



**BROWNEGE ST MARY'S**  
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL  
*'Let your light shine'*





# Welcome from the Headteacher

Our special mission as a Catholic school is to “**Let your light shine**”. We believe that each and every young person is precious, unique and has many **God-given** gifts and talents: some obvious; others not yet known. As a school, our mission is to discover and develop these talents to their full potential so that when your child leaves us in Year 11, he or she shines with joy, confidence and success.

Their light also represents **hope, truth, courage and love** and these should all be developed, shared and allowed to shine with generosity and pride. By doing this we ensure that our pupils’ journeys into adulthood are also journeys of faith from which grow values, aspirations and morals that inform their actions and choices as unique individuals.

Our school patron is **Mary**, the mother of Jesus, who accepted with **courage** and **resilience** the plan God had for her. Therefore, we too challenge all of our young people to embrace the complexities of life in the same way. This means working with determination and commitment and seeing failure as merely another learning opportunity; a chance to grow stronger.

**All** are welcome in our school family. We are a **great** and **vibrant** community of pupils and staff. It is an environment where pupils feel safe, cared for and confident to express themselves. In January 2020, OFSTED stated: “This is a school where pupils are confident, full of life, and considerate

of others. Pupils are known well and cared about.” As a result, excellent relationships are formed, based on mutual respect and care for one another. We work as a family to support and challenge each other, **striving continuously for excellence** and to be the best that we can be.

I am extremely proud of our hard-working and dedicated staff who go beyond high-quality teaching and pastoral care to encourage and guide your child to achieve their varied aspirations. Our teachers, who are passionate about their subjects, possess the ability to instil a love of learning in your child and build relationships for essential future growth.

I encourage you to come and visit us and I would be delighted to show you our vibrant school. If you do, I guarantee you will be greeted with a warm welcome from all in our family at Brownedge St Mary’s. Once you have joined us, we will work in partnership to guide and nurture, ensuring that your child has every opportunity to shine.

**Nicola Oddie**  
Headteacher



“IF WE LOVE OTHERS, WE LIVE IN THE LIGHT.”


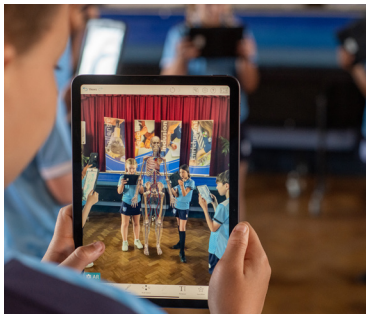
1 JOHN 2:10

# Achieving the best through HIGH EXPECTATIONS

**We start by making all our children feel safe and happy, knowing that without this rich soil no child will truly grow. With your child's welfare firmly in focus, we are able to expect and achieve excellence in a disciplined and caring atmosphere. The fruits of this firm foundation can be found in the excellent GCSE results and a student-culture of contribution to the school and community described as outstanding. But for our school, that is not enough.**

We expect all our young people to lead or take part in activities beyond the classroom, inside and outside school. OFSTED highlighted our rich extracurricular provision that ensures daily enrichment for all by stating: "It provides them (pupils) many new experiences. Staff go out of their way to provide pupils with extra activities and school trips." This is a real strength of the school and is one of the ways in which we "live out our commitment to love, service and justice", and develop young people with values that will last for life – values which inspire them to be life-long learners equipped to lead generous, fulfilling and successful lives.

We will challenge your child from the moment they arrive to persevere in their efforts, take every opportunity to take part or lead in the wider life of school and to show courtesy and kindness in their behaviour. Even before our new Year 7s have arrived at Brownedge St Mary's, we have visited their primary schools and assessed their abilities and talents. This means that from their first day we can build on that key knowledge and demand the best from them, even if that means working out of their comfort zones.



"We couldn't be more pleased at how well our son has settled into Brownedge. The care and support he received through his transition was brilliant from start to finish and he hasn't looked back. The teachers quickly knew him personally and this really helped."

Year 7 Parent

# HIGHEST STANDARDS

## Giving pupils the best start

Since our expectations are high, so are our standards. Just as we expect the best of our children, so we will give them the best in facilities, teaching, enrichment, care and support. With exemplary relationships between staff and pupils, we are able to create the family atmosphere that is a hallmark of our school. This leads to the high standards of behaviour, attendance, punctuality and achievement recognised by OFSTED in our last inspection in January 2020.

# INSPIRING TEACHING

To nurture enquiring minds

Engaging teaching is at the heart of our great school. With subject specialists in all departments, pupils are inspired and challenged to master concepts, knowledge and skills and develop a true love of learning. However, the essential ingredient in our teaching is to develop children who are resilient and determined in their learning. Feedback is used to overcome barriers and pupils are encouraged to see setbacks as learning opportunities, therefore enabling them to embrace and explore the challenges of the wider world.



“The relationships that the staff have with the pupils set this school apart from others. They are loved and cared for, respected and listened to.”

Year 10 Parent



“Choosing Brownedge was the best decision we made. The pastoral care is excellent, and the staff were superb in ensuring his transition into Year 7 went as smoothly as possible. The staff really care.”

Year 7 Parent

## PASTORAL CARE

Focussing on the whole child



Brownedge has a strong tradition of going the extra mile to make sure our children are well-cared for and included. Staff pride themselves in really knowing pupils in their care. The school house system means that older pupils have opportunities to mentor younger ones and help build the family values that permeate school. Our care starts even before pupils come here in our programme of taster and transition days. As a result, children settle quickly into the life of school.



## A diverse and relevant CURRICULUM

The Mission Statement of Brownedge St Mary's expresses our intention to ensure that your child is given the opportunity to fulfil their potential using their unique talents gifted to them by God. We are committed to providing opportunities that will allow them to develop as independent, confident and successful learners with high aspirations who enjoy learning and make good progress.

Through our Mission, we develop pupils' personal and moral values based on our Catholic ethos, teaching them respect for other cultures, religions and ways of life (including British Values) and ensuring that all know how to make a constructive contribution to the local, national and worldwide community.

Our curriculum intent is to be responsive to our local context and the profile of our cohort entry. Building on knowledge of your child's prior learning, we ensure that from day one they will be challenged through new and engaging learning, which matches their needs and aspirations. We ensure that our broad and balanced curriculum, delivered by specialist staff, equips them to transition into appropriate progression routes so that they lead successful and fulfilling lives.

We plan and sequence learning such that your child makes good progress. Challenging concepts will be revisited enough times to make sustained gains in new knowledge. We equip them with the technical and subject-specific vocabulary to precisely articulate their learning, orally and in extended writing. They will be engaged in an ambitious curriculum pathway, whether it be one that is traditional (EBacc), technical or vocational.

Our curriculum promotes resilience and determination as key qualities for success, it also demonstrates challenge and ambition, develops a healthy mindset and equips pupils for life and all its diversity.



“This is a school where pupils are confident, full of life, and considerate of others. Pupils are known well and cared about. Pupils behave well and work hard in class.”

OFSTED Report January 2020



# OUTSTANDING ENRICHMENT

Enhancing learning beyond the classroom

We know from experience that learning does not stop in the classroom and some of the most significant learning moments happen on residential trips and out of school activities. Outside the classroom we provide a diverse experienced curriculum, rich in opportunities to develop knowledge and skills, including collaborative learning, leadership, problem solving, enterprise, work-related learning, acts of service and specialised interests.

The breadth of what we offer our children in the area is enviable. Over recent years, children have benefited from taking part in musical productions, public speaking, maths and computing challenges, national and county level sports, theatre and university trips, residential retreats and trips, including America, Iceland, Italy, France, Battlefields and Wimbledon, and visits to the school from internationally acclaimed authors and actors.

# DEVELOP AND CHALLENGE

Of the gifted and talented

Every child matters at Brownedge and we expect our most able, gifted and talented pupils to really fly. We ensure this happens through a careful programme which includes high challenge in learning, active leadership and enrichment. As a result, our brightest pupils do extremely well.



# WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

With pupils and parents

We work hard to ensure that the school responds to the needs, aspirations and concerns of the members of our school community. There are many opportunities where pupils are able to contribute their views. This can be through Learning Forums, School Council, or discussion's with tutors. Pupils regularly assess their own progress and have a chance to express their view. Parents know that we strive to make ourselves available to discuss their worries at the earliest possible time. We also go further and seek parents' views through surveys, such as those at the end of parents' evenings. 96% of our parents say their children enjoy school and are making good progress.

## SUPPORT

Guidance for the world of work and further study play an important part of Brownedge through our careers programme. In Learning for Life, pupils have the chance to reflect on their own aims, their role as citizens and their place in the world. Individual interviews with special advisors, industry days and work experience provide the challenge to enable pupils to succeed. Most pupils successfully navigate school without needing extra support, but some need a helping hand now and again. If you feel your child needs extra help, for whatever reason, please share your concerns with our Special Needs Co-ordinator.

We have a wide range of flexible support available, and can assess pupils for academic, emotional and behavioural support. We believe that all pupils are equally important and we strive to ensure that each one receives a broad and balanced curriculum appropriate to their needs. We welcome pupils with special needs into our school community and recognise the talents they have to offer. OFSTED (2020) noted: "Staff help all pupils to access the curriculum equally. Most parents and carers of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are full of praise for the school. They say their children receive excellent support from staff. They achieve well."

# "If we love others, we live in the light"

1 John 2:10

"Let us not tire of preaching love; it is the force that will overcome the world."

St Oscar Romero

"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."

St Teresa of Calcutta

"It is for each of us to learn the path by which he requires us to follow him, and to follow him in that path."

St Katharine Drexel

"A single act of love makes the soul return to life."

St Maximilian Kolbe

"Always think well of everyone, and be ready to help others. Do this and you will be happy."

St John Bosco



"A SPARK OF DIVINE LIGHT IS WITHIN EACH OF US."  
POPE FRANCIS



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"WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE."  
MATTHEW 19:26