to learn about how local government works. The trip was organised with the help of our Rotary Mentor Team, led by Richard Lea. Joan Burrows is a Rotarian and a councillor, and welcomed the pupils to County Hall. A tour of the council chambers was followed by a talk which challenged the pupils to think about how politics should work. When we elect a councillor, do we expect them to toe the party line, or to think about decisions on our behalf – in other words, are they a delegate, or a representative? The talk covered the principles and ethics of governing, and the pupils were certainly challenged to think for themselves in turn! Many thanks to Joan for organising the trip.



## World Book Day 2018

To celebrate World Book Day 2018, we were proud to host a fun packed afternoon of laughs and jokes with Danny Wallace, Jamie Littler and Ben Lyttleton. Danny is famous for the Hamish books, Jamie does the amazing illustrations, and Ben writes the "Football School" series and is famous in over twenty countries. Ben is most famous in our school for getting Mr Lin to dance the Samba in front of the whole of Year 7.

Students from five local schools joined us to help make the day a roaring success, and lots of books were sold to keen young readers, helping to ensure that the next generation of Browndedge students will continue to enjoy reading. And, as we know, reading books is strongly linked to exam success. We work as hard as we can to encourage our students to enjoy reading books.



## STEM Networking March 2018

On Thursday March 15<sup>th</sup> some of our Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils were involved in a STEM networking event. STEM ambassadors were invited from various companies around the North West, including BAe Systems, to talk to our pupils. It was a fantastic opportunity for the students to find out how STEM plays an integral part in many different jobs. The ambassadors explained what each of their jobs involved and the skills needed to perform their roles. Students were then able to ask questions and find out for themselves what working within a STEM role is really like. As ever, all our students were polite and enthusiastic and the feedback from both students and the ambassadors was that it was a valuable experience for everyone.



Over the last five weeks we have welcomed nine of our feeder primary schools on Taster Days. This is an opportunity for Year 5 pupils to see Brownedge and have a taste of secondary school life.

Over 270 Year 5 pupils joined our school family over the period, experiencing lessons in Science, Food Technology, Computing, Art and Design Technology. All sessions began with a really important question being posed to pupils - What does an ideal secondary school look like? We loved many of the answers and will be looking at using the fantastic Year 5 responses to make their experience at Brownedge the best it can be! To all who came, we look forward to seeing you in September 2018 at our annual Open Evening.

## Taster Days for Year 5

## Book Swop

World Book Day celebrations on March 1<sup>st</sup> included the opportunity for Year 7 and Year 8 students to exchange books, eat cakes and socialise in our library café.

Miss Close and the librarians organised the afternoon to celebrate books and reading and encourage students to have a chat about their favourite books and authors. The event was well supported with over 40 students swapping books with each other and celebrating the joys of reading, and cake.

Keep checking over at the library for events and competitions!



to make these choices, pupils will be able to study their chosen qualifications over a longer period and therefore gain a greater depth and mastery of their chosen subjects. You are amazing Year 8, and you are poised to fly high!

## Pathways

Congratulations to our amazingly mature Year 8 pupils who have submitted their Pathways requests. Following an action packed two years in school that have been full of variety, challenge and enrichment our Year 8s are now ready to embark on the next phase of their education; making the choices for their GCSEs to commence in Year 9. Following the overwhelming support of parents who believe that this curriculum design will only further support their child, confident in the knowledge that they are well prepared



## House Feast Day Celebrations

The feast of St John Bosco was celebrated on 31<sup>st</sup> January. As has become tradition pupils enjoyed a non-uniform day, began the day by sharing breakfast and ended it with a delicious cake. In the spirit of St John Bosco, the afternoon was filled by playing a variety of ridiculous (ridiculously funny) games including Cups and Downs, Marshmallow Drop and Elephant March. And though it was highly entertaining watching groups of pupils wandering around with elephant trunks (think tights and tennis balls!) attached to their heads with the aim of knocking over paper cups, my personal highlight was Human Hungry Hippos! Picture the scene – pupils wheeled around the hall on chairs holding washing baskets to try and ‘scoop up’ balls before getting them back to their own corner in order to win the game! And 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.



On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March, Drexel House celebrated the Feast of St Katharine Drexel, our House Saint. It was a non-uniform day which started off with warm croissants and pains au chocolat being served in the hall where we all enjoyed a communal breakfast together and a good catch up! It was back to normal lessons for the day until P5 where we all regrouped in the hall for a carousel of activities which were all organised and led by our fantastic pupils from Year 7 to 10. The activities centred around our core values of Justice – making choices linked to discrimination, Kindness – sharing random acts of kindness, Patience - building spaghetti structures, Courage – being brave enough to eat dog food! We ended the day with celebration cakes and a final prayer of Hope together. Huge thanks to all staff who made it work, especially Mrs Hardwick, who worked with the pupils in the planning and organisation of the activities.

## Digital Leaders and OLSG

On the 21<sup>st</sup> February our Year 10 Digital Leaders spent the morning training Our Lady and St Gerard's Year 5/6 Computing Digital Leaders. The aim of the morning was for our pupils to pass on their knowledge, skills and confidence so that the Y5/6s could assist their teachers across their school deliver challenging and engaging Computing lessons.

Amber Swarbrick, Beth Baldwin, Brandyn Calvert, Connor McKenzie, Spencer Beattie, Tyrone Longton and Will Atkinson proved to be excellent teachers and helped the Year 5/6 digital leaders think more computationally to solve problems and tackle programming challenges. Since then our digital leaders have spent time each week with different classes of OLSG; demonstrating how the same computing concepts can be taught across all ages from 5 through to 11 years old.



## Young Men into Higher Education @ Lancaster University

Fourteen of our Year 10 boys visited Lancaster University on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> March to sample University life and study. Students began the day by finding out about what life at Uni is like. They got involved in a 'Dragons' Den' style activity, planning and pitching a product for new students. In the afternoon they had the opportunity to sample a lesson and get a true idea of study at University.

## eSafety Day

E Safety Day was February 6<sup>th</sup> and we welcomed Lancashire Police into school who led sessions with Year 7 and 8 on esafety. Years 9 and 10 worked on a session with their form tutors which was based around sharing personal information online and all the pupils watched a film about Kayleigh, who was sadly killed at the age of 15 after meeting her killer online.

The police were so impressed with our learning resources, which we developed in school, that they asked if they could take them away and share them with other schools. We were delighted to agree. This shows that Brownedge is at the forefront of the fight to keep children safe online.



## Savio House Retreat

In February pupils from Years 7 and 8 enjoyed a retreat to Savio House. There were lots of different fun activities such as a walk through the countryside, a murder mystery evening and a disco on the last night to celebrate the time at Savio together. The retreat also provided lots of time to pray and reflect, both in small groups and as a whole. We celebrated Mass together where the pupils created amazing artwork, dances and drama to help celebrate and

also spent time reflecting on how we can build bridges with God and people around us, and we received the sacrament of Reconciliation. All pupils had a brilliant time, and said they wanted to return the following year!

## Bookbuzz Winners

Brownedge has two more Bookbuzz winners! Year 7s Tia and Courtney entered a national Bookbuzz competition in January by answering a question about Fuzzy Mud by Louis Sachar. They both answered correctly and were the winners of a full set of his books – each! All our Year 7 students received a free Bookbuzz book in September and now they have another seven to add to their collections.

Mrs Evans was very excited when she found out they had won the competition. She said, 'I'm delighted – it just goes to show that if you enter a competition you might just win!' Well done to everyone who has taken part in this year's Bookbuzz - don't forget there is still a special prize up for grabs for the student who is first to read all the Bookbuzz books! See Mrs Evans for details.



## Bae Rotary Technology Tournament

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 16 pupils from Years 8, 9 and 10 took part in the annual BAe Rotary Technology Tournament at Leyland Civic Centre. Schools from South Ribble pitched their designing and making talents against each other. The teams demonstrated resilience and imagination to create a capsule to be fired into the air from a remote mechanism. Teachers from the schools were also put into teams to participate in the competition too, and this was an excellent way of networking. Lots of fun was had on the day, but unfortunately no win for us this time.



## North Zonal Trampoline Competition

Two of our pupils, Chloe Cattanach and Daniel Duerden, having won through the North West schools' round in Wigan before Christmas went to Huddersfield in February to see if they could make the national finals.

Chloe competed in the U19 Elite event and came a creditable 8<sup>th</sup>, with two clean bounce routines.

Daniel, in the U15 novice group, came 3<sup>rd</sup> and has qualified for the national finals to be held in Belfast on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March.

Mrs Higham, along with Mum, is accompanying him as coach on floor...and hoping for a smooth ferry crossing! We wish Daniel the very best of luck, and no matter what place he comes, it is a tremendous achievement to get to the national finals. Well done!



## Lancashire Schools Cross Country

Following several successes at the District Cross Country, a number of our athletes represented the District at the County event. This event was well attended with almost 100 runners in each race. Conditions were, in true Cross Country tradition, gruelling and muddy! Results are as follows:

Year 7 Girls - Robyn Kelly 25<sup>th</sup>

Junior Girls - Grace Brown 12<sup>th</sup> (reserve for the Lancashire team), Emily Knell 38<sup>th</sup>, Faye Houghton

Junior Boys - Regan Wilkinson 29<sup>th</sup>, Ethan Barbarawicz 43<sup>rd</sup>

## South Ribble Gymnastics Competition

This competition was held at Worden High school in January and six different schools competed for the medals. There were different categories for Year 7, 8 and 9, and Year 10/11 combined. Eleven pupils participated from Brownedge and we walked away achieving a good number of medals of various colours especially in the older age groups, 4 district champions, 2 silver medallists and 2 bronze.



Year 9 achieved 5 out of the 6 medals going! Caitlin Ward came 1<sup>st</sup> on vault and 3<sup>rd</sup> on floor, Sammy Arnold came 1<sup>st</sup> on floor and Lucy Wright came 2<sup>nd</sup> on floor and 3<sup>rd</sup> on vault.

Year 10/11 girls achieved 3 out of 6 possible medals. Chloe Cattanach came 1<sup>st</sup> on vault and 2<sup>nd</sup> on floor and Sophie Proctor came 1<sup>st</sup> on floor.



## South Ribble Trampoline Competition

Sixteen of our pupils entered this competition and competed in different categories ranging from Beginner to Elite. Brownedge were victorious with five district medals.

Year 10 & 11 Elite - Chloe Cattanach 2<sup>nd</sup>

Year 9 Intermediate - Lucy Wright 1<sup>st</sup>

Year 7 & 8 Intermediate - Eve Ashbrook 2<sup>nd</sup>, Sophie Gardner 3<sup>rd</sup>

Year 8 Beginner - Georgia Rizzo 3<sup>rd</sup>

**We are on the web!**

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

Twitter: @BrownedgeStMary



Any news? Send it to Mrs Oddie  
[oddie@st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:oddie@st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk)

## Preston Apprenticeship EXPO

On Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> March, Year 11 students interested in gaining apprenticeship after completing their exams in June, visited the Apprenticeship Expo at Preston Guild Hall. Over 50 employers from across the North West were on hand to discuss what they had on offer. Students had the opportunity to speak with employers directly, and register their interest for Summer vacancies.



## Milano Gymnastics Competition

This North West gymnastics competition was competed for at Walton le Dale High school on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January. Schools from Manchester, Liverpool and as far as Morecambe participated in the full day's competition, with the top two teams going through to the national finals. It was a team event and all gymnasts had to compete on floor and vault, and then in the afternoon perform a trio routine.

Our teams performed well but didn't make the podium.

U16A: Chloe Cattanach, Sophie Proctor and Grace Woods-Porter

U16B: Lucy Wright, Caitlin Ward, Sammy Arnold

## Lancashire Handball School Games



Brownedge Year 10 GCSE PE pupils represented South Ribble at the Lancashire Level 3 Handball School Games. The pupils finished the group stage undefeated, with a record of five wins and one draw. The pupils beat Mount Carmel in the semi-final before narrowly losing to Lancaster Royal Grammar in the final. They will now represent Lancashire at the North West Regional Handball Finals.

Handball team: Will Edgerley, Zack Smith, Spencer Beattie, Davey Grice, Tyrone Longton, Jack Wachowski, Brandyn Calvert, Luke Ingleson, Spencer Close, Kian Clarkson.



## STAR Concert

The Standing Together Against Racism (STAR) Concert took place at UCLAN on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March. The event was organised as part of the celebrations to mark the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Pupils from Brownedge formed a choir with Moor Park High School and provided great entertainment for the evening singing songs including 'Black or White', 'Fix You' and 'Proud'. We're very pleased that our pupils were able to take part in this event, lending their wonderful voices on a mission to celebrate diversity and oppose racism.

**Happy Easter to you all**

**School reopens on**

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 8.50 am**

