

# Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



*Let your  
light shine*

Dear Parents and Carers

## Christmas Newsletter 2019

Thank you for your support through this long Autumn term. I wish to update you on several points in time for the New Year and the start of the Spring term. What a busy term it has been! To appreciate just how busy, please take a look at the December 2019 issue of our Shining Lights Newsletter. It will be published in the last week of term and is packed full of activities and events that have taken place across school to enrich the lives of the young people at school and to support the building of their important "cultural capital".

### Reviews

I hope you find the Reviews of Progress that will be sent home in the penultimate week of term helpful. As you are aware, we have adapted our reporting systems in line with national guidance on the frequency of collecting and sharing data about your child. We have also adapted the assessment systems that sit behind this reporting. Your child's review is meant to provide you with a simple snapshot on how your son or daughter is doing on the key measures of attendance, home learning, behaviour, progress and attitude to learning. Each term, for each subject, your son/daughter will complete a series of formal assessments. We use these assessments to calculate student progress towards achieving their target based on a flightpath model. True to our Growth mindset philosophy we do not share pupil targets in Years 7, 8 and 9 as we believe we should not set a ceiling on what a pupil can achieve. Instead the **current progress** score will show whether your child is **above** track, **on** track, **not yet on** track or **below** track at that reporting point in time.

As you know, we place **Attitude to Learning** (AtL) as the most critical measure of all. This is because we believe that unless pupils are routinely working with good or excellent attitudes to learning they are unlikely to be reaching their potential. We will continue to use numbers to display both **AtL** and **Progress**; these descriptors can be found on the reviews. If you require any further information about assessment, please don't hesitate to contact Mr Banks for more information.

### Literacy

You will appreciate the importance of literacy in driving up educational standards and in gaining successful employment in the future. This will be a clear focus for our work in school over the next two years. Parents have a key role in supporting this. In a busy technological world, children can lose sight of the importance of reading, spelling and spoken English. Encouraging your child to read for 20 minutes each day has been proved to raise the literacy levels and life chances of young people. From January we will be introducing "vital vocab" in each subject area, including subject specific and high-frequency words for mature language users. Please support your child's language development by testing them on these words and setting a high expectation that they use them orally in everyday life. We will continue to expect every pupil to have a suitable "book on the go" which they carry with them in school. We will play our part in promoting this reading culture and hope you will join in at home.

### Helping Parents understand what your child is learning

In support of helping parents be aware of what their child will learn during the year we have published each subject's curriculum plan from Year 7 through to Year 11. These can be found on the Curriculum page of the school website. This is to further support the individual year group information evenings we already run to help you as parents engage in your child's learning. In addition, INSIGHT is an excellent tool that you, as parents, can use to support your child's home learning and information given on this platform can include the homework itself and links to further reading and additional

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learning material. In the near future, I hope to develop our school website further to include individual subject Progression Models, that outline in detail the sequence of your child's learning and key assessment pieces they will undertake to support and inform future learning. Watch this space for more details.

## **School Carol Service**

All parents and their families are warmly invited to our School Carol Service at 7.00pm on Monday December 16<sup>th</sup> at St Mary's Church on Brownedge Lane. I hope you will be able to join us on this wonderful evening of song and reflection for the season ahead. The magnificent setting of our parish church with festive music and refreshments is a great way to mark the nearness of Christmas. You do not need tickets; just simply turn up. Your support is always greatly received.

## **End of School Arrangements**

School finishes for Christmas at **1.00pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** and reopens on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January**. There will be no school dinners served on this day, but the usual food will be available at break.

Wishing you a peaceful and joy-filled Christmas

Mrs Nicola Oddie  
Head Teacher