# Bredon Hill Academy

*Learning Together for Success*

**Headteacher**
Mr M Horton, BA (Hons), NPQH
**Deputy Headteacher**
Mrs K Dunkley, BA (Hons), NPQSL
**Assistant Headteacher**
Mrs C Bartlett, BA (Hons), NPQLT
**Assistant Headteacher**
Ms S Vaughan, BA (Hons), NASENCO
**Business Manager**
Mrs S Rowland

**Ashton under Hill,**
**Evesham,**
**Worcestershire,**
**WR11 7SW**

**Tel**: 01386 881426
**Email**: office@bredon.worcs.sch.uk
**Web**: www.bredon.worcs.sch.uk
**Facebook.com**/BredonHAcademy

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of what has been an incredibly busy and, at times, deeply difficult half-term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the past few weeks and to thank you for the continued support you give to Bredon Hill Academy.

It would be impossible to reflect on this half-term without remembering Miya, whose tragic passing has affected us all so deeply. Our thoughts remain very much with Miya's family, friends and all those who knew and cared for her. During an immensely difficult time, I have been incredibly proud of the compassion and empathy shown across our school community. Pupils, staff, parents and carers have supported one another with great kindness and sensitivity, demonstrating the strength and togetherness that make BHA such a special community.

There have, of course, been many moments to celebrate.

It was particularly lovely to welcome so many of our Year 6 families into school for our Welcome Evening. Seeing our Year 6 pupils confidently showing their parents and carers around the school was a real highlight. They spoke with pride and enthusiasm and demonstrated just how much they have already settled into life at BHA. Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended and helped make the evening such a positive occasion.

The final week of the half-term has certainly been a busy one! Our interhouse competitions have provided plenty of friendly rivalry, teamwork and enthusiasm, while our Open Evening was a tremendous success. Thank you to pupils and staff who supported the evening and helped us showcase our school to prospective pupils and their families.

Elsewhere, rehearsals for Trolls Jr the Musical are now well under way. There is already a real sense of excitement building, and we look forward to seeing this talented bunch of pupils take to the stage later in the academic year.

A huge thank you must also go to everyone who contributed to our Harvest collection. A large car boot full of food and essential items was carted off to Caring Hands in Evesham, thanks entirely to the generosity of our BHA families. Your donations will make a genuine difference to people within our wider community, and we are extremely grateful for your support. Our next charity event, the Teams4U Christmas Shoebox appeal is now underway and we look forward to seeing if our school can meet Miss Barber's challenge of filling 200 shoe boxes to donate to this incredible cause.

Our pupils have certainly been busy beyond the classroom too, with BHA represented in district cross-country, netball and football fixtures during the half-term. It is always fantastic to see so many pupils getting involved in wider sporting opportunities and representing the school.

Learning has also extended beyond the school gates. All Year 7 pupils have visited Warwick Castle, while pupils across Years 7 and 8 have had the opportunity to see a stunning adaptation of Michael Morpurgo's *Private Peaceful*, complementing and enriching their studies in English.

I also want to highlight something of which we are particularly proud: attendance. Probably one of the best indicators of a happy and engaged school population is strong whole-school attendance. Earlier this term, we were delighted to have our attendance figures acknowledged as being amongst the highest in the country. Our whole-school attendance so far this academic year stands at an excellent 96.6%, considerably higher than at the same point last year. Thank you for working with us, particularly by arranging medical and other appointments outside school hours wherever possible. Every day in school matters, and your support makes a significant difference.

Following the recruitment window earlier in the term, I can confirm that Tom Holdstock has been reappointed as one of our parent governors and I would like to thank him, and all our governors, for their time and dedication to supporting our school.

In her twenty-fifth year with us at Bredon Hill Academy, we will be saying a fond farewell to our much-loved teaching assistant, Charlotte Smith. Charlotte has worked with empathy, care and absolute commitment, supporting the learning of thousands of pupils over the years. Her sense of humour, patience and incredible penmanship will all be sorely missed; we wish her the very best for her well-deserved retirement.

A few important reminders before the half-term break:

- School will be closed to pupils on Friday 23rd October for a staff training day.
- Pupils return to school on Monday 2nd November, which will be a Green Week.
- All boys will need their gumshield and boots for PE after half-term as they begin their rugby unit. Year 6 girls will require their football boots and shin pads.
- We have quite a large amount of lost property accumulating in the school office. Please ensure that all uniform and equipment is clearly labelled with your child's name.
- As temperatures dip and the rain becomes more frequent, it's always advisable for your child to have a coat with them.
- We have been made aware that there are a number of 'group' WhatsApp chats involving year 6 pupils out of school. Please may I encourage you to monitor your child's use of What'sApp out of school and remind you that children are only supposed to be able to register for a What'sApp account if they are 13+.

Finally, a huge thank you to all our BHA families. Your continued support, encouragement and positive feedback are greatly appreciated. Schools are at their strongest when pupils, families and staff work together, and this half-term, perhaps more than most, has demonstrated the compassion, kindness and strength of the Bredon Hill Academy community.

I hope that all our pupils and families are able to enjoy a restful and well-deserved half-term break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 2 November, refreshed and ready for another busy half-term.

Take care,



Mike Horton
Headteacher