

JAMES BROWN

Character Education Researcher | Maths Teacher

Based in Coventry, UK

1. EDUCATION

- 2025 to 2029 **Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues, University of Birmingham: PhD in Education**
Provisional thesis title: “Developing Wisdom in Adolescence: Measurement and the Role of Reflection in Education.” Supervised by Professor Kristján Kristjánsson and Dr Shane McLoughlin. Funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).
- 2022 to 2025 **Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues, University of Birmingham: MA in Character Education (Distinction: 86.2)**
Dissertation (15,000 words): “Can intrinsic motivation be induced via extrinsic rewards?,” supervised by Dr Shane McLoughlin.
- 2021 to 2022 **University of Warwick: PGCE with QTS in Secondary Mathematics (Distinction)**
Awarded the prize for outstanding contribution to the course.
- 2016 to 2018 **University of Warwick: MPhil in Philosophy (Pass *without corrections*)**
A two-year research programme modelled on Oxford’s BPhil. I studied in depth:
 - Philosophy of Mind and Action, supervised by Professor Naomi Eilan;
 - Kant’s *Critique of Pure Reason*, supervised by Professor Quassim Cassam; and
 - Moral Philosophy, supervised by Professor Fabienne Peter.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 *without corrections*—the highest possible mark.
- 2013 to 2016 **Lancaster University: BA Hons Mathematics and Philosophy (First: 82.5)**
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).
- 2011 to 2013 **Warwickshire College**
A-levels: Mathematics (A), Philosophy (A), Business Studies (B)
AS-levels: Further Mathematics (A)
- 2010 to 2011 **Harper Adams University: BEng (Hons) Agricultural Engineering (incomplete)**
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.

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

Economic 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 *Fate and Fortune in Renaissance Thought* 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 publications

Brown, J. R. (2026). Can extrinsic rewards induce intrinsic motivation for virtuous behaviour? A classroom-based pilot study. *Journal of Character Education*, 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JCED-11-2025-0020>

Undergraduate journals

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

Brown, J. (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

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

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

4. ACADEMIC SERVICE

- 2025-present *Ad hoc reviewer, Journal of Moral Education*
- November 2017 *Conference Organiser.* MindGrad 2017, University of Warwick. MindGrad is the premier annual UK graduate conference for philosophers of mind, attracting graduate students from all over the world. Responsible for communication and hospitality.

5. CONFERENCES & INVITED TALKS

- March 2026 *Invited Speaker.* Educating for Moral Flourishing: Interdisciplinary Perspectives from Virtue Ethics, Moral Psychology, Justice, Sociology, and Theology. Universidad Francisco de Vitoria, Madrid.
- December 2025 *Speaker.* “Streamlining Workload as an Early Career Teacher.” Centre for Teacher Education, University of Warwick. Same session delivered in March 2025.
- November 2025 *Speaker.* “Does Aristotelian character education undermine freedom?” 24th School of Education PGR Conference: Making Waves – Educational Futures. University of Birmingham.
- November 2025 *Inaugural lecture.* “Evaluating the lure hypothesis: Can extrinsic rewards induce intrinsic motivation for virtuous behaviour?” Futures Education Institute, Special lecture Series: Education Research
- August 2025 *Poster presentation.* “A Problem with Character Education Studies.” 51st Association for Moral Education Annual Conference, Tampere University, Finland.

- July 2025 *Speaker.* “Cultivating radical hope in the face of climate collapse.” School of Education Research and Scholarship Conference, University of Birmingham.
- May 2025 *Speaker.* “*Phronesis* and Virtue Internalisation.” *Phronesis in Theory and Practice*, International Conference, Institute of Philosophy, University of Gdansk. Funded by a travel grant from the Philosophy of Education Society of Great Britain (PESGB).
- September 2024 *Speaker.* “Rewards and Justice: Addressing the Dilemma Inherent in the Neo-Aristotelian Model of Moral Development.” Society for Educational Studies’ Annual Colloquium, Oriel College, University of Oxford.
- June 2024 *Invited speaker.* European Character and Virtue Association’s Annual Conference, European University of Rome.
- July 2023 *Speaker.* “Life as an Early Career Teacher.” Course Completion Day, Centre for Teacher Education, University of Warwick. Invited back in July 2024.
- June 2017 *Speaker.* “Sincerity and the Second-Person Standpoint.” Birmingham-Nottingham-Warwick Graduate Conference, University of Birmingham.

6. TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Jul 2022 to present **Barr’s Hill School: Mathematics Teacher (part-time since October 2025)**
- 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 three 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. Later broadened to include other schools across the Futures Trust as part of the Future Education Institute’s research offer.
 - Delivered talks on motivation at faculty and school meetings.
 - Mentored trainee maths teachers; nominated for a mentoring award (2025).
 - Completed SSAT Leaders for the Future Programme.
 - Represented teaching staff at the Trust Employee Forum.
 - I have begun compiling the narrative driven-questions I use to introduce new topics – part of a growing project called [Motivated Maths](#).
- 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)**

7. UNIVERSITY & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

University of Birmingham

- 2025 to 2026 **Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Student Representative**

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 *Symposium*, 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.

8. OTHER SCHOLARLY & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Projects

2025-present. [Mr Brown Blog](#) – A blog on moral education and my academic journey.

2025-present. [Motivated Maths](#) – Motivating the study of mathematics via narrative questioning.

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.

Selected public writings

Brown, J. (2025). What do I mean by ‘autonomy’? Reflections from Tampere. *PESGB Blog*. URL: <https://www.philosophy-of-education.org/what-do-i-mean-by-autonomy-reflections-from-tampere/>

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

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

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

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

9. 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.

10. HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

Reading and running.

11. REFEREES

Available on request.