

JAMES BROWN

Maths Teacher | Character Education Researcher

Based in Coventry, UK

1. EDUCATION

2025 to 2029	<p>Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues, University of Birmingham: PhD in Education</p> <p>Provisional thesis title: “Practical Wisdom and Virtue Internalisation: Addressing the Paradox of Moral Education via Reflection.” Supervised by Professor Kristján Kristjánsson and Dr Shane McLoughlin. Funded by the Economics and Social Research Council (ESRC).</p>
2022 to 2025	<p>Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues, University of Birmingham: MA in Character Education (average grade to-date: 85.3)</p> <p>Dissertation (15,000 words): “Can intrinsic motivation be induced via extrinsic rewards?,” supervised by Dr Shane McLoughlin.</p>
2021 to 2022	<p>University of Warwick: PGCE with QTS in Secondary Mathematics (Distinction)</p> <p>Awarded the prize for outstanding contribution to the course.</p>
2016 to 2018	<p>University of Warwick: MPhil in Philosophy (Pass <i>without corrections</i>)</p> <p>A two-year research programme modelled on Oxford’s BPhil. I studied in depth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Philosophy of Mind and Action, supervised by Professor Naomi Eilan;• Kant’s <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i>, supervised by Professor Quassim Cassam; and• Moral Philosophy, supervised by Professor Fabienne Peter. <p>In each area, I submitted two assessed 5,000-word essays. For my first three essays, I scored 65, 70, 64; for my second three, 70, 68, 70 (see my Record of Marks for essay titles). I also submitted an externally examined, 30,000-word research thesis: “From Middle to Minor: Ambiguity and Invalidity in Kant’s Paralogisms.” My thesis was supervised by Professors Quassim Cassam and Guy Longworth; examined by Associate Professors Johannes Roessler and Anil Gomes (Oxford); and passed viva <i>without corrections</i>—the highest possible mark.</p>
2013 to 2016	<p>Lancaster University: BA Hons Mathematics and Philosophy (First, 82.5%)</p> <p>Dissertation (10,000 words): “The Extended Mind: The Imagination,” supervised by Professor Rachel Cooper. I graduated top of my class and was awarded two prizes: one for best third year marks in philosophy (my mark was 90.6%); the other for best undergraduate dissertation in philosophy (my dissertation received a perfect score, 24 out of 24).</p>
2011 to 2013	<p>Warwickshire College</p> <p>A-levels: Mathematics (A), Philosophy (A), Business Studies (B)</p> <p>AS-levels: Further Mathematics (A)</p>
2010 to 2011	<p>Harper Adams University: BEng (Hons) Agricultural Engineering (incomplete)</p> <p>I started a degree program in Agricultural Engineering, but then became increasingly interested in mathematics and wished to switch subjects. Before I could study mathematics, I had to retake my A-levels to achieve the required grades. While retaking my A-levels, which I funded by working part-time, I also became interested in philosophy.</p>

2003 to 2010 **Princethorpe College**
 A-levels: Mathematics (C), Physics (D), Biology (E)
 AS-levels: Critical Thinking (C), History (C)
 10 GCSEs (A* to B)

2. AWARDS AND FUNDING

April 2025	Economics and Social Research Council (ESRC) Midlands Graduate School Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP) Studentship (~£100,000) Covers academic fees and a maintenance award for 3.75 years.
March 2025	Society for Educational Studies National Award (£10,000) Awarded to conduct a research project on the cultivation of wisdom in schools. I could not accept the award because I won PhD funding (above) shortly after, which made me ineligible for the award.
July 2022	Birmingham Masters Scholarship (£2,000) Awarded by the University of Birmingham on the basis of academic merit.
June 2022	Prize for Outstanding Contribution to the Course (PGCE) (£100) Awarded by the Centre for Teacher Education, University of Warwick.
August 2021	Mathematics Teacher Training Scholarship (£26,000) Awarded by the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications.
September 2017	Sir Richard Stapley Educational Trust Grant (£800) Awarded to supplement my payment of postgraduate tuition fees.
February 2017	Sidney Perry Foundation Grant (£1,000) Awarded to supplement my payment of postgraduate tuition fees.
August 2016	Warwick Taught Masters Scholarship (£5,000) Awarded by the University of Warwick on the basis of academic merit.
July 2016	Prize for Best Third Year Marks in Philosophy (£50) Awarded by Lancaster University Politics, Philosophy and Religion Department.
July 2016	Prize for Best Undergraduate Dissertation in Philosophy (£50) Awarded by Lancaster University Politics, Philosophy and Religion Department.
July 2016	Knowle Hill School Fund 18–25 Postgraduate Award (£2,000) Awarded on the basis of academic excellence to undertake a postgraduate philosophy course.
May 2016	Society for Renaissance Studies Travel Bursary (£80) Awarded to attend the <i>Fate and Fortune in Renaissance Thought</i> Colloquium at the University of Warwick.
September 2014	Vacation travel grant (£150) Awarded by Bowland College to undertake a university exchange trip to China.
2013 to 2016	National Scholarship Programme Bursary (£3,000 in total) Awarded by Lancaster University (means-tested).
2013 to 2016	Supplementary grant (£10,128 in total) Awarded by Student Finance England (means-tested).
2013 to 2016	Sir Thomas White's Educational Foundation Grant (£375 in total) Awarded by Coventry General Charities to assist with books and equipment costs.

2003 to 2010

Academic Scholarship (£26,075 in total)

Awarded by Princethorpe College on the basis of academic excellence.

3. PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

2016. The extension of the extended mind. *Ephemeris* (Union College, NY, US) 2016: 1–17. URL: <https://digitalworks.union.edu/ephemeris/vol16/iss1/1/>

2016. The strong ghost in the weak machine: A reply to Wilcken. *Aporia* (Brigham Young University, UT, US) 26.1: 93–100. URL: https://aporia.byu.edu/pdfs/brown-strong_ghost_weak_machine.pdf

2016. Dependence and the (extended) mind. *Areté* (Rutgers University, NJ, US) IX: 27–38.

2016. The role for imagination in perception. *PhilonoUS* (Sheffield University, UK) Spring Edition: 16–26.

Submitted

2023. A role for reward in character education. *Journal of Character Education*. While the article was ultimately rejected after major revision, the experience provided valuable insight into the peer-review process!

2016. Revisiting James: Emotions as Perceptions or Simulations. *Philosophia* (special issue on the philosophy of emotion).

2016. Extending toward androgyny. *Prolegomena*.

2016. Are we in History? A study of Francis Fukuyama's errors. *British Journal of Undergraduate Philosophy*.

2016. Reflections on a dream. *Philosophy Now*.

Other

2025. Phronesis and virtue: Reflections from Gdańsk. *PESGB Blog*. URL: <https://www.philosophy-of-education.org/phronesis-and-virtue-reflections-from-gdansk/>

2022-present. [Mr Brown Podcast](#), reflections on my continuing journey as a teacher, with a special focus on mental health.

2021-22. [My PGCE](#), a podcast documenting my journey as a trainee teacher, with a special focus on mental health.

2020-21. [Armchair Opinions](#), a blog and podcast where philosophy postgraduates from all over the world answer and discuss questions asked by the public. I am the creator, editor, administrator, and one of the main contributors.

2015. 50th anniversary lectureships: Equality, not equantity. *SCAN* (Lancaster University Student Newspaper) (July 2015).

2015. Second-hand smoke and kidnapper mountaineers. *SCAN* (February 2015).

2015. The female undergraduate of the year award. *SCAN* (January 2015).

4. CONFERENCES

August 2025 *Poster presentation*. "A Problem with Character Education Studies." 51st Association for Moral Education Annual Conference, Tampere University, Finland.

May 2025 *Speaker*. "Phronesis and Virtue Internalisation." Phronesis in Theory and Practice, International Conference, Institute of Philosophy, University of Gdansk. My

attendance at this conference was funded by a travel grant from the Philosophy of Education Society of Great Britain (PESGB).

- March 2025 *Speaker.* I delivered a session entitled “Streamlining Workload as an Early Career Teacher” to trainee maths teachers at the Centre for Teacher Education, University of Warwick.
- September 2024 *Speaker.* I presented a paper, “Rewards and Justice: Addressing the Dilemma Inherent in the Neo-Aristotelian Model of Moral Development,” at the Society for Educational Studies’ Annual Colloquium, Oriel College, University of Oxford. I argued that the model presents a dilemma for classroom teachers, before suggesting a way in which the dilemma might be resolved.
- June 2024 *Invited speaker.* I was invited to present the same paper at the European Character and Virtue Association’s Annual Conference (European University of Rome), but was unable to attend due to teaching commitments.
- July 2023 *Speaker.* I led the “Life as an Early Career Teacher” session for mathematics trainees on Course Completion Day at the Centre for Teacher Education, University of Warwick. I was invited back in July 2024, but could not attend due to an INSET day.
- November 2017 *Organiser.* I co-organised MindGrad 2017, University of Warwick. MindGrad is the premier annual UK graduate conference for philosophers of mind and attracts graduate students from all over the world. I was responsible for communication and hospitality.
- June 2017 *Speaker.* I presented a paper, “Sincerity and the Second-Person Standpoint,” at the Birmingham-Nottingham-Warwick Graduate Conference, University of Birmingham. I argued that your being sincere with me is a condition on the possibility of our occupying the so-called second-person standpoint (with respect to one another).

5. TEACHING AND TUTORING EXPERIENCE

- Jul 2022 to present **Barr’s Hill School: Mathematics Teacher (Permanent Full Time Position)**
- A driving force behind the introduction of Responsible Behaviours (Honest, Kind, Considerate, Brave, Respectful, Gratitude) and “flourishing” as an umbrella concept; helped rewrite the School Development Plan accordingly.
 - Helped introduce the Responsible Behaviours Ambassadors (student leadership) programme.
 - Introduced the Independent Minds Programme, designed to help the highest attaining students develop the independent thinking necessary to flourish at a top university. Later formally recognised as a Teaching and Learning Responsibility (TLR3).
 - Advised two Midlands schools on reforming their character education provision, championing moral virtues and cautioning against overreliance on extrinsic rewards.
 - Introduced the Philosophy of Education Reading Group for staff.
 - Delivered talks on motivation at faculty and school meetings.
 - Mentored trainee maths teachers.
 - SSAT Leaders for the Future training programme.
 - Represented teaching staff at the Trust Employee Forum.
- Jan-Jul 2022 **Barr’s Hill School: Trainee Mathematics Teacher (PGCE Placement 2)**
- 17-25 May 2022 **Parkgate Primary School: Trainee Teacher (PGCE Primary Placement)**
- 10-12 May 2022 **Sherbourne Fields School: Trainee Teacher (PGCE SEND Placement)**

Sep-Dec 2021	Kineton High School: Trainee Mathematics Teacher (PGCE Placement 1)
2018 to 2019	University of Warwick, Philosophy Department: Philosophy Writing Tutor
2018 to 2019	University of Warwick, Philosophy Department: Logic Seminar Tutor
August 2016	Unitemps: Linear Algebra Tutor
2015	Lancaster University Students' Union: Maths Mentor (voluntary)
2014	Lancaster University, PPR Department: Philosophy Workshop (voluntary)
2012 to 2013	Princethorpe College, Mathematics Department: Teaching Assistant (voluntary)

6. SERVICE AT UNIVERSITY

University of Warwick

2021 to 2022	Staff Student Liaison Committee – Chair and Course Representative (PGCE) For my work in this role, I won the prize for outstanding contribution to the course.
2017 to 2022	Resident Tutor I lived alongside students within halls of residence as part of the welfare and support system.
2019 to 2020	University of Warwick Boat Club – Coach I was the strength and conditioning coach for 40 novice rowers.
2018 to 2020	Warwick Student Cinema (WSC) Warwick FilmSoc runs WSC, a professional-quality cinema for all students and staff. I volunteered as a steward: my main role was to sell and check tickets for admission.
2018 to 2019	University of Warwick Boat Club – Rower Out of 100 hopefuls, I was one of only 20 selected to be in the novice men's squad. My boat reached the 'A-final' at BUCS, meaning that we were among the 6 best novice crews in the country.
2016 to 2019	Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) Mentor I provided support for undergraduate students from underrepresented backgrounds.
June 2017	'Symposium' (Student Dramatic Production) I played the part of Agathon in a play based on Plato's <i>Symposium</i> , which was performed for GCSE students from local secondary schools.

Lancaster University

2015 to 2016	Athletics Club Coaching Captain The role involved liaising with coaches and organising training sessions. I also developed a method by which to effectively measure athletes' progress at weekly circuit training sessions.
2014 to 2016	Student Newspaper (SCAN) Contributor Two of my articles sought to dispel what I called the 'illusion of equality', the fallacious assumption that equality follows from equal quantities. The first of these led to the restructuring of the TARGETjobs Undergraduate of the Year Award.
2014 to 2015	Academic Representative I collated the views of second year students in both the philosophy and mathematics departments, before communicating them to the University and the Student's Union. I also played an integral role in the structural reform of faculty forums: I submitted a

paper regarding the effectiveness of those forums to my faculty representatives, before introducing it for discussion at an Academic Council.

September 2014

China Exchange

As part of an exchange programme, I travelled to Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, China, where I successfully led a team of international students in a debate concerning pollution damage.

7. OTHER EMPLOYMENT

2018 to 2021

University of Warwick: Collections Support Assistant

Responsibility for ensuring library materials were readily available to customers; collecting, sorting, and transporting books and journals within the library.

2017 to 2018

Warwick Student's Union: Xanana's Team Member

My work at this restaurant funded, in part, my postgraduate study.

2016 to 2017

University of Warwick: Le Gusta Oven & Bar Team Member

My work at this restaurant funded, in part, my postgraduate study.

August 2016

University of Warwick: Clearing and Confirmation Hotline Staff Member

I was part of a team that answered confirmation, clearing, and adjustment queries.

2011 to 2013

The Saxon Mill: Front of House

I supervised a small but diverse team of bar tenders, working part-time during term time and full-time during vacations to fund my A-level studies.

2007 to 2010

Wedgenock Adventure Sports: Assistant Ground Manager

I supervised two members of staff in managing a clay shooting ground.

8. HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

Reading and running.

9. REFEREES

Available on request.