

# Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



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Dear Parents/Carers

## July 2020 – Newsletter 4

This has been an extraordinary year, which has required so much innovation, flexibility and resourcefulness from everyone. For your part in this, I would like to say thank you and for all your support you have given your child in continuing their learning. It has been quite unbelievable and when we think about what we have achieved in these unprecedented times, I am overwhelmed by the resilience and determination we talk so frequently about at Brownedge. Our pupils and staff, with their `can do` attitude have allowed us to continue to go from strength to strength and the OFSTED grading of GOOD, in my humble opinion, should be changed to AMAZING. As one parent emailed me ***“Thank you for creating a school that is based on love, respect and kindness. It is an epicentre of genuine joy, of important life lesson, and love. In this particular moment, you not only care about the children but also you love them, and you also take care of the parents as well. Thank you again and thanks for each and every teacher and staff for creating an environment of love and light during this difficult time.”***

### Back to School plans

You will be aware that the government released important guidelines last week regarding the return to school for all pupils in September. I have read and reflected on this and can now share with you how we plan to implement this guidance based on our unique Brownedge St Mary's setting, ensuring the safety of pupils, staff and the local community. [I have linked the document here should you wish to read it.](#) **Can I also inform you that this guidance will be updated on 11<sup>th</sup> August and may change again. I will, therefore, write to you towards the end of August to update you on the impact this may have on our school.**

In order to support an effective return for every year group, we will have a staggered start to the academic year. This will allow us to communicate clearly and effectively with all pupils our expectations in terms of increased hygiene routines including hand sanitising and good respiratory hygiene, year group bases, behaviour and to support their wellbeing and pastoral needs. It will also allow them to reconnect with their friends and become familiar again with the school surroundings.

Year Group	Start Time	Date
Year 7	8.50am	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September
Year 11	10.00am	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September
Year 8	8.50am	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September
Year 9	11.30am	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September
Year 10	12.30pm	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September

The safety of all our pupils is our priority and to protect them we are planning carefully how we can minimise contact and maintain distance, as far as possible. As such, we have introduced school and year group “bubbles” and pupils, where at all possible, will remain in segregated areas for each bubble. We will operate staggered start and finish times for the school day with allocated entrances and staggered break and lunch times to protect bubbles. We will also minimise movement in school by having year group bases where pupils will stay and staff will move to teach.

All pupils will continue to be taught the full curriculum, including practical subjects such as PE, DT and Computing, with classes taught by specialist teachers and there will be no loss of learning time. Where possible, specialist rooms will be used to support learning. In order to reduce movement further, there will be consistent pupil teaching groups, based on House forms for Year 7 and 8, and ability and options for 9, 10, 11. More information regarding classes will be shared at the end of August. Classrooms will look a little different to what pupils are normally used to with all rooms with forward facing desks. This is done to ensure we utilise maximum capacity of space during lessons and to support distancing rules for staff.

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Below is a basic outline of how we plan to run in September. Please note that Year 7 and 10 will start school at 8.45am and finish at 2.55pm and Years 8, 9 and 11 will start at 9.05am and finish at 3.15pm. All of this information and more will be shared with your child in their first assembly on their first day as outlined on the previous page.

Year	Room Bases	Entrance Point	Start/Finish	Reg	Break/Lunch	Breakout area
7	8,9,10,11,15,Mu	Canopy – School Hall	8.45 – 2.55	am	Early	Chapel Yard
8	17,21,22,23,24, Dm	Canopy – School Hall	9.05 - 3.15	pm	Late	Chapel Yard
9	1,2,18,20,F1,F2	PE Corridor Technology	9.05 - 3.15	pm	Late	Tennis Courts Table Tennis area
10	4,5,6,7,16,13	Technology	8.45 – 2.55	am	Early	Tennis Courts Table Tennis area
11	L3,L4,L5,12,14,ILZ	Canopy – History	9.05 - 3.15	pm	Late	ELC Sports College area

At the heart of our safety practices is our reassurance that all procedures are in place which minimise the risk of contracting the virus. In addition to our consideration of how we reduce contact and maximise distancing between those in school we have put further systems in place to ensure that when we open, we have sensible and proportionate control measures which not only follow the Government's directives and the health and safety hierarchy of control, but also reduce the risk to the lowest reasonably practicable level for all those in our school community. In particular, these include enhanced cleaning arrangements, robust and effective hand-washing facilities/routines and respiratory hygiene routines, active engagement with NHS Test and Trace and effective procedures for dealing with anyone who is symptomatic. Please remember, if your child is ill do not send them to school, but inform us and get them formally tested.

In support of government guidelines, we strongly recommend pupils, wherever possible, to walk or cycle to school and we have purchased additional cycle storage facilities to enable this. If pupils are cycling, it is essential that they wear cycle helmets at all times. Where possible, pupils are encouraged to avoid public transport, particularly at peak times. Where your child relies on public transport to get to school, and cannot walk or cycle, the [safer travel guidance for passengers will apply](#). Face coverings are required at all times on public transport for our pupils. If your child has to wear a face covering before arriving at school, it will be important that they understand how to remove it. We will support a process to allow this to happen.

In terms of break and lunch food service, we will continue to provide both hot and cold provision. However, whenever possible, we urge you to consider sending your child with a packed lunch. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact school and we will answer any queries you may have. We will communicate to you again in late August to remind you of the detail or inform you of any changes should the government produce any more guidance or change to current expectations.

## Staff News

Four members of staff are leaving us this year, either for pastures new or well-earned retirement. These include Mrs Goldson (English), Miss Walmsley (Maths), Ms Bleasdale (AHT and Food), Mr Smythe (Invention Mentor) and Mrs Gray (Finance Officer). In September, we will be joined by Mr McCreesh, our new Deputy Headteacher appointed in January and Mrs Godbold (AHT and Science) will be returning back to school following her two-year sabbatical leave. We also welcome Miss Parker (English), Mrs O'Connell (English) and Mr Hill (Maths). Both Mr Hill and Mrs O'Connell completed

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their Initial Teacher Training with us last year and recognised to be outstanding practitioners and well known to our family. We will continue to make appointments over the summer to support and build our Intervention and Admin teams.

## **Prefect Appointments**

Our appointment process has taken place for next year's prefects from our current Year 10. Our prefects are such an important part of our school and the leadership role they engage in is essential in promoting our ethos and supporting the smooth running of school. They are great positive role models for the other pupils in school, who should aspire to be one in Year 11. Pupils apply for senior prefect positions including Head Boy and Head Girl, Deputy Head Boy and Girl, House Captains and Senior games captains. The standards of application this year were very high and I am very proud to announce that 45 Senior Prefects were appointed for 2020-2021. The most senior leadership positions were appointed to Steph Ramsden – Head Girl, Ben Lang – Head Boy, Kate Burrows – Deputy Head Girl and Ashley Henry – Deputy Head Boy. Congratulations to all!

## **Summer Learning**

After the success of our Easter learning challenges and in order to further support pupils and families over the summer period, we have set Summer Challenges for any pupil interested in continuing their learning. These are available on the All School Teams area. Remember to send in any pictures of activities completed so we can share them on Twitter [@BrownedgeStMary](https://twitter.com/BrownedgeStMary). Furthermore, approximately 40 Year 10 pupils will be invited to attend our annual Summer School to help them prepare for their Year 11 studies. This was hugely successful last year and I know pupils found this head start beneficial for their learning. More information is available from Miss Mault if needed.

## **Parent Governor Vacancy**

There will be a vacancy for a parent Governor in September and so, if you have a child in school, please consider serving as a Governor. It is a great way to shape the direction and success of the school. You would attend three full governing body meetings a year and probably three more as part of a sub-committee. Meetings tend to be early evening. If you are interested in putting yourself forward for election, please send me an email: [head@st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:head@st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk) and we will begin the election process.

## **Haircuts and Shoes**

As the Summer holiday is nearly here, I would like to remind parents of the school rule on haircuts and styles. **“Extreme haircuts and styles are not permitted. This includes dyeing an extreme colour, hair cut to the scalp, tramlines and other patterns and braiding.”** Pupils have had the freedom during Lockdown to experiment and this has been great for them to do so. However, please ensure that on their return to school they do not breach school rules on their return. This is the same for **all** school rules regarding appearance and uniform. If you are unsure as to our school rules on uniform, appropriate school shoes, hairstyles, piercing etc please look at our school website for images and full information. Pupils breaking rules will be placed in our internal exclusion unit, the POD.

## **School Holidays Next Year**

The school holiday times are printed on the bottom of this letter. Please do not take holidays during term time.

We end the school year, as we always do, with a Mass and final celebration assembly. Fr Mark has very kindly offered to come into school to do this on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July at 11.30am**. This will be live streamed on the All School Team and through our BSM\_Chaplaincy Instagram. Please do join us as we say thank you and goodbye to pupils. Whilst there is still much to plan, we really look forward to welcoming all our pupils back to school for the start of the new academic year in September. Wishing you a pleasant Summer and thanking you for your continued support.

God bless

Mrs Nicola Oddie  
Head Teacher

Station Road, Bamber Bridge, Preston PR5 6PB  
[info@st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk)

Tel: 01772 339813 Fax: 01772629236  
[www.st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk)

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<b>Autumn Term 2020</b>	
INSET 1	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September
INSET 2	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September
INSET 3	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September – YEAR 7 ONLY
School reopens	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September – YEAR 7 and YEAR 11 ONLY
	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September – ALL OTHER YEARS (Please see times above)
Last day of school	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October
School reopens	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November
Last day of school	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Spring Term 2021</b>	
School reopens	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
Last day of school	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
School reopens	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2021
Last day of school	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2021
<b>Summer Term 2021</b>	
School reopens	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2021
Bank Holiday	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2021
Last day of school	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2021
School reopens	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2021
Last day of school	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2021
INSET DAYS	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2021