

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School



September 2021 Opening

Information Booklet

We would like to welcome all staff, pupils and parents back to the new school term.

Over the last year we have had to adapt and be flexible in order to protect our school community. Many of our working practices have changed; some we are happy to leave behind, whilst others have benefitted our school and will be kept as 'Covid keeps' and adopted as new ways of doing things. During the Summer further Government guidance was given to schools in terms of how we now need to operate. We will follow these and we have updated our risk assessment protocols as appropriate to continue to keep our school community safe and as risk free as possible. Step 4 marked a new phase in the government's response to the pandemic, moving away from stringent restrictions on everyone's day-to-day lives, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk. Key changes include:

- Mixing and Bubbles
- Isolation and for those identified as a close contact
- Facing covering

School Bubbles

There is no longer any requirement to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles'). Following staff and pupil evaluations, we have decided to keep the split lunch. This means we can resume assemblies and revert back to our normal breaktime practices. We will, therefore, have two groupings.

- Year 7, 9 and 11 will be grouped together
- Year 8 and 10 will be grouped together

This can be easily changed to suit school needs and without any changes to how we operate. This will be reviewed at October half term. A new area for serving break time food will be opened and designated year group areas supervised to support a calm and effective breaktime.

Year 8 and 10	Year 7, 9 ,11
Warning bell 8.47	
REGISTRATION 8.50 – 9.05	REGISTRATION 8.50 – 9.05
Period 1 9.05 – 10.05	Period 1 9.05 – 10.05
Period 2 10.05 – 11.05	Period 2 10.05 – 11.05
Break 11.05 – 11.20	Break 11.05 – 11.20
Warning bell – 11.20	
Period 3 11.22 – 12.22	Period 3 11.22 – 12.22
Lunch 12.22 – 12.52 Warning Bell 12.52	Period 4 12.22 – 13.22
Period 4 12.55 – 13.55	Lunch 13.22 – 13.52 Warning Bell 13.52
Period 5 13.55 – 14.55	Period 5 13.55 – 14.55
REGISTRATION 14.55-15.05	REGISTRATION 14.55-15.05

Face coverings

Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. If staff and pupils wish to wear masks they can choose to do so, particularly in communal areas. Face coverings are still expected to be worn on public transport and school buses, on the way to and from school. This is continually under review and if guidance changes or if as a school we initiate our outbreak management plan, this will be reviewed.

Asymptomatic Testing

Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools. As pupils will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, all pupils will be offered 2 on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term. Following our return, pupils should then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed. Staff should undertake twice weekly home tests until the end of September, when again this will also be reviewed. We will retain a small asymptomatic testing site on-site until further notice so we can offer testing to pupils who are unable to test themselves at home.

Pupils must report to the Sports Hall for their allocated testing slot. Current timetable for testing and then subsequent return date to school is:

	Testing	Start of Term
Year 7	During Summer School and Friday 3 rd September	Friday 3 rd September at 8.50am
Year 8	Monday 6 th September at 10am	Tuesday 7 th September 10am
Year 9	Monday 6 th September at 11.30am	Tuesday 7 th September 10am
Year 10	Monday 6 th September at 1.30pm	Tuesday 7 th September 10am
Year 11	Monday 6 th September at 8.50am	Monday 6 th September after testing

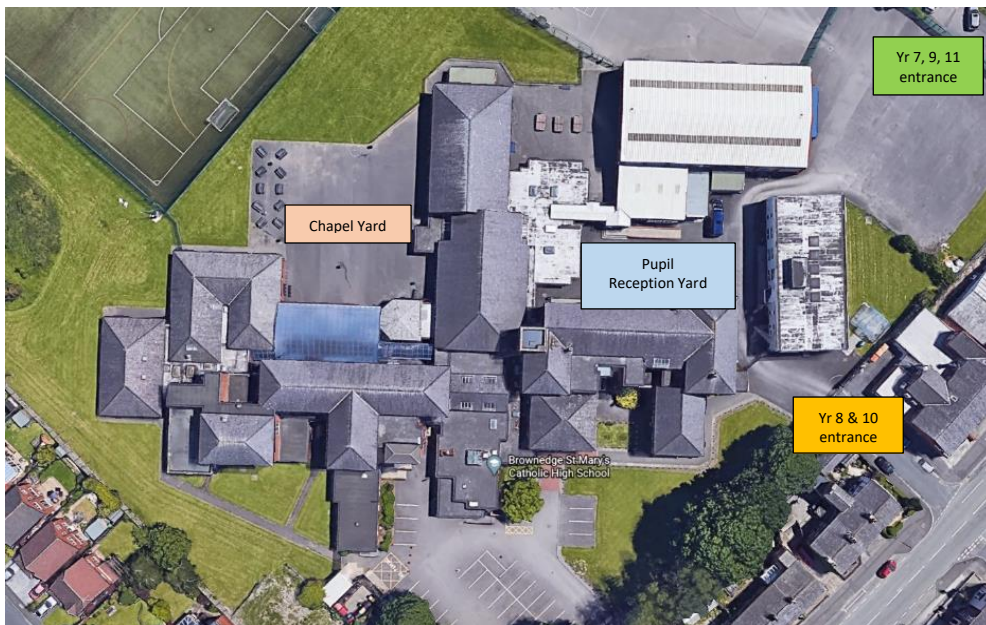
*Additional testing to be undertaken with all year groups throughout the rest of the week.

PE

As there are no bubbles, ALL pupils, with the exception of Year 7, must come to school every day in their full school uniform. Once Year 7 have settled in the first half term and have less organisational concerns, we will introduce wearing school uniform on all days.

Year Group Areas/Break out areas/Entrance and Exit

Year	Entrance Gate	Lunch	Lunch Area	Breakout area
7	Collins Road Gate	Late	Dining Room	Chapel Yard
8	Greenhalghs Gate	Early	Dining Room	Chapel Yard
9	Collins Road Gate	Late	Main School Hall	Main School Hall
10	Greenhalghs Gate	Early	Main School Hall	Pupil Reception Yard
11	Collins Road Gate	Late	Main School Hall/ELC	Pupil Reception Yard



Punctuality

Pupils who arrive late at school must enter school using the Main School gate. A new gate and intercom system will be installed at the Sports Hall/ELC during this half term and a new system will operate once this is in working order. Pupils who are late will be greeted by SLT and be dealt with appropriately.

Attendance

School attendance is mandatory. This means the usual rules in school attendance will apply, including:

- Parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school, and they are of compulsory school age;
- Schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- The availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

If parents of pupils with significant risk factors are concerned about returning to school, please get in touch with us to discuss your concerns. We will hopefully be able to provide reassurance of the measures we are putting in place to reduce the risk in school.

We will keep our school community safe as practically possible by asking pupils who are ill stay at home.

- Do you not send your child into school if they are unwell or showing any symptoms of COVID-19. These may include a new and persistent cough or a high temperature or a loss of or change in the normal sense of taste or smell.
- If you suspect that they may have COVID-19, it is vital that you get them tested and let the school know immediately of the outcome. You must follow stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection which sets out they should self-isolate for 10 days.
- If your son/daughter is sent home with any COVID-19 related symptoms, they will be expected to collect any siblings at the same time, who must then self-isolate for 10 days.
- If you have recently travelled to a foreign destination that now has imposed isolation on your return, please follow government guidance, notify our absence line and do not return your son/daughter to school until the period of isolation has ended.

Hygiene

We will continue with our robust hand hygiene. In addition to the washing facilities in the toilets, every classroom will have

- Table wipes to be used at the start of every lesson
- Hand sanitiser to be used on entry to the classroom
- A pedal bin for hygiene waste

There will also be hand sanitiser stations will be located throughout school and additional cleaning routines to clean toilets and shared areas throughout the day. We will also maintain our designated pupil Covid First Aid room as operated last year with immediate contact with parents for pick up, arrangement of Covid test and use of track and trace systems if required.

Additional Information

School Catering

In terms of break and lunch food service, we will continue to provide both hot and cold provision. We urge you to use our ParentPay system that allows a cashless system to operate across school. This is important as it ensures that pupils are not queuing unnecessarily and a reduction in the need for pupils to touch payment machines. We may move to a complete online payment system if this is not adhered to.

Personal Belongings

Government guidelines now permit pupils to bring essentials into school each day including school bag, lunch boxes, coats, schoolbooks, stationery, and mobile phones; these are not to be shared and all items must be clearly labelled with their name. Whilst there will be plenty of sanitation resources available throughout school and in each classroom, we ask that all parents and guardians equip pupils with their own hand sanitisers, wipes and tissues as necessary. As we return to our normal school day, with a registration at the start and end of the day, ALL pupils MUST place their mobile phone in the form safe at the beginning of the day. Any pupils found with a mobile phone in their possession during the day, on or off, will be sanctioned in line with the school behaviour policy.

Public Transport

Please be mindful that the Government want to encourage children to walk or cycle to school rather than take public transport when the new term begins in September. Any pupils having to use public transport must comply with the current guidance in terms of wearing a face mask.

Extra-curricular activities

We have traditionally run a comprehensive CASEO provision (Curriculum After School Enrichment Offer). These activities are an important part of school life and will resume as soon as term starts and participation is encouraged. We fully understand that involvement in clubs supports the rebuilding of friendships and social engagement, addresses and equips pupils to respond to issues linked to coronavirus (COVID-19) and supports pupils with approaches to improving their physical and mental wellbeing. We strongly recommend that pupils engage with at least one enrichment activity a term. More information will be available in due course.